

GRCC Physics

New Faculty Justification

Fall 2010

- 65% of all physics classes taught by adjuncts
(Chitra Solomonson was hired in 2003 when 60% were taught by adjuncts)
- Growth has been steady and continuous for years:
 - 2002 - 2007: 50% increase
 - 2007 - 2009: 48% increase
- 2009 - 2010:
 - Demand continues to grow
 - Growth stops
 - No more classrooms,
No more teachers,
No more chairs.
- Consequences:
 - Some students leave GRCC to take physics elsewhere.
 - Some students rearrange schedules (and possibly delay graduation).
 - 100+ seats are canceled in survey-level physics courses to make room for more science-major courses. (Where will these AA-DTA students go?)
 - A 50% increase in demand for astronomy is also going unmet.
- Solution?
 - Faculty, dean, lab-tech and staff have searched for a classroom.
 - The only possible solution identified is expansion into Kent Campus.
 - GRCC students in need of physics ALL agree that they would take the class in Kent (and workable schedule options have been found).
- Expansion into Kent requires:
 - Experienced (current) full-time faculty to build/lead program there.
 - New full-time faculty in Auburn to cover classes here.
- As far as science faculty, deans, and staff have been able to see:
 - Either we hire a new full-time physicist and expand into Kent
 - or we fail to meet demand for physics classes.
- Request: A new full-time physics instructor
 - (Ability to teach astronomy a preferred but not required qualification)

