

S.87-65

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To: Senate

From: J.W.G. Ivany
Chair, SCAP

Subject: Faculty of Science
Department of Physics
Reference SCUS 87-18; 87-35;
Reference SCAP 87-33; 87-34

Date: November 19, 1987

Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Academic Planning/Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies gives rise to the following motion:

Motion: that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors as set out in S.87-65

New course	PHYS 390-3	Introduction to Astronomy and Astrophysics
Deletion of	PHYS 212-1 Dynamics	Engineering Problems in

FOR INFORMATION

Acting under delegated authority, SCUS approved a change of vector to PHYS 130-2 and PHYS 131-2 as set out in S.87-65.

NEW COURSE PROPOSAL FORM1. Calendar InformationDepartment: PhysicsAbbreviation Code: PHYS Course Number: 390 Credit Hours: 3 Vector: 3-1-0Title of Course: Introduction to Astronomy and Astrophysics

Calendar Description of Course:

Observational astronomy, solar system, stars and stellar evolution, galaxies, and the universe. Short introduction to relativity. Observing sessions when appropriate.

Nature of Course

Prerequisites (or special instructions):

PHYS 102 or 121

What course (courses), if any, is being dropped from the calendar if this course is approved: None, but PHYS 197-3, Periphysical Topics II, which has in the past been offered with the subtitle "Introductory Astronomy" and offered less frequently than annually, will no longer be offered under that subtitle.

2. Scheduling

How frequently will the course be offered? no more than annually, according to demand.

Semester in which the course will first be offered? 84-3

Which of your present faculty would be available to make the proposed offering possible? Leigh Hunt Palmer

3. Objectives of the Course

This course is intended to satisfy a need felt by students in Science programs for an introduction to astronomy. Formerly these students were limited to a less sophisticated course intended primarily for students in Arts programs, among whom the demand for such a course seems to be very small. This course will provide an attractive upper level elective for science students.

4. Budgetary and Space Requirements (for information only)

What additional resources will be required in the following areas:

Faculty

Staff

Library \$1,000 for basic current references would be desirable.

Audio Visual \$500 for slide sets would be desirable.

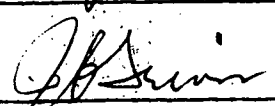
Space } There is a suitable observing site on the Ring Road. Piers
Equipment } (4" pipes) for Physics Department telescopes would be desirable
Portable tripods, which require elaborate setup, are currently
used. Department already owns four 200-mm telescopes suitable
for use in this course.

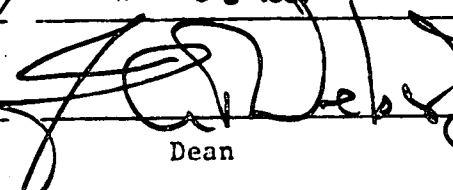
5. Approval

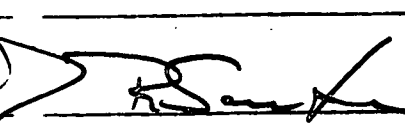
Date:

Sept 24/87

OCT 08 1987


Department Chairman


Dean


Chairman, SCUS

INTRODUCTION TO ASTRONOMY AND ASTROPHYSICS

I would like to propose to the Physics Department that an introductory course in astronomy and astrophysics be added to our upper level offerings. My arguments in favor of doing this are presented below. They include propriety, competence, and necessity. Development of this proposal has taken place over five years and I present below only the most important arguments of which I have thought.

Astronomy and astrophysics are very active areas of contemporary scientific research. A large fraction of governmental involvement and funding in pure research goes to research in these fields. Almost every important university has major commitments to research and academic programs in astronomy. Even industrial research has made some major contributions to astronomical knowledge, one of the most recent of which was recognized with a Nobel Prize for Physics. That astrophysical research has been an important frontier of physics was recognized again this year with the award of a Nobel Prize to W. Fowler and S. Chandrasekhar.

