

PHYSICS CLUSTER AGENDA/MINUTES
Thursday, March 24, 2016 1:00-4:00 PM
Lake Worth Campus Room NS 124

ITEM I. Proposal to eliminate cluster meeting at the beginning of spring semester due to small number of issues needing discussion:

Discussion: Cluster meetings were being held when there was no actual business to discuss. Are these meetings necessary and can they be eliminated?

Data/data source: (where appropriate)

Action: A motion was made by physics cluster chair, Prof. Trupin, to eliminate the physics cluster meeting at the beginning of the spring semester. The motion was passed unanimously. This recommendation will be passed on to Dean Ramos for his opinion.

ITEM II. Karen Pain's Request for help with two assessment questions: Please see attachments for Fall 2014 and Fall 2015, and general questions.

- 1) How do your current cycle results indicate your assessment instrument is measuring your selected outcome **and** that you have selected a reasonable benchmark?
- 2) In reflecting on this process and results, what changes might be necessary to the outcomes, instruments, implementation, or benchmarks for any of your courses, in order to move forward in a meaningful way? (*Revisions of outcomes must go through curriculum. Revisions to – or plans to revise – the common assessment instrument, implementation, or benchmark for any course should be communicated to IRE or recorded in the minutes; contact Karen Pain for assistance if needed. Reviewed changes can be implemented in the Fall 2016 semester.*)

Discussion: It was noted that this subject had been previously brought up and discussed in, both physics cluster meetings and just as general conversation among science teachers. It was always understood by the physics cluster that some of the embedded assessment questions might be need to be modified at some time in the future. The data regarding the embedded assessments seem to indicate that some of the questions might be a little too easy or simplistic.

- Action:** The embedded assessment questions for the physics cluster will be modified in the following manner:
- One question will be modified in the embedded for Astronomy.
 - One question will be added to the embedded assessment for physics.
 - Two questions will be modified in the embedded assessment for Earth Science.

ITEM III. Textbooks

Note: Please bring information regarding updates to the textbooks that are in use or proposed for use in the coming terms. We will update our database.

Information required:

Course and course number, title of the textbook, ISBN, edition, publisher, edition and comments such as regarding expiration date for current edition – see the attached list approved during our last meeting.

Changes to textbooks for Fall 2016, have been recorded in the Physics cluster textbook registry.

- A) Can Open Stax textbooks be formally adopted by the cluster in our physics courses so our students can save money?

Discussion: Open Source Textbooks have not been adopted by the physics cluster in general. Several members of the Physics cluster explained that Open Source textbooks would not be appropriate for the classes they teach. All textbooks are subject to the instructor's requirements, and, use of open source textbooks will be left to each individual instructor. There is no option for Open Source textbooks for any Calculus Based Physics class.

Data/data source: (where appropriate)

Action: In an effort to save money for students. Several members of the Physics cluster will be allowing their students to use Open Source Textbooks and some faculty will be changing the wording in their class syllabus to read that the textbook for that class is suggested, but, not required.

Item IV: Elect Cluster chair and scribe for 2016 - 2017

Discussion: Shall the current Cluster chair and Scribe be retained for the 2016 – 2017 school year?

Data/Data source:

Action: Current Cluster chair (Prof. Andrew Trupin and Scribe Prof. Jerry O'Brien), will remain the same.

OTHER: There was no other business. Meeting was adjourned at 2:45.

Attendance: Jerry O'Brien, Steve Stemle, William Miner, Lily Jordan, Marie Grasso, Jang-Young Bang, Roxana Melendez, Ed Knuckles, Andy Trupin

Submitted by: Gerald O'Brien, Scribe: _____