



**Proposal to Split the Department of Physics, Earth Science and Science Education into two new departments**

Prepared by Dean's Office  
School of Engineering, Science, and Technology

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- both groups of faculty agree that splitting into two separate departments is the best course of action.
  - The dean's office of the School of Engineering, Science, and Technology negotiated the split with the faculty from both groups. The resulting proposal has the following benefits:
    - Creates two departments, each with like-minded faculty and similar goals.
    - An equitable division of the existing resources with no net increase in operating budget or load credit\*
    - each department will have its own budget
    - An administrative structure for managing shared personnel, resources, and space.
- \*the only unavoidable extra expense is associated with the chair stipend (12.5.5). Although the stipend will decrease for the current chair from ~\$3074.85 to ~\$2049.90, the decrease is not equal to the stipend resulting from the creation of a second chair position ~\$2049.91.
- each department has selected a new name. The physics faculty will belong to the Department of Physics and Engineering Physics, while the earth science and science education faculty will comprise the Department of Geological Sciences

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**Background**

The faculty of the existing department have expressed an interest to split the department into two new departments; one with the faculty from Physics and the other containing the Earth Science and the Science Education faculty. The two resulting departments, referred to throughout the rest of this document as **Earth Science** and **Physics** each prepared a "white paper" outlining their needs and their suggestions/requests as part of the split (attached). This document proposes to reconcile the issues facing the split and attempts to negotiate a split that is equitable and based on all available data. *Effort has been made to accomplish this split with minimal additional resources. There is only a single additional required financially based resource that is unavoidable –see chair load section.*

**Rationale-** Initially all science programs were part of the division of science, until the early 1970's when both Chemistry and Biology broke away to create individual departments. This left Physics, Earth Science and Science Education as the remaining programs in the division of science, later renamed the Department of Physics and Earth Science. In recent years, through normal attrition of faculty through retirement, the Earth Science faculty has successfully recruited new faculty, resulting in a synergy and "rebirth" of the Earth Science program, demonstrating increasing number of majors. Likewise the Physics faculty has just hired a new faculty, and it is expected that additional faculty will be hired as other faculty retire. Currently the two groups of faculty are active, but with differing goals, strategies, and visions. In some ways these goals and strategies from the two groups are at odds with each other, thus the creation of two departments would allow each group to individually explore and expand their programs along the lines of their respective goals, strategies and visions.

**Faculty of the two resulting Departments:**

<b>Earth Science (7)</b>	<b>Physics (5)</b>
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Marsha Bednarski	Peter LeMaire
Mark Evans	Nimmi Sharma
Kristine Larsen	Nanjundiah Sadanand
Oluyinka Oyewumi	Luisito Tongson
Jennifer Piatek	Anton Naumov
Jeffrey Thomas	
Michael Wizevich	
<i>Craig Robinson – Planetarium Technician</i>	

**Main Office/Secretary/Copy-Fax Room:** Both groups agree to share the main office (NC506) and secretary. The main office is where the faculty mailboxes are located. The current secretary is Sandra O'Day. She is a full-time secretary. Both groups are in agreement that a single secretary can support both departments. In addition both groups have agreed to share the copy/fax room (NC 546) – see budget section below for details on copier/fax supplies.

**Conference Room (NC510):** The 5<sup>th</sup> floor has a single conference room that is primarily used by students for study purposes/tutoring. It can also be used as a meeting place for faculty and student. Both groups have agreed to share the conference room.

**Technician:** (Peter Galamitakis) – the department has a full time departmental technician that currently supports both sets of faculty. The job description for the technician will be revised to clearly articulate how the technician is to split his time 50/50 between the two departments.

**Planetarium/ Planetarium Technician:** (Craig Robinson)- the planetarium has its own budget to cover the cost of student work/UA's and supplies. The budget is completely separate from the Earth Science/Physics budget. The Planetarium and the Planetarium Technician will be aligned with the Earth Science Department but will retain its own budget.

**Indirect Account:** the department currently has an account that contains monies derived from the indirect portion of grants. Indirect grant funds are allocated across campus to various offices including a portion that is given to the department for use at their discretion. The indirect account funds will be split 50/50 between the two departments.

**Student Workers:** The entire budget (OE +DPS) was reallocated appropriately to each department. No funds were designates as DPS for students workers. Each department can decide what proportion of their OE that they would like to allocate as DPS.

**Chair Load:** The current chair load for the Physics/Earth Science department is 9 load hours. Upon the split of the two groups the resulting chair load will be 6 load hours for each department, or a net of 3 additional load hours per semester. The 3 net LH's will be covered through the use of 3 credits from the side letter agreement (SL-87-93-5) that allows for up to 6 credits for the Physics faculty. The Physics faculty will still retain 3 LH to be designated for laboratory preparation as prescribed in the side letter. *Both chairs will receive the chair stipend as described in the Collective Bargaining Agreement as described in Article 12.5.5.*

**Chair Office:** The two groups have agreed to allow the current chair of the Earth Science group to remain in the space that adjoins the main office. For now, the Physics faculty member to serve as the

chair will use their office as the chair's office. This issue will be revisited in the future to determine if space can be realigned to allow for closer proximity of both chair's offices with the main office.

**Budget:** - the total amount (OE +DPS) allocated to the Physics/Earth Science group each year is \$39,475. From this amount ~ \$8475 is used for office supplies/copier paper supplies/ and technical supplies (associated with the work of the technician). In addition in the past, approximately \$7000 has been set aside as DPS for student workers. This leave approximately \$24,000. *After reviewing the budget portion of each proposal and all available data including students served, course offerings, laboratory sections, the most equitable split is as follows:*

**BEGINNING BUDGET ALLOCATION - \$39475.00**

- **OFFICE/TECH SUPPLIES (PHYS01) -(shared between the two departments) - \$8475.00**
  - this amount should be sufficient to maintain the office as in the past without the need to identify specific parties for the various common supplies (i.e. all faculty will have equal access to the copier paper, pens etc)
- **DPS (student workers) - \$0.00 – This amount will be at the discretion of each group and will come from their allocation.**
- **REMAINING BALANCE OF BUDGET - \$31,000**
  - **Physics Group (~60%) (PEP001) - \$18000.00**
    - Realized budget for Physics is \$22,237.50 (assuming 50% of the Office/Tech Budget)
  - **Earth Science (~40%) – (GEOL01) \$13000.00**
    - Realized budget for Earth Science is \$17,237.50 (assuming 50% of the Office/Tech Budget)

**Space:** This is the one area that has ongoing negotiations. A new lab for the physics group is nearing completion on the second floor. This is the first step in the realigning of some of the space on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor. Each group will continue to meet with the Dean to discuss the space issues.

**Departmental Names:**

The Earth Science group is proposing to name the resulting department as the **Department of Geological Sciences**

The Physics group is proposing to name the resulting department as the **Department of Physics and Engineering Physics.**

**Resolution in Support of Splitting the Physics Earth Science Department into  
Two Departments.**

**WHEREAS, the faculty of the department of Physics and Earth Science desire to create two individual departments and,**

**WHEREAS the Dean's office of the School of Engineering, Science, and Technology in conjunction with the department has negotiated a near net –zero cost to create the two departments,**

**BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate endorses this proposal to create two departments, effective immediately upon the signing/approval of President Miller.**