Public awareness of and interest in astronomy is and has for years been very high. If a telescope is set up (even in the daytime!) in a park or other public place it immediately becomes the centre of a crowd of interested, questioning people. A surprisingly large number of them exhibit awareness and knowledge of matters astronomical and even astrophysical ("Does a black hole really...?")! The press and television devote much attention to the frequent dramatic discoveries which are made in these areas. Our students, quite understandably, would like to be able to learn something of astronomy and astrophysics as a part of their formal education in Science.

Science students who pursue a career in teaching will be required to include much astronomy in their teaching because it is core curricular material in B.C. It would be unfortunate if SFU did not provide opportunity (which is available at the other two provincial universities and many colleges) for its students to study astronomy as part of their preparation.

SFU now has in its Physics Department a faculty member with experience in astronomy and astronomy teaching. This resource should now be made available to our students in a format appropriate to the demand. The students who request astronomy courses are usually prepared in both Physics and Mathematics well beyond the level of the course which is presently offered, PHYS 198-3, which has no university prerequisites. A course with introductory physics prerequisites (and, en passant, mathematical prerequisites) appropriate to the 300 level would serve the needs and abilities of these students much better than PHYS 198-3. Four previous offerings of PHYS 198-3 have been completed by more than 70 students. I expect this course to attract more students than 198-3.

Given that need for the course has been herein established, I ask the Physics Department to commit resources to it by adopting Physics 390-3, Introduction to Astronomy and Astrophysics, a course proposal for which is attached.

Leigh Hunt Palmer
12 December 1983

Contents

This is textbook, but it will be augmented by material on observation from "All about telescopes" and "The observer's handbook", principally regarding coordinate systems, astrophotographic methods, and ephemerides.

Preface

Part I. Basic Principles 1

INTRODUCTION

1. The Birth of Science	3
The Constellations as Navigational Aids	3
The Constellations as Timekeeping Aids	4
The Rise of Astrology	9
The Rise of Astronomy	9
Modern Astronomy	10
Rough Scales of the Astronomical Universe	11
Contents of the Universe	12

2. Classical Mechanics, Light, and Astronomical Telescopes	14
Classical Mechanics	14
The Nature of Light	16
The Energy Density and Energy Flux of a Plane Wave	17
The Response of Electric Charges to Light	18
Astronomical Telescopes	20
Refraction	20
The Principle of the Prism	21

The Principle of Lenses and the Refracting Telescope	22
Reflection	24
The Principle of Parabolic Mirrors and the Reflecting Telescope	25
Angular Resolution	27
Astronomical Instruments and Measurements	32

3. The Great Laws of Microscopic Physics	33
Mechanics	33
The Universal Law of Gravitation	34
Gauss's Formulation of the Law of Gravitation	34
Conservation of Energy	35
The Electric Force	38
Relative Strengths of Electric and Gravitational Forces	39
Electromagnetism	39
Nuclear Forces	40
Quantum Mechanics	40
The Quantum-Mechanical Behavior of Light	43
The Quantum-Mechanical Behavior of Matter	44
Spectrum of the Hydrogen Atom	45
Angular Momentum	47
Orbital Angular Momentum	48
Spin Angular Momentum	49
Quantum Statistics	50
The Periodic Table of the Elements	50
Atomic Spectroscopy	52

