

New Mexico Tech Physics

Department Retreat Agenda (Rev B) – Tuesday, 12/20/2016

Sevilleta, 08:30–16:30

Faculty Notetakers, MCE, PH

1. Call to order
2. Brainstorming
 - a. Review 5-year plan. (8:30-9:00)
 - i. Are there obvious things to change/update?
 - b. Teaching (9:00-9:30)
 - i. What are we good at, What should we fix?
 - ii. What is the goal of a Tech Physics education?
 - c. Department Culture (9:30-10:00)
 - i. Grad Student suggestions.
 - ii. Admin insights.
 - d. Research (10:00-10:30)
 - i. General ideas
 - A. What interferes with our productivity?
 - B. New initiatives (e.g. Solar Telescope)
 - ii. How can we improve grad student quality?
 - A. Best practices
 - B. Bridge Program
 - iii. How can we be more productive == how can we buy time?
 - A. More graders, buy outs, reduced bureaucracy
 - B. Shared post-docs and soft-money staff
 - C. Role of VPR
 - iv. Alternate funding sources
 - A. National labs, industry, startups, consulting
3. Assessment (10:30-11:00)
 - a. Current status grad and undergrad (Westpfahl)
 - b. Should we do anything else?
4. Outside advisory board (11:00-11:30)
 - a. Opine on valuable skills for our graduates
 - b. Members ... LANL/Sandia, Voss Scientific, Other Alums, Si Valley Alums conf.
5. Program Design (11:30-12:00)
 - a. What is the purpose of intro labs?
 - i. Should we switch to teaching critical thinking explicitly?
 - b. Shall we include employability goals in our program design?
 - i. APS Workforce readiness report
6. Lunch/Hike (12:00-13:30)
7. Qualifying Exam (13:30-14:30)
 - a. Modifications – pass by section?

- b. Appeal?
 - c. Other changes
8. Administration (14:30-15:30)
- a. Progress on current 5-year plan. What should we change?
 - b. Are there ways to change our own bureaucracy to save time or have better outcomes?
 - c. Cleaning up Catalog
 - i. Physics Minor
 - ii. Will we ever teach solid state physics?
 - d. Department brochure
9. Slack (15:30-16:30)
10. Adjournment (16:30)