Three new faculty to be hired for physics department research

By Mike Nichols || October 09, 2011

Tags: Isotopes, MSU’s National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory, Physics Department, tenure-track faculty

Central Michigan University’s department of physics is planning to hire three tenure-track faculty to assist Michigan State University research rare isotopes.

Provost Gary Shapiro said the science and technology department and the physics department will both conduct the search, reviewing hundreds of applicants. The new faculty are expected to join summer or fall 2012, he said.

“The search has just been authorized and it takes a while,” Shapiro said. “I would imagine they wouldn’t be able to make an offer until the spring.”

Shapiro said new research faculty could also significantly increase CMU’s profile in funded research. He said he hopes it will increase external funding as well, although he is not certain how much.

"I don’t have a dollar figure,” Shapiro said. "But the area of rare isotope research has been supported by a variety of federal agencies.”

The new faculty will join the two current faculty members working on the research, Physics Professors Joseph Finck and Mihai Horoi. Finck and Horoi have already been working with other colleagues at MSU’s National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory studying atoms.

Horoi said being a part of this project is one of the best physics opportunity in the country, if not in the world.

“(We) are trying to essentially discover new atomic nuclei,” Horoi said. “Our machine will produce them in small quantities, and we’re going to try to study them.”

Horoi said the research could offer insight into many elements in the solar system, namely stars and black holes. It could also be used to develop medicine.

Shapiro said the need for more faculty is because much of scientific research is no longer an individual activity, but a team activity. The three new faculty will work in different areas on the team studying different aspects of the research, Horoi said.

“They’ll probably be doing some investigating in the reactions of the nuclei,” Horoi said. “Other people are going to be more involved in more specific applications toward looking at medicine.”

Horoi said the physics department is very excited to have new faculty coming in.

“Everyone is really happy about it,” he said. “It will be a good addition to the department.”

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Michmediaperson  8 hours ago

Hundreds of applicants?????
That's what Shapiro is saying.
Wait a minute, here.
Haven't the unionized faculty members been brainwashing students and the community that CMU can't attract anyone to come teach here because the $98,000 average professor pay isn't enough...and the proposed benefits are so bad??? Haven't they been telling us we can't find professors??
So, how can Shapiro think he's going to get hundreds of applicants????
Either Shapiro is wrong or the union faculty members are wrong.
My guess is Shapiro is right and the faculty is wrong.
For $98,000, Shapiro will get hundreds of resume of highly-qualified professors! With high unemployment, we'll have plenty of talent applying!

Ben Steiner Brothers  8 hours ago  in reply to Michmediaperson

"Hundreds of applicants?????"
Hundreds of bad posts?????