CONTENTS

Special Relativity	53
Time Dilation	54
Lorentz Contraction	55
Relativistic Doppler Shift	57
Relativistic Increase of Mass	58
Equivalence of Mass and Energy	59
Relativistic Quantum Mechanics	60
Concluding Philosophical Remarks	61
4. The Great Laws of Macroscopic Physics	62
Thermodynamics	62
Alternative Statements of the Second Law of Thermodynamics	63
The Statistical Basis of Thermodynamics	63
Statistical Mechanics	64
Thermodynamic Behavior of Matter	66
The Properties of a Perfect Gas	66
Acoustic Waves and Shock Waves	68
Real Gases, Liquids, and Solids	71
Macroscopic Quantum Phenomena	75
Thermodynamic Behavior of Radiation	77
An Example	80
Philosophical Comment	80
Part II. The Stars	81
5. The Sun as a Star	83
The Atmosphere of the Sun	84
The Interior of the Sun	86
Radiative Transfer in the Sun	89
The Source of Energy of the Sun	90
The Stability of the Sun	92
Summary of the Principles of Stellar Structure	94
The Convection Zone of the Sun	95
The Chromosphere and Corona of the Sun	96
Magnetic Activity in the Sun	98
The Relationship of the Sun to Other Stars and to Us	100
6. Nuclear Energy and Synthesis of the Elements	102
Matter and the Four Forces	103
Protons and Neutrons	104
Electrons and Neutrinos	105
Particles and Antiparticles	105
The Quantum-Mechanical Concept of Force	107
Nuclear Forces and Nuclear Reactions	108
The Strong Nuclear Force	108
The Weak Nuclear Force	109
Atomic Nuclei	110
Thermonuclear Reactions	112
The Proton-Proton Chain	113
The CNO Cycle	113
Temperature Sensitivity of Thermonuclear Reactions	114
Binding Energies of Atomic Nuclei	115
The Triple Alpha Reaction	117
The General Pattern of Thermonuclear Fusion	118
The r and s Processes	119
The Solar Neutrino Experiment	121
Speculation About the Future	123
7. The End States of Stars	125
White Dwarf	126
Electron-Degeneracy Pressure	126
Mass-Radius Relation of White Dwarfs	127
Source of Luminosity of a White Dwarf	129
Neutron Stars	129
Upper Mass Limit for Neutron Stars	131
Neutron Stars Observable as Pulsars	131
The Masses of Neutron Stars	134
Black Holes	134
Gravitational Distortion of Spacetime	135
Thermodynamics of Black Holes	139
Concluding Philosophical Remarks	143
8. Evolution of the Stars	144
Theoretical H-R Diagram	145
Properties of Stars on the Main Sequence	145
Evolution of Low-Mass Stars	147
Ascending the Giant Branch	147
The Helium Flash and Descent to the Horizontal Branch	149
Ascending the Asymptotic Giant Branch	151
Planetary Nebulae and White Dwarfs	152
Evolution of High-Mass Stars	153
Approach to the Iron Catastrophe	153
Supernova of Type II	154
Concluding Philosophical Remark	157
9. Star Clusters and the Hertzsprung-Russell Diagram	159
The Observational H-R Diagram	159
Luminosity	159
Effective Temperature	161
UBV Photometry and Spectral Classification	161
Luminosity Class	164

CONTENTS

The H-R Diagram of Nearby Stars	166
The H-R Diagram of Star Clusters	166
<i>Open Clusters</i>	167
<i>Distance to the Hyades Cluster</i>	169
<i>Cepheid Period-Luminosity Relation</i>	170
<i>Globular Clusters</i>	173
<i>RR Lyrae Variables</i>	173
<i>Population II Cepheids</i>	174
Dynamics of Star Clusters	174
Philosophical Comment	178

10. Binary Stars 179

Observational Classification of Binary Stars	179
The Formation of Binary Stars	184
Evolution of the Orbit Because of Tidal Effects	185
Classification of Close Binaries Based on the Roche Model	186
<i>Mass Transfer in Semidetached Binaries</i>	188
<i>Energy Transfer in Contact Binaries</i>	189
Evolution of Semidetached System	191
<i>Detached Component = Normal Star: Algols</i>	191
<i>Accretion Disks</i>	193
<i>Detached Component = White Dwarf: Cataclysmic Variables</i>	195
<i>Detached Component = Neutron Star: Binary X-ray Sources</i>	198
Interesting Special Examples of Close Binary Stars	203
<i>Cygnus X-1: A Black Hole?</i>	203
<i>The Binary Pulsar: A Confirmation of Einstein's General Relativity?</i>	204
<i>SS433</i>	206
Concluding Remarks	208

