

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

10 January 2023

### **In attendance**

Physics: Jon Booker, Patill Daghlian

Astro: Emily Hu, Domani Sharkey, Lilia Arrizabalaga

SPO: Nam, Belen

### **Welcome and Introductions**

- Share what you hope to gain/contribute:
  - o Optimize education, focus on things that are often overlooked
  - o Plan more outreach events for undergraduate students
  - o Activities that encourage interaction between faculty, especially around career options.

### **SAB Shared Expectations**

- Be respectful of your peers
- Practice kindness
- Consider the schedules and availability of your peers. Be flexible and help balance out work.

### **Goals and Structure**

- We will meet monthly, for one hour during lunch (lunch will be provided)
- Meeting minutes will be posted on our website
- At every meeting we hope to discuss student issues, concerns, ideas on programming and social engagement, and promote more collaboration between P, M, and A.
- We want to optimize the undergraduate student experience in PMA.
- Although there is programming for undergraduate students through housing and the Undergraduate Dean's Office, we want to grow out the programming in PMA.
- We will also focus on understanding the undergraduate student experience and priorities in PMA.

### **Concerns and questions?**

- Look into more support for undergraduate students in physics courses, especially Ph 12 and more TAs in more advance courses of Physics. For Ph 12b, which is taken by Physics and Astrophysics students, there is a large gap in terms of difficulty between Ph 1 and Ph 12, Last term, there was one graduate TA to support students. Although the number of students is similar to other courses, because the course is more difficult for students, more graduate TAs would be helpful.
- Student athletes have scheduling conflicts with Ph 12b. The recitations and office hours are 2-hour blocks between 3pm -5pm, but the time conflicts with the student athlete schedules and they cannot attend both the recitation and office hour.
- Student athletes have practice from 4pm-6pm daily.

- A 24-hour study space where students can study and work on problems together. Bio and other options have these spaces. Before, students used to have access to buildings, but now they are locked after 5pm.

### **Programming Brainstorm**

- More options to get to know professors and peer undergraduate students. There are some PMA events, but it does not seem intended for undergraduate students.
- CMS does an ice cream night where the option reps attend. Students get to ask academic questions, but they also get to socialize with faculty.
- Programs can be 2-fold: academically and socially engaging
- Some events can focus on incoming Frosh, especially undecided, as they do not have prior commitments yet.
- Undecided students hear about PMA, especially Physics and they have preconceived notions of what that option is or that it is difficult. We can have events that debunk this. Outreach and recruitment events with faculty would help students feel more comfortable with faculty.
- Events can make it easier to understand different areas of physics if we bring faculty to talk about what they are doing here.
- In Astrophysics, there is a class where they go to a faculty's house, and they hear about what other faculty are doing in the field. Learning about these about options in astrophysics, makes them more tangible for students.
- PMA students are trying to figure out their schedules and classes, so having juniors and seniors give advice to sophomores and Frosh can be very helpful. Events that are based on peer advising and tips are important to build community. We can plan to have two events, one earlier in the term, and one closer to registration.
- Work with ARC (Academic Research Committee).
- Having faculty go to house dinners, that happen every night, so that faculty know what the house culture is like.
- Once students declare, have 2-hour panels with students and faculty.
- Welcome party for newly declared options
- Monthly gathering for UGs (non-alcoholic) happy hour. Informal ways to unwind and connect 5:30-7pm (Fridays)
- Ideas on how to recruit:
  - o offer food
  - o have events after 5pm
  - o make events more informal

### **Upcoming Business**

- The Student Faculty Conference is happening in April, and there is an undergraduate committee that is helping to plan it.
- SAB T-shirts