Agenda

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- AY 2012 Strategic Issues
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Executive Summary

- The primary issue being faced by the Physics Department is growing pain, most especially adjusting to a larger and more internationally diverse population of new students. To that end we will continue traditional social events which encourage camaraderie, improve the quality of life in student offices, and perhaps establish a new event.

- The key initiatives for the 2012 academic year are to: continue the traditions of providing breakfast and snacks for students taking their comps and of hosting an after comps reception, replace the couch in the TA room which is so ratty that most people won’t sit in it and those who nap on it put paper between their head and the cushion, procure a refrigerator for the RA room, and perhaps host an end of the school year event.
AY 2012 Environment

- **Opportunities**
  - More students means more rebate money which means more can be done for the students.
  - A surplus of money from past years, resulting from using rebates solely for the comps related activities for the past several years means some needs (couch, fridge, etc.) can be addressed.

- **Challenges**
  - Two graduate student offices, a trend which has existed for years, can lead to a separation of the students between the upstairs and the downstairs crowds (hasn’t been much of a problem this year nor historically since students take the same classes together).
  - More international students (roughly 50% of the past two year’s incoming students) means there are unique needs for a significant portion of the population of graduate students (e.g. adjusting to life in a new country, finding sources of funding open to non-citizens, etc.).
  - The segment of the students in the department who have passed comps and are working on their dissertations is fragmented. About half the students do research on campus but half are at labs elsewhere, mainly Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt. These students have little presence or participation on campus. What are their needs from GSA?
  - If the population of students continues to grow at this rate, we might run out of office space for students taking classes. In the past, every student who had not taken the comps had a desk and storage space in the physics building. Currently most students have space but some students have desks in whatever lab they work at and the physics library offers study (but not storage) space.
AY 2012 Strategic Issues

Strategic Issue: Maintain a small department atmosphere

Goal – Continue old events, improve quality of life in offices, establish new events

- Action
  - Provide breakfast for those taking the comps and host after comps reception
  - Buy couch (actually a loveseat in terms of size) and fridge but first find out origin of present furniture, in case department can provide this
  - Host event at end of the school year - first, talk with students to determine nature of event desired or other ideas and needs

- Resources Needed:
  - Senator is taking the comps this semester, so other students are buying breakfast and hosting reception. If (when) he passes, the senator will aid in the planning of next semester’s comps events
  - Furniture will require shopping
  - End of year event will take several students’ help

- Budget: $350/semester for comps related events, $600 for couch and fridge, $400.00 for end of year event, $651 given to conferences
AY 2012 Operating Budget

Revenue

- AY12 Activity Fee: 1,024
- AY11 Rollover: 2,094

GSA AY12 Strategic Plan
AY 2012 Operating Budget

Expenses

- Conferences: 0
- Events: 651
- Lectures: 1,700
- Public Relations: 0
Summary

The major initiatives for academic year 2012 will focus on maintaining a ‘small department atmosphere’ even as the department grows.