

## **Report of the TwoYear College Representative CPS-AAPT Executive Board Meeting 07 Dec 2013**

The  $F = ma$  test for the Physics Olympiad runs at the end of January. this year I have 12 students signed up, all from the same high school, where Rahit Quili is the teacher. She's been running her students through this for several years and I finally recruited her to join our section. She attended last Spring's conference and plans to do so next year. I again encourage everyone to reach out to local high schools for this. I was able to bring in 5 or 6 new members last year. We need to continue trying to recruit as many new members as we can.

We did not run a mini-meeting at HACC this semester, but I'm planning on doing two in the Spring, one at our main campus and one at HACC York. I would also like to travel to one of your colleges to do a presentation and have some of you to HACC if we can set it up. We should also try to reach out to local high schools to either bring them in to watch our presentation or go to them. It could help with enrollment.

I have a student doing an independent study on SETI next semester. If there are any resources any of you can offer, it would be helpful. HACC's radio telescope just needs to be assembled and mounted, but that's not going to happen before the end of next semester. Also, maybe we can start working out a way to share students or resources for independent studies. Last year I brought some students into the national SPS and my local chapter. They've graduated and I'm trolling for new students. I suggested that we could try sharing students from local colleges in one chapter, but have not had any positive responses so far.

Which brings me to the first issue for today. I suspect that very few of my emails to the high schools made it through their spam blockers. I typically send out dozens of emails offering to host the Olympiad for them and get few responses. I understand many schools require a code in the subject line in order for the mail to be accepted. If this is true, then many of the emails we send out about our meetings may not be getting through. We should find out if there is a general code we can use to enable us to contact local schools. We need to reach out and find a way.

Last year I reported that faculty at my college voted against switching the semesters to fewer weeks with extra minutes per class. Class size was also an issue. The shorter semester debate has come up again and it seems this may go through. What they are pushing now is 14 weeks + 1 week of finals with no increase in class time. This leaves us short one lab session and three lecture sessions. I argued that physics requires a certain amount of time to develop concepts, and that leaving one concept out means the later concepts can't be learned adequately. Covering everything in less time puts more of a strain on the student. We should discuss this issue and at least come up with a recommendation, as other colleges are likely to go through this same debate. Perhaps we should post something on the web site that can be used to argue against the shorter terms.

Enrollment has become a real problem. The number of students taking physics is dwindling and I have concern for the future. I'm scheduled for a day and night section of algebra/trig physics and have 3 and 6 students so far, respectively. If they run at those numbers I draw half pay for one and a third pay for the other. As I've looked at what other TYCs are offering the trend seems the same. Fewer sections than previous years. I don't know what we can do to fight this.

HACC's STEM program has made no progress in the last year. We are still trying to get it going, but for some reason there seems to be a lack of cooperation between schools and departments. Part of the issue is having to develop new courses. Other schools are also trying to set up STEM programs. Possibly

cooperation between colleges to each offer a few courses that would allow students to complete a program could work. I know some colleges have had to do this with their physics programs.

Respectfully Submitted

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