Part III. Galaxies and Cosmology 209

11. The Material Between the Stars 211

The Discovery of Interstellar Dust	211
The Discovery of Interstellar Gas	214
Different Optical Manifestations of Gaseous Nebulae	215
<i>Dark Nebulae</i>	216
<i>Reflection Nebulae</i>	216
<i>Thermal Emission Nebulae: HII Regions</i>	216
<i>Nonthermal Emission Nebulae:</i>	
<i>Supernova Remnants</i>	223
Radio Manifestations of Gaseous Nebulae	226
<i>Radio Recombination Lines</i>	226
<i>Thermal Radio Continuum Emission</i>	226

<i>21-cm-Line Radiation from HI Regions</i>	227
<i>Radio Lines from Molecular Clouds</i>	231
Infrared Manifestations of Gaseous Nebulae	234
Ultraviolet, X-ray, and Gamma-ray Observations of the Interstellar Medium	237
Cosmic Rays and the Interstellar Magnetic Field	239
Interactions Between Stars and the Interstellar Medium	245
<i>The Death of Stars</i>	245
<i>The Birth of Stars</i>	248
Concluding Remarks	253

12. Our Galaxy: The Milky Way System 255

The True Shape and Size of the Milky Way System	257
Stellar Populations	258
<i>Stellar Motions and Galactic Shape</i>	259
<i>Missing-Mass Problem</i>	259
<i>The Local Mass-to-Light Ratio</i>	260
<i>Mass of the Halo</i>	261
Differential Rotation of the Galaxy	261
<i>The Local Standard of Rest</i>	261
<i>Local Differential Motions</i>	262
<i>Crude Estimates of the Mass of the Galaxy</i>	264
<i>The Insignificance of Stellar Encounters</i>	264
<i>The Theory of Epicyclic Orbits</i>	265
<i>The Large-Scale Field of Differential Rotation</i>	267
<i>The Thickness of the Gas Layer</i>	270
<i>Kinematic Distances</i>	271
Spiral Structure	272
<i>The Nature of the Spiral Arms</i>	274
<i>The Density-Wave Theory of Galactic Spiral Structure</i>	275
<i>The Basic Reason for Spiral Structure</i>	281
<i>The Birth of Stars in Spiral Arms</i>	281
Concluding Remarks	284

13. Quiet and Active Galaxies 286

The Shapley-Curtis Debate	286
<i>The Distances to the Spirals</i>	286
<i>Spirals: Stellar or Gaseous Systems?</i>	287
<i>The Zone of Avoidance</i>	288
<i>The Resolution of the Controversy</i>	291
The Classification of Galaxies	293
<i>Hubble's Morphological Types</i>	293
<i>Ellipticals</i>	293
<i>Spirals</i>	294
<i>Refinements of Hubble's Morphological Scheme</i>	296
<i>Stellar Populations</i>	296
<i>Van den Bergh's Luminosity Class</i>	297

CONTENTS

The Distribution of Light and Mass in Regular Galaxies	297
<i>Surface Photometry of Galaxies</i>	297
<i>Velocity Dispersions in Ellipticals and Rotation Curves of Spirals</i>	298
<i>The $L \propto V^4$ Law for Ellipticals and Spirals</i>	305
<i>Dynamics of Barred Spirals</i>	305

Active Galaxies 306

<i>Seyfert Galaxies</i>	307
<i>BL Lac Objects</i>	309
<i>Radio Galaxies</i>	310
<i>Quasars</i>	315

Supermassive Black-Hole Models for Active Galactic Nuclei 320

Observational Efforts to Detect Supermassive Black Holes 323

<i>The Nucleus of Our Own Galaxy</i>	323
<i>The Nucleus of M87</i>	327

Philosophical Comment 331

14. Clusters of Galaxies and the

Expansion of the Universe 332

Interacting Binary Galaxies 332

Mergers 336

Hierarchical Clustering 339

<i>Rich Clusters of Galaxies</i>	339
<i>Galactic Cannibalism</i>	339
<i>Hot Gas in Rich Clusters</i>	345
<i>Missing Mass in Rich Clusters</i>	348
<i>Unsolved Problems Concerning Small Groups and Clusters</i>	349

