Meeting Minutes

NIMS Advisory Meeting

Hunt Hall room 234B
Thursday, September 25, 2008
6:30 p.m. – 8:10 p.m.

Present Board members: Ms. Vicki Myers, Dr. Pawan Srivastava, Ph.D., Dr. Corey Swart, DVM, Dr. Michael Tegarden, DC, Ms. Patty Zeck.
NIMS Faculty: Dr. Christian Chauret, Dr. Gary Dolph, Dr. Michael Finkler, Dr. Marcia Gillette, Dr. Mary Hansen, Mr. Andrew Kurtz, Dr. Patrick Motl, Dr. John Ross, Dr. Shawn Vincent.

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1. Introduction

Dinner was served. Introductions were made. Dr. Chauret briefly described the department and degrees offered. He also outlined some the challenges ahead of us.
The NIMS Advisory Board consists of the following individuals: Dr. Walter Brown II, DDS, Ms. Vicki Myers (Taylor High School), Dr. Pawan Srivastava, Ph.D. (Syndicate Sales), Dr. Corey Swart, DVM, Dr. Michael Tegarden, DC, Ms. Patty Zeck (Northwestern High School), Mr. Brent Seaman (Frontline Logic, Inc.), and Mr. Jeff Young (Haynes International).

Dr. Chauret discussed the roles of the NIMS Advisory Board:

1. Attend meetings of the NIMS Advisory Board (tentatively once per semester).
2. Provide advices about outreach activities (K-12 and others) and recruitment efforts for new students.
3. Provide advices on how NIMS, through its outreach and academic programs, may contribute to its constituent communities in North Central Indiana.
4. Encourage friends and alumni to become involved in the activities of Indiana University Kokomo and NIMS events.
5. Provide advices about curriculum assessment and development in NIMS, as needed.
6. Serve as ambassadors for the NIMS programs in the community and encourage friends, family and local students to consider Indiana University Kokomo as a school of first choice.

Everybody was in agreement with these roles.

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2. Presentation by Dr. Patrick Motl, Assistant Professor of Physics. *Title: Gravitational Radiation and Gamma Rays from Neutron Star Mergers*

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3. Possible Recruitment and Outreach Activities for 2008-2009.

Dr. Chauret discussed some of the possible recruitment and outreach activities for 2008-2009. They include:

- Visit (Oct 22) by Logan College of Chiropractic advisor.
- High School Outreach Activities and Family Science Nights.
- Howard County Science Fair (February 21); Indiana High School Mathematics Contest (April 25); Indiana Academy of Science Talent Search (October 24-25).
- Observatory visits.
- A Science Summer Camp for middle-school students pending some funding is being considered. A grant proposal was submitted to the Honda Foundation (for these activities) in the spring, but did not get funded. We discussed various formats (half-day, full day, etc.). Other sources of funding will be seeked.

There was an extensive discussion about recruitment and outreach. Some of the main points that were discussed were:

- To develop a program of hands-on activities for the Science Fair Day during the 1:00 to 2:30 pm time slot (during "super judging"). Most students are not busy during that time. We agreed that 4 or 5 activities would be ideal. For example, a presentation to the parents about our programs/degrees. Dr. Finkler could do a physiology lab (EKG). A microscopy lab could be done. Perhaps a visit to the observatory and laser lab. This will be discussed at the next NIMS departmental meeting.
- To have a departmental "Open House" at the end of the Math Contest (there is a waiting period during grading). Although there is not enough time for hands-on activities, we could have tours of the building and of the labs, with displays, information about our degrees, etc. This will be discussed at the next NIMS departmental meeting.
- Although several NIMS faculty are involved in the IU Kokomo Speakers' Bureau, it was suggested to have our own list of speakers, which would be listed on our website, and to strongly promote this. Mrs. Zeck and Myers indicated that strong relationships with teachers and schools are an essential component of attracting students here. We need to get faculty and high school teachers together.
- Along these lines, Mrs. Zeck and Myers suggested that NIMS faculty could occasionally offer workshops for high school science teachers. This could be organized in collaboration with HASTI District 2, which has funding ($ 300) for these workshops. We could also have classes (maybe in the ACCEL format) for continuing education to help teachers maintain their certification.
- It was also suggested that we publish in newsletters (e.g., HASTI, in which Dr. Dolph regularly publishes articles) and local newspapers (our Dean is in the process of creating a SOAS newspaper column) and to broadcast on local radio (e.g., "Meet the Professor" program).
- There was also a discussion about getting more involved with boy and girl scout organizations to help these kids obtain various science-related merit badges.

4. Academic Programs

Dr. Chauret briefly discussed the following issues:

- Mathematics will undergo a program review in 2008-2009.
- Integration of undergraduate research into the curriculum is now a "hallmark" of the School of Arts and Science.
- Search for a Geology Lecturer is taking place in 2008-2009 due to a sudden resignation in June 2008. We currently have a visiting lecturer (Ms. Leda Casey).

5. Wrap-up

- Action items (in the short-term): We will likely organize activities during the Science Fair Day and the Math Contest program. These will be discussed at the departmental level. Dr. Chauret will continue to seek funding for a summer science camp. A speakers' bureau list in NIMS will be developed.
- Tentative agenda/dates for the next meeting (Spring semester): We will schedule the next board meeting on a Thursday night in early March. We will report on these action items and plan for the next ones.