Date: Nov. 30, 2012
To: UEPC
From: Roy Wensley, Dean of Science
Re: Physics 102 Proposal

The School of Science supports the proposal for a new course in computational physics, Physics 102. The content of this course has been taught as a special topics course (Physics 140) three times during the past 10 years. The need to make a permanent course with the proposed content has been prompted by two particular needs: 1. New requirements for our 3+2 Engineering students when they matriculate to engineering programs; and 2) our graduating physics majors who take positions in industry are best served by having learned to program in a language such as MATLAB.

The new Physics 102 course, which will be used by many physics and engineering majors as an alternative to CS 21, has been discussed with the Chair of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. The programming course CS 21 is still appropriate for a broader audience of students who want to learn computer programming. There is agreement that having the two options for teaching computer programming is reasonable. Since the particular content of Physics 102 will include programming projects with applications in physics and mathematics, the upper division designation is appropriate.

The proposal has been shared with the Department Chairs in the School of Science with no negative feedback.

Sincerely,

Roy Wensley, Dean
School of Science