The Expansion of the Universe 350

<i>The Extragalactic Distance Scale</i>	350
<i>Hubble's Law</i>	352
<i>Numerical Value of Hubble's Constant</i>	352
<i>Naive Interpretation of the Physical Significance of Hubble's Law</i>	353

Philosophical Comments 354

15. Gravitation and Cosmology 355

Newtonian Cosmology 355

<i>The Cosmological Principle</i>	355
<i>The Role of Gravitation in Newtonian Cosmology</i>	358
<i>Deceleration of the Expansion Rate</i>	359
<i>The Age of the Universe</i>	360
<i>The Ultimate Fate of the Universe</i>	361

General Relativity and Cosmology 363

<i>The Foundations of General Relativity</i>	364
<i>Relativistic Cosmology</i>	367

The Large-Scale Geometry of Spacetime 368

<i>Space Curvature</i>	368
<i>Spacetime Curvature</i>	370

<i>Flat and Open Universes</i>	375
<i>Cosmological Tests by Means of the Hubble Diagram</i>	377

Concluding Remarks 380

16. The Big Bang and the Creation of the Material World 381

Big Bang vs. Steady State 381

<i>Distribution of Radio Galaxies and Quasars</i>	382
<i>Olbers' Paradox: Why is the Sky Dark at Night?</i>	383
<i>The Cosmic Microwave Background Radiation</i>	384

The Hot Big Bang 386

<i>The Thermal History of the Early Universe</i>	388
<i>Big-Bang Nucleosynthesis</i>	389
<i>The Deuterium Problem</i>	391
<i>Massive Neutrinos?</i>	392
<i>The Evolution of the Universe</i>	393

The Creation of the Material World 396

<i>The Limits of Physical Knowledge</i>	397
<i>Mass-Energy from the Vacuum?</i>	398
<i>The Quality of the Universe</i>	400
<i>The Asymmetry Between Matter and Antimatter</i>	400
<i>Broken Symmetries</i>	402
<i>Local Symmetries and Forces</i>	404
<i>Supersymmetry, Supergravity, and Superunification</i>	407

Philosophical Comment 411

IV. The Solar System and Life 413

17. The Solar System 415

Inventory of the Solar System 418

<i>Planets and Their Satellites</i>	418
<i>Minor Planets or Asteroids; Meteoroids, Meteors, and Meteorites</i>	420
<i>Comets</i>	423

The Interiors of Planets 425

<i>Interior Structure</i>	425
<i>Mechanical Balance</i>	425
<i>Heat Transfer and Energy Balance</i>	429

The Origin of Planetary Rings 431

The Atmospheres of Planets 433

<i>Thermal Structural of the Atmospheres of Terrestrial Planets</i>	433
<i>Runaway Greenhouse Effect</i>	437
<i>The Exosphere</i>	441
<i>Planetary Circulation</i>	444
<i>Storms on Earth</i>	447
<i>Ocean Circulation</i>	449
<i>The Atmosphere of Jupiter</i>	451
<i>Magnetic Fields and Magnetospheres</i>	454

CONTENTS

The Relationship of Solar-System Astronomy to the Rest of Astronomy	458
---	-----

18. Origin of the Solar System and the Earth 459

The Age of the Earth and the Solar System	459
Radioactivity	459
Radioactive Dating	460
Exposure Ages of Meteoroids	462
Age of the Radioactive Elements	462
Motions of the Planets	463
Kepler's Three Laws of Planetary Motion	463
Newton's Derivation of Kepler's Laws	463
Dynamical Evolution of the Solar System	466
Resonances in the Solar System	467
Regularities in the Solar System Caused by Initial Conditions	474
Origin of the Solar System	474
The Nebular Hypothesis	475
Differences Between Terrestrial and Jovian Planets: The Condensation Theory	475
The Sizes of the Planets and Their Orbital Spacings	478
Moons, Rings, and Comets	478
Condensation versus Agglomeration of Presolar Grains	481
Origin and Evolution of the Earth	482
The Melting of the Solid Earth	482
The Formation of the Atmosphere and the Oceans: The Big Burp	483
Continental Drift and Sea-Floor Spreading	484
The Past and Future of the Continents	490
The Emergence of Life on Earth	491
The Evolution of the Earth's Atmosphere	491
The Formation of the Ozone Layer	492
The Role of Life in Changing the Earth's Atmosphere	493
Historical Comment	497

