

Senate ad-hoc Committee on Physics Report  
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## Background

At the April 29, 2013 Senate meeting<sup>1</sup>, the faculty senate approved a motion to address three concerns brought forward by the physics faculty<sup>2</sup>. They were to investigate the following:

1. need for at least one additional full-time Physics faculty to deliver the required instruction in introductory and upper-level Physics courses consistent with CCSU's mission and future goals;
2. maintenance of existing Physics space for instruction and research;
3. separation of the Physics program into an independent department.

The Senate president then appointed the three faculty above to the ad-hoc committee.

Starting in Fall 2013, the committee met separately with Mark Evans, chair of Physics and Earth Sciences, the physics faculty (LeMaire, Parikh, Sadanand, Sharma and Tongson) and then finally with Dean Pease and Dr. Nunn from the Ammond School of Arts and Sciences.

## Findings and Recommendations

### *Full-time faculty issues*

In Spring 2011, Dr. Ali Antar, chair of Physics/Earth Sciences retired. He was a member of the physics faculty with a chair load of approximately 9 load hours per semester. According to Dr. Evans, Dr. Antar was teaching between 0.99 and 2.64 load hours per semester prior to his retirement. According to Dean Pease, the decision was made by the provost to move Dr. Antar's line to Engineering in Fall 2011. According to Dean Pease, in 2011-2012, eight full-time lines in A&S were placed on hold and no new lines were created. In 2012-2013, the BOR proposed adding several new lines, including physics and searches were initiated only to have the BOR decide late in the process that there was insufficient funding for those lines and that the searches would be terminated.<sup>3</sup> Finally, in 2013, the BOR authorized those new lines and there is currently a search for a new physics faculty member being conducted by the physics faculty.

The ad-hoc committee concludes that Physics was not singled out for different treatment with respect to full-time faculty lines. As noted at the April 29, 2013 meeting, the administration through the provost and the dean decide where faculty lines are allocated. No faculty senate action is recommended

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<sup>1</sup> [April 29, 2013 Faculty Senate Minutes](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Physics Faculty Statement](#) (pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [BOR Finance Committee Agenda](#), Feb. 19, 2013 p2 "The freeze also applied to the hiring of new faculty and support positions approved by the Board of Regents at its meetings in June and September of 2012. These are the positions that were to be funded using savings generated by the consolidation of system offices under the new governance structure."

### *Space Issues*

According to a report<sup>4</sup> prepared by Dr. Nunn for Dean Pease on April 11, 2011 Physics occupied 51.5% of the space on the 5th floor of Copernicus; Earth Sciences occupied 33.6% and Science Education occupied 15% of the 5th floor. Physics has an additional 1000 square feet of space on the 1st floor. Also according to the space report, Physics and Earth Sciences courses had similar numbers of students in both 100 and in upper level classes during the 2012-2013. Acting on this plan, Dean Pease authorized shifting some of the 5th floor space to Earth Sciences including rooms 511 and its prep room 508 and room 545. The plan also includes the construction of a new Physics 111 lab in the space currently housing two classrooms, 226 and 229. Dr. Sadanand and Dr. Nunn have been working with facilities to move that project forward and it should be available by Fall 2014. This plan, when complete will approximately equalize the total space occupied by Physics and by Earth Sciences while leaving the space occupied by Science Education unaffected.

As noted at the April 29, 2013 meeting, the administration through the provost and the dean decide what space is allocated. The ad-hoc committee finds that the space plan developed by Dr. Nunn to be fair and equitable. No faculty senate action is recommended

### *Separation of Physics*

The Senate has historically only reviewed agreed upon (agreed upon by the participants) plans to separate departments (e.g Biology and BMS). There are significant issues of operating expenses, human resources, space and scheduling that have to be worked out by the participants. There is currently one chair of Physics and Earth Sciences, one secretary and one technical specialist. Presumably there would be two chairs and the separated departments would have to agree upon how to share the two support people's time. Any such agreement would also have to have the agreement of the administration because of the resource issues associated with chair load.

The ad-hoc committee concludes that there is no agreed upon plan dealing with these issues. We recommend that the faculty senate defer any action until a comprehensive plan, agreed upon by the participants and administration, be brought forward.

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<sup>4</sup> Physics and Earth Sciences Space Utilization Plan dated April 11, 2013