

Grad Student Advisory Board Meeting minutes

January 21, 2021

Present: Nam, Mika, Nikita, Sean, Tamir, Yuping

Faculty searches & rubric

Math - usually an email goes out to the whole dept for potential meetings with potential hires and there is a grad student lunch. Already 4 candidates interviewed in the fall, 2 more candidates this month. Student feedback after meeting potential hires has been missing and make it more formal. Agreed to have a formal process of involving the students (Elena & Tamir) Physics - Ryan Patterson and Jason Alicea (co-chairs of search meeting). Nam is meeting with them tomorrow morning. Would like to identify 2 students (possibly the 2 physics students on the DEI task force) to be liaisons to the faculty search committee. They would be invited to put together a small group of students to talk to candidates. Would like to have at least 1 student to sit in on colloquium.

Astro - plans to hire a new faculty member over the next few years, but process is opaque even to the astro faculty. Nam will be asking about details at the next EO meeting.

Title IX training

RPR training group would like to keep their training just yearly during orientation and not do an additional training right now.

Making a meeting mandatory might only work if each advisory made it mandatory for their research group. Table this for next fall. Nam and Mika will reach out to the Title IX Office to prepare for a plan this next fall.

Visit Day Planning

Physics - March 15-16th

Math - March 10th

Astro - Feb 25-26th

Would like to involve SAB during the visit.

Tamir will talk to Mika about getting involved with the visit.

Astro is going to have virtual student hosts with matching research interests. That student will be the main point of contact throughout the visit. Incentivize hosting with gift cards, etc.

Have physics students involved in Astro visit and vice versa.

Quarterly Meeting with Division Chair

Will shoot for mid to end of February.

EOs might be invited to that meeting as well.

Funding Issues

Astro - no funding issues

Math - pilot program has started with TAs abroad on a fellowship

Physics - teaching requirement was added in the Catalog that will apply to new students only

A mentorship component needed to be implemented for this teaching requirement to be part of the academic program.

No Astro TA fellow because of historical reasons.

This puts the Division at ~\$250,000 deficit, so not much wiggle room for students that want to travel moving forward.

PMA Social

People are socializing a lot less with people in the Division so not a bad idea to do some sort of social. Most popular virtual events are escape rooms and swap talks. Option of giving your own silly talk about ridiculous scientific talk.

Rune video? Different from zoom - breakout rooms with built in games.

Send out coffee money for people to connect in small groups.