

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

26th January 2021

## **In attendance**

- Physics: Audrey DeVault, James Jusuf
- SPO: Nam, Freddy

## **Winter wellness check-in: how is everyone doing?**

- Winter term is BUSY
  - Very rigorous term with a lot going on, and also the shortest term
  - Noticing many of peers have little-to-no time for anything other than schoolwork and other academic related commitments
- Pandemic is hard and winter term is not making things easier

## **Caltech 2.0**

- Caltech 2.0 discussion focused on the idea of what things can and may look like when we return: what are we hoping for in a world post-pandemic?
  - UG SAB members should use their voice to help shape what the student experience will look like when we're fully back on campus!
- It'll be critical to keep the first-years in mind, especially on initiatives for building the community
  - First-years are the ones who have yet to fully experience Caltech, so it'll be important to ensure our programs are in line with their expectations for events and resources within PMA
  - While it would be good to partner with other offices and options for future events, PMA first needs to ensure the division is offering effective and fun programs from within to establish who we are and what we do, especially for those students who are setting foot on campus for the very first time

## **Programming suggestions and ideas**

- Social events should be held earlier/at beginning at the term because schedule becomes tighter in due to large academic workloads

- However, things that are academically related can and should be considered at any point at the term (but good to be mindful of key deadlines)
- Mentioned events that have been helpful:
  - Materials Science option hosted a movie night → maybe we can consider doing something similar...
    - Events where people can sit and work through their things (e.g., schoolwork, projects, etc.) while taking part of the program allow for good flexibility
    - Events that people can attend in groups as friends/classmates will also help boost attendance
  - Advising resources are good → maybe explore idea of having option reps host their own hours?
- Other opportunities to consider:
  - Diversity Brown Bag would be great and sounds interesting
  - Opportunities for upperclassmen to connect with prospective students for informal academic advising and support
  - Having “option talks” later in the spring term and before students declare option in May
  - Escape rooms and happy hours, such as those that are put on for the grad students, sound fun!

### **Polling the students about the student experience**

- No need to worry about polling the first-years as Undergrad Dean’s Office is already doing that
- We can consider setting up working group to create a poll for student community, and share the draft of the poll with the rest of the group for feedback and then send out to second, third, and fourth-years

### **Action Items**

- February meeting to schedule (fill out Doodle):  
[https://doodle.com/poll/7r5gx4txchvbtbum?utm\\_source=poll&utm\\_medium=link](https://doodle.com/poll/7r5gx4txchvbtbum?utm_source=poll&utm_medium=link)
- Need to build out the agenda for the meeting with the Division Chair
  - Goal is to meet Division Chair at February meeting, but if there aren’t too many pressing items then we may just hold off to meet Division Chair in spring term
  - Please add agenda item ideas here:  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Se-f6QMSU2GXWM\\_R-ari0IFBCNXI5KAOk0azBdJP0P0/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Se-f6QMSU2GXWM_R-ari0IFBCNXI5KAOk0azBdJP0P0/edit?usp=sharing)