

**From:** Barbara Ridener BRIDENER@fau.edu  
**Subject:** RE: Physics Curriculum Changes  
**Date:** January 27, 2016 at 1:21 PM  
**To:** Christopher Beetle cbeetle@fau.edu

BR

Chris,

I just reread...when we put forth approvals, within the college, we usually just attach email consent. If you need me to rewrite a formal memo, let me know. Then, if you can, on another occasion, provide me the necessary information so that we can make changes to the Physics Education degree.

Also, I hope your daughter is feeling better!

Barbara

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**From:** Christopher Beetle  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 26, 2016 3:04 PM  
**To:** Barbara Ridener <BRIDENER@fau.edu>  
**Cc:** Patricia Heydet-Kirsch <PHEYDET@fau.edu>; Jerome Haky <hakyj@fau.edu>; Luc Wille <willel@fau.edu>  
**Subject:** Re: Physics Curriculum Changes

Dear Barbara,

I completely agree that departments should have control over their degree programs. In fact, that is not the issue here.

The Department of Physics definitely needs a memo stating that the Department of Teaching and Learning has no objection to the changes in the content-area courses Physics is proposing for itself, and which will affect the BAE degree by extension. What is at issue is whether you need to wait for STECC input prior to determining whether to write that memo. My point is that the STECC bylaws explicitly say you do not.

I think the partnership between the content-area departments and the Department of Teaching and Learning is one of the best features of secondary teacher preparation at FAU. Within the context of that partnership, the Department of Physics is recommending these changes to the BAE, purely in the content-area parts of the degree program, based on our collective expertise in that particular field. As you point out, however, the program is in your department, not ours. This is why I emailed to request for a memo expressing support for our proposal.

I'm working from home today because my daughter has her first cold, which, unlike most of her recent firsts, is not cute. Please let me know a convenient time to give you a call.

Best,

Chris

On Jan 26, 2016, at 2:10 PM, Barbara Ridener <[BRIDENER@fau.edu](mailto:BRIDENER@fau.edu)> wrote:

Chris,

I have shared it with my science education faculty and have received limited feedback. As I stated earlier, mine is not one of substance but of process. Does STECC have to vote on a change before it is made? Dean Bristor believes it does. Does the Physics department have the authority to make changes to a program that another department is accountable for? It is my opinion that if the Department of Teaching and Learning confers the degree and is accountable to the university for it, then Physics should work with us and the appropriate changes should be initiated by the department awarding the degree.

I am happy to discuss how we can move this forward.

Best wishes,

Barbara

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**From:** Christopher Beetle

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 26, 2016 1:57 PM

**To:** Patricia Heydet-Kirsch <[PHEYDET@fau.edu](mailto:PHEYDET@fau.edu)>

**Cc:** Barbara Ridener <[BRIDENER@fau.edu](mailto:BRIDENER@fau.edu)>; Jerome Haky <[hakyj@fau.edu](mailto:hakyj@fau.edu)>; Luc Wille <[willel@fau.edu](mailto:willel@fau.edu)>

**Subject:** Re: Physics Curriculum Changes

Dear Patty,

I'd like to point out section 3.4 of the STECC bylaws:

3.4. Powers: Departments offering courses that satisfy required major components (Content Area and Professional Education) shall retain all powers to determine appropriate course content within a pre-defined number of credits. Changes impacting number of credits required for degree completion must be agreed upon by a two-thirds (2/3) Committee vote. Individual departments shall retain all powers to determine appropriate/equivalent course substitutions when necessary.

I received these with the agenda for the December 2015 meeting, so I imagine they're current. STECC does not have to review credit-neutral changes like the ones proposed, and in fact is specifically not empowered to do so under its own bylaws.

I checked with Jerry Haky regarding the Honors in the Major thing. He remembers asking for STECC input specifically on the move of the Music degree from Education to Arts & Letters out of concern over accreditation issues, but not on any Honors in the Major proposal. I've copied him on this email, so he can correct me if I am mistaken.

I am mistaken.

So, I think we can proceed without involving STECC. A simple memo from the Department Chair should suffice as far as UUPC is concerned.

Best Regards,

Chris

On Jan 26, 2016, at 12:46 PM, Patricia Heydet-Kirsch  
[<PHEYDET@fau.edu>](mailto:<PHEYDET@fau.edu>) wrote:

Yes, that is my understanding, but only from personal experience. You may recall during both Honors in the Major proposals, Jerry Haky inquired did we have STECC approval. Yes, we did, as the discussion and approval was provided for him with STECC minutes.

With kind regards,

*~Patty Kirsch*

<image001.gif>

**Dr. Patricia Heydet-Kirsch**

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**From:** Christopher Beetle  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 26, 2016 12:10 PM  
**To:** Patricia Heydet-Kirsch <[PHEYDET@fau.edu](mailto:PHEYDET@fau.edu)>  
**Cc:** Barbara Ridener <[BRIDENER@fau.edu](mailto:BRIDENER@fau.edu)>  
**Subject:** Re: Physics Curriculum Changes

Dear Patty,

I'm a little surprised at this. I have served on the STECC for over a decade now, and can't recall a vote by the Committee to approve purely

decade now, and can't recall a vote by the Committee to approve purely content-area course changes in a single focus area. We do go over the program information sheets annually, such as

<http://www.coe.fau.edu/academicdepartments/tl/documents/B.A.Physicsinfosheet.pdf>

to make sure that the courses listed from the content areas are up to date. But this has been done by each department's rep, not in a discussion of the Committee as a whole.

We did have a whole Committee discussion about the major changes in how music education was handled, but that was a change on an entirely different scale. No pun intended.

Are you sure this change in recommended content-area courses needs to be approved by STECC?

Best,

Chris

On Jan 26, 2016, at 10:56 AM, Patricia Heydet-Kirsch <[PHEYDET@fau.edu](mailto:PHEYDET@fau.edu)> wrote:

Good morning,

While I see no issues with these proposed changes, I know from experience with secondary program requests that STECC should approve prior to UUPC.

With kind regards,

Patty Kirsch

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 26, 2016, at 10:52 AM, Barbara Ridener <[BRIDENER@fau.edu](mailto:BRIDENER@fau.edu)> wrote:

Hi Chris,

I appreciate you explaining the details and bringing this to my attention. I have copied Dr. Patty Kirsch on this as chair of the STECC committee.

While as the department chair, I do not see a concern with this the proposed changes, it is my understanding that STECC must first approve any

~~understanding that STCC must first approve any~~  
changes that are proposed for secondary degrees  
and I'm not sure that has been done. I am also  
unsure of how the Department of Physics can  
prepare and process changes on a degree that is  
conferred by another department and college.  
Wouldn't it be the responsibility of Teaching and  
Learning to put forward degree changes?

Anything you would like to add Patty?

I'm sure this isn't what you need and I will  
certainly help you to move forward with the  
changes as are best and most appropriately  
determined.

Regards,

Barbara

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**From:** Christopher Beetle  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 26, 2016 9:15 AM  
**To:** Barbara Ridener <[BRIDENER@fau.edu](mailto:BRIDENER@fau.edu)>  
**Subject:** Physics Curriculum Changes

Dear Dr. Ridener,

The Department of Physics has proposed a  
revision to its undergraduate degree programs.  
I have attached the cover memo for the  
proposal below.

I am writing to make sure that the changes we  
are proposing to the math requirements for our  
majors will not cause a problem for the  
Department of Teaching and Learning. Let me  
summarize the specific changes here that will  
affect the content-area instruction for the B.A.E.  
degree in secondary physics education offered  
by your department.

First, we propose to eliminate General Physics  
III (PHZ 2106, 4 credits) and ask B.A.E.  
students to take our new First-Year Physics  
Seminar (PHY 1090, 1 credit) and either  
Differential Equations I (MAP 2302, 3 credits)  
or Engineering Mathematics I (MAP 3305, 3  
credits) instead. There is no net change in

lower-division credits for B.A.E. majors under this proposal. Furthermore, whereas previously B.A.E. candidates have been required to take only three of the four lower-division math courses required for B.S. majors in our department, under this proposal the lower division curricula for the two degrees would be identical. We believe this will help B.A.E. candidates in their preparation for upper-division work in the content area.

Second, we propose to change the title of one of the four upper-division electives currently listed for B.A.E. majors from Thermodynamics (PHY 4523) to Statistical Physics (PHY 4523), with some corresponding changes to the syllabus, and to add a newly created course on Computational Physics (PHZ 3151C) to the list of allowed electives. Once again, there is no net change in upper-division credits required.

We believe the Computational Physics course, in particular, will be useful to future physics educators, and that this revised curriculum will better serve B.A.E. candidates.

Please let me know if this proposal will pose a problem for the Department of Teaching and Learning. If not, I would appreciate a short message saying that your department agrees with the changes. The proposal goes before the UUPC on Friday, so I'd especially appreciate a response in the next day or two. Your reply to this email would suffice.

Assuming all goes well, I will be sure, through my position on the STECC, to update the relevant program sheets before the changes go into effect next Fall.

Best Regards,

Chris

Christopher Beetle

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