Division of Physical Sciences Diversity Committee Meeting

December 11, 2015

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

3-703 Physics & Astronomy Building

AGENDA
1) NSF IUSE Proposal (Shanna Shaked)

2) Climate for diversity in the UCLA Physical Sciences Division – Planning for a student/faculty town hall (Brittany Miles)

3) Reaching out to incoming URM Physical Sciences students

4) Request from VC Kang

COMMITTEE
Albert Courey, (Assoc. Dean of Physical Sciences for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion), Chair
Joseph Rudnick (Dean of Physical Sciences)
Andrea Ghez (Physics & Astronomy)
Abby Kavner (Earth, Planetary & Space Sciences)
Suzanne Paulson (Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences)
Joseph Teran (Mathematics)
Jorge Torres (Chemistry & Biochemistry)
Qing Zhou (Statistics)
Tama Hasson (Assistant Vice Provost for Undergraduate Research)
Alexandra Mendoza (Graduate Student Representative, Chemistry & Biochemistry)
Jaeyeon Hwang (Undergraduate Student Representative, Chemistry & Biochemistry)
Brittany Miles (Undergraduate Student Representative, Physics & Astronomy)

GUESTS
Shanna Shaked (Physics & Astronomy)
REACHING OUT TO INCOMING URM PHYSICAL SCIENCE STUDENTS

Possible approaches

- Letter to accepted URM students encouraging them to apply to PEERS and to attend Bruin Day (undergraduate research presentations)
- Activities once they arrive in the fall
  - Seminars (Fiat Lux?) that are focused on diversity in the sciences
  - Reception or luncheon with diversity committee (perhaps targeted to Physical Science majors in Math 1)
- Other suggestions?

REQUEST FROM VC KANG

Dear Equity Advisors,

Vice Chancellor Kang has tasked the BruinX team with establishing a student advisory committee to discuss matters related to diversity on campus. The Bruin X* Team will be hosting a series of “Listening Tours” with members of the student body between January 2016 and February 2016. The purpose of the Listening Tour is to help us gather information about the students’ vision for the committee’s composition, charge and other issues of great importance. We would like to invite graduate students to take part in the discussion, but need your help identifying participants. We would appreciate it if you could provide us with a few names of graduate students who might be interested in joining the conversation.

Thanks in advance for your suggestions.

Thank you,
Brandie

*BruinX = Research and development wing of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion office
PEERS = Program for Excellence in Education and Research in the Sciences
Tama Hasson – Director

Elibility
- Life or Physical Sciences Major
- All URM + some Non-URM with sufficiently high life-challenges scores

Numbers
- About 700 are eligible each year half of whom apply
- About a third of the applicants are rejected because of insufficient Math SAT score (<540)
- Only ~120 can be accepted due to funding constraints
- ~80 enroll meaning that there are about 160 PEERS students (2-year program)
- Two-thirds Life Science, one-third Physical Science students
- Annual Budget: ~$170,000 cobbled together from multiple sources

UCLA

Components of PEERS
- Academic support – PEERS courses
  - Collaborative learning workshops – first year of Chemistry, Math, Physics
  - Freshman Seminar - academic skills
  - Sophomore Seminar career – Career exploration
- Specialized academic advising
- Community
- Research talks and preparation for undergraduate research

UCLA

Impact on Graduation
PEERS students graduate in 4 or 5 years (96%).

![Fig. 1 Graduation Rates](image-url)