



Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

MEMORANDUM

To: Ronald Elsenbaumer
Chancellor

Carl Drummond
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management

From: Terri Swim
Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Programs

Date: November 19, 2019

RE: Bachelor of Physics with a Concentration in Astronomy

Astronomy and Astrophysics are the endeavor to understand the universe, explaining the origin of celestial objects and phenomena. It involves both planetary science (EAPS) and also stellar science. While PFW does not have stand-alone Astronomy and Astrophysics programs, we have offered a minor in astronomy for some time. Building on the strengths of the minor, the concentration will utilize courses from EAPS and ASTR as well as PHYS, and will have an optional track in Astrophysics. The difference will largely be that the Astrophysics track will require 12 credits in spectroscopy and instrumentation classes in addition to the astronomy core classes.

Moving from a minor to a concentration is viewed as advantageous because it can be a good recruiting tool. Because Astronomy has much better gender and race diversity than physics, adding this concentration will help with recruiting a more diverse student body. We predict we can recruit between 5 and 10 new students a year by having an astronomy concentration. The high-quality concentration in astronomy will provide a unique opportunity for students of Northeast Indiana, supporting PFW's mission.

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Carl Drummond

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DocuSigned by:

Ronald Elsenbaumer

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