

PMA Undergraduate Student Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

25th March 2021

In attendance

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

Polling students

- Interested in polling the undergrads who are declared majors within PMA
- A Google doc will be created and circulated to start brainstorming questions to consider including in the poll
- Once everyone has had a chance to review the questions, we create the poll and send it out to second, third, and fourth-years within PMA
 - We can take this data and use for next year, especially as we think about repopulating campus

DEI Task Force

- The DEI Task Force was established at the beginning of AY 20-21 and consists of the following members: Six grad student representatives (2 from each option), 1 faculty representative from each option, a staff representative, and a postdoc representative
- The DEI Task Force helped establish a mission statement, and a proposal for the charge and direction to be sent to the Division Chair for purposes of establishing the DEI Committee
 - Once sent to the Division Chair, she will draft the official charge of the committee
 - Once the charge has been finalized, it will be sent out to all staff, faculty, postdocs, research scientists, students, and identity based student groups. There will be an opportunity for constituents to provide feedback to the DEI Taskforce
 - The Division Chair will then appoint a permanently standing committee

Thoughts on repopulating campus

- There are currently no plans or decisions made about reopening. The Division just wants to be proactive in hearing student concerns, input and ideas. Let us know if you have any additional feedback to share
- We discussed how undergrads want to be back and return to campus life as normal
- Considerations for how students are to interact with one another once back on campus must be aligned with the specific needs of our students, while keeping in mind with the housing system's strong culture
 - Example of [MIT's Residential Pod Program](#) was shared: using a student "pod" system is one way students to safely interact with a select number of people

- A big question remains about the extent will we still be living online and in Zoom for most of our work and interactions
 - How are we also going to manage what programs and events can be in person vs. staying virtual?

Dialoguing among PMA community – thoughts on workshop?

- These conversations would be useful for the community
- The group acknowledges that these are hard conversations to have, so we need to ensure these conversations are approachable and there are aspects of the event that will interest the undergrads to attend. Some may want to show up but don't know how to engage in these conversations, so they may choose to not show up at all
 - Folding in fun activities is one way to help balance these conversations
- It was mentioned that the people who actually need these events the most wouldn't be attending anyway, so how do we get them to attend, be present, and engaged?
- Concerns about Zoom fatigue must be addressed too
- Student recommendation is for in-person events in the fall so that there's time to plan and launch intentionally
- Look at ways to diversifying distribution portals to attract attendees→ ex) Title IX Advocates

Spring meeting with Division Chair

- Would be good to meet with the Division Chair sometime before the year ends
- For this, we need everyone's help in building out the agenda. Look for the link under "Action Items"

Action Items

- Nam and I will circle back with the next steps on the task for polling the students once we establish that working doc
- Nam and I will discuss the social event in the spring for newly declared majors, and will set up a working doc to also start brainstorming ideas for this
- Need to build out the agenda for the meeting with the Division Chair, so please start adding your ideas in now
 - As mentioned before, if there aren't too many pressing items then we may just hold off on meeting with the Division Chair in the spring term
 - To start, please add agenda item ideas here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Se-f6QMSU2GXWM_R-ari0IFBCNXI5KAOk0azBdJP0P0/edit