PMA Grad Student Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
January 30, 2019

Committee members in attendance
Physics: Alex Dalzell, Ashay Patel, Rajashik Tarafder, Yanjun Xu
Math: Forte Shinko, Tamir Hemo, Luciana Xiao
Astrophysics: Dillon Dong, Mia de los Reyes

Committee members not in attendance
Physics: Shreya Anand, Eric Morgan, Matt Orr
Math: Angus Gruen, Neera Kulkarni,
Astrophysics: Anna Ho

Meeting led by Sofie Leon. Mika Walton also in attendance.

Town hall and survey debrief
• ~30 PMA grad students in attendance at the Town Hall
• Dillon Dong reviewed major themes from survey, major themes:
  o Student-advisor relations
  o Student-student interactions
  o Diversity and inclusion
  o Faculty hiring
  o Mental health
• Wishlist:
  o Create an anonymous feedback form for students to contact the SAB – already up on website
  o Advisor-advisee communication and checks and balances
  o Regular Town Hall and clear communication of what it is about
• Subcommittee will follow up with Sofie on to determine action items and prioritize next steps

Admissions and prospective visit days
• Sofie will schedule meetings with math and physics students for input on the prospective visits. Astronomy is already well into the planning phase.
