

MEMORANDUM

TO: Steering Committee

FROM: Committee on Academic Programs (CAP)

RE: Astrophysics Minor

DATE: October 24, 2023

Background and Charge:

On September 21, 2023, in accordance with the Approval Process for Minors policy, Steering charged the Committee on Academic Programs (CAP) to review the new Astrophysics minor that has been approved by the School of Science Curriculum committee and Dean. Steering asked CAP to consider if there are any units that might be affected by the proposal that have not been considered, and asked CAP to:

- review the proposal to inform the committee members regarding the overall scope of the proposed minor.
- verify that all steps in the approval process for the proposed minor have been followed and that, if the minor impacts other units, all the pertinent stakeholders have provided input or been notified of that proposal.
- prepare a final recommendation, indicating concurrence or non-concurrence.

Summary of Process: It was noted that further testimony was not required.

Testimony Tier: Tier I

Final Recommendation

CAP reviewed the submitted documents, and concurs that all steps in the approval process for the proposed minor have been followed and that all the pertinent stakeholders have provided input or been notified of the proposal.

CAP recommends the following amendments:

1. Remove “engineering” from following statement on the cover sheet, “The astrophysics minor is intended to promote preparation in astrophysics and to help prepare for graduate work in physics, astronomy, geophysics, interdisciplinary sciences, ~~engineering~~ or to improve skills and competency for careers in industry, public service, or teaching.” It was unclear to CAP how the minor would help prepare students for graduate work in engineering.
2. Replace “and” with “or” in the following list of courses on the cover sheet, “The requirements for the minor include PHY 201/203, an introductory course to astronomy (PHY 162 or PHY 163), a minimum of two astrophysics courses (PHY 361, PHY 413, ~~and~~ **OR** PHY 466), and one additional specialized course.”