19. The Nature of Life on Earth 498

Growth	498
Reproduction	499
Natural Selection and Evolution	499
Evolution Is Not Directed	500
Darwin's Accomplishment in Perspective	501
The Evidence in Favor of Darwinian Evolution	502
The Bridge Between the Macroscopic and Microscopic Theories of Evolution	503
The Cell as the Unit of Life	504
The Gene as the Unit of Heredity	507
Chromosomes, Genes, and DNA	509

Molecular Biology and the Chemical Basis of Life 512

The Central Dogma	515
Protein Synthesis	515
ATP and Enzymes	520
Cell Division	521
Sexual Reproduction	523
Cell Differentiation	523
Viruses: The Threshold of Life	524
Cancer, Mutations, and Biological Evolution	526
Philosophical Comment	526

20. Life and Intelligence in the Universe 528

The Origin of Life on Earth	528
Pasteur's Experiments on Spontaneous Generation	530
The Hypothesis of a Chemical Origin of Life	531
A Concise History of Life on Earth	537
The Earliest Cells: The Prokaryotes	537
Sex Among the Bacteria: The Appearance of Eukaryotes	539
Multicellular Organization and Cell Differentiation	541
The Organization of Societies	543
Intelligence on Earth and in the Universe	544
The Timescale of the Emergence of Human Culture	544
Intelligent Life in the Galaxy	546
UFOs, Ancient Astronauts, and Similar Nonsense	546
Estimates for the Number of Advanced Civilizations in the Galaxy	547
The Future of Life and Intelligence on Earth	550
The Neuron as the Basic Unit of the Brain	557
The Organization of the Brain and Intelligence	544
Hardware, Software, Genetic Engineering, and Education	555
Artificial Intelligence	557
Silicon-Based Life on Earth?	560
Superbeings in the Universe?	561
A Tale of Two Civilizations	562

Epilogue 564

Appendixes 567

A. Constants	567
B. Euclidean Geometry	569
C. The Greek Alphabet	570
D. The Periodic Table	571

Index 573

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

Dr. Pablo Dobud
o.....Administrative Assistant.....
to the Dean of Science
.....
Subject.....CURRICULUM CHANGES - PHYSICS.....

J. C. Irwin, Chairman
From.....
Department of Physics
.....
January 6, 1987
Date.....

At a departmental meeting on December 15, 1986 the following motions were passed:

- (1) That the vectors for PHYS 130-2 and PHYS 131-2 be changed from (0-0-3) to (0-0-4).

The PHYS 131 General Physics Laboratory B course has been taught for a number of years as a laboratory where the students carry out an experiment for about 3 hours and they are allowed one additional hour in the laboratory to write-up their results and submit their lab. notebook for marking. Since practically all the students use the full four hours to complete the experiment and the write-up, it is felt that the vector (0-0-4) more correctly represents a student's lab. commitment than does the current (0-0-3) vector. The same statement can be applied to the PHYS 130 General Physics Laboratory A.

FOR
INFORMATION

- (2) That PHYS 212-1 be deleted from the calendar.

PHYS 212-1. Engineering Problems in Dynamics is a course that is taken (along with PHYS 211-3 Mechanics) by students intending to transfer into Engineering at U.B.C. Recent enrolments do not justify retaining this course and students have the option to take Math 263-4 Engineering Mechanics II instead of the PHYS 211 - PHYS 212 sequence.

FOR
APPROVAL



J. C. IRWIN