

College Based Fee

Physics Department - Proposal for AY 2008-2009

The College Based Fee Committee

Students: Matt Werber, Chris Seck, Robin Reil, Ryan Ward, Daniel Staines, Laura Mitchell, Kyle Fletcher; Faculty: Rich Saenz, Tom Bensky, Dave Arndt, Kat Gillen, Dave Mitchell, Nilgun Sungar, Tony Garcia, Tom Gutierrez), having solicited input from students and faculty, has endorsed the following spending priorities. The list includes both equipment needs and initiatives to enhance faculty development and support of senior project and student research opportunities. We have again increased the amount set aside for student summer research, based on the overwhelming requests for support. The allocation for this year also includes a small (\$500) stipend for faculty supervising student research over the summer. For the third year in a row we are spending about one third of our request on courses, and have increased this to \$55k for this year. Faculty and students both agreed that ongoing support for faculty travel and research is important.

Spending Priorities:

Required Major Courses - The Physics major has grown over the past few years and some required major courses have become much larger than we feel is optimal for students or the instructor. Several had lectures of over 40 students this past year, making interactive teaching, and good feedback on written assignments very difficult. We would like to split some of these courses, when enrollments get large, and use CBF to pay for the additional sections. However, this will not be possible as we need the funds to offer elective courses that cannot be covered under the current budget. **Proposed Cost \$55k**

Student Research Program -- Last summer (2008) our summer program for student research was very successful. Twenty-four students worked on projects with 11 different faculty members - some of these results were reported at local and regional conferences. This year we anticipate a similar number (or more) who will be working with different faculty members. To accommodate these students, we are increasing the amount set aside for this program (some students will be supported by grant money). **Proposed Cost: \$45k**

Faculty Summer Stipend – For faculty not being paid by another source, we approved a flat \$500 stipend for any faculty member supervising students under the “Student Research Program” (above). We anticipate approximately 10 faculty members participating in this year’s summer program. **Proposed Cost: \$5k**

Student Travel – This last year, physics majors went to professional conferences all over the state (and country). We would like to continue supporting student travel to such conferences. **Proposed Cost: \$2.5k**

Faculty Travel – More than a fifteen members of the faculty attended local, state and national meetings of professional societies. We are continuing to make progress at reestablishing a culture where faculty and students attend meetings to present papers, confer with colleagues, and keep up with the field. The costs of conference registrations and airline tickets have increases enormously, so we increasing this category over last year’s request. **Proposed Cost: \$15k**

Faculty Support (ongoing) – Students and faculty alike felt that this was an important category and needed to be maintained. In order to give faculty the time and equipment they need to continue supervising student research, including quality senior projects, we are requesting funds for release time, equipment, and small consumables. **Proposed Cost: \$30k**

New (2008-2009) Faculty Hire Matching/Startup – Proposed matching/startup funding for new hire Brian Grainger. **Proposed Cost: \$15k**

Equipment

Our equipment purchases have been reasonable the last several years with some improvements in our majors' lab courses, esp. in optics and quantum labs. We hope to fund a new experiment in “photon correlation” proposed by some of our new faculty, Tom Gutierrez and Kat Gillen, as well as a few maintenance costs for other labs. **Proposed Cost: \$17.4k**

Total Request = \$170k

Physics Department: College-based fee 2008-2009

Item	Number	Amount	Total
Courses			
electives for majors	1	\$55,000	\$55,000
TOTAL			\$55,000
Students (Physics Majors)			
Student summer research	25	\$1,800	\$45,000
Student Travel	5	\$500	\$2,500
TOTAL			\$47,500
Faculty			
Travel	10	\$1,500	\$15,000
Research/Senior Project Support	12	\$2,500	\$30,000

Summer Stipend for Student Supervision	10	\$500	\$5,000
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New Hire (Brian Granger) start up match	1	\$15,000	\$15,000
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TOTAL			\$65,000
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Equipment for Majors Labs

Photon correlation/Bell's Inequality for PHYS 342 (Gutierrez, K. Gillen)	1	\$15,000	\$15,000
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Replacement laser for PHYS 342 (Hilsinger/Bensky)	1	\$1,600	\$1,600
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Fiber optics lab update for PHYS 323 (Bensky)	1	\$900	\$900
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TOTAL			\$17,500
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GRAND TOTAL			\$185,000
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