

# **PMA Grad Student Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**

January 30, 2019

## **Committee members in attendance**

Physics: Alex Dalzell, Ashay Patel, Rajashik Tarafder, Yanjun Xu

Math: Forte Shinko, Tamir Hemo, Luciana Xiao

Astrophysics: Dillon Dong, Mia de los Reyes

## **Committee members not in attendance**

Physics: Shreya Anand, Eric Morgan, Matt Orr

Math: Angus Gruen, Neeraja Kulkarni,

Astrophysics: Anna Ho

Meeting led by Sofie Leon. Mika Walton also in attendance.

## **Town hall and survey debrief**

- ~30 PMA grad students in attendance at the Town Hall
- Dillon Dong reviewed major themes from survey, major themes:
  - Student-advisor relations
  - Student-student interactions
  - Diversity and inclusion
  - Faculty hiring
  - Mental health
- Wishlist:
  - Create an anonymous feedback form for students to contact the SAB – already up on website
  - Advisor-advisee communication and checks and balances
  - Regular Town Hall and clear communication of what it is about
- Subcommittee will follow up with Sofie on to determine action items and prioritize next steps

## **Admissions and prospective visit days**

- Sofie will schedule meetings with math and physics students for input on the prospective visits. Astronomy is already well into the planning phase.
- Math notes
  - put international students at ease about TAsip because they are unfamiliar with classes in the US
  - what does it mean to TA or RA
  - Math has a much lower teaching requirement compared to other schools, need to advertise that more
- Physics notes
  - The format will change significantly from previous years because we have potential for a very large visit, potentially 70 student visitors

## **Other updates**

- Thursday, April 4th - Alumni panel at Linde, 5pm with reception to follow

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- Sofie proposed a professional development workshop on led by a PMA alum on a topic such as leveraging your academic background towards a career in industry. There was moderate interest, but more pressing issues to handle now, so we won't pursue that immediately.

### **Next steps**

- Follow up meetings scheduled for Tuesday February 5<sup>th</sup> in B161 W Bridge
  - 12-1pm Math prospective visit
  - 1-2pm Physics prospective visit
  - 2-3pm Townhall and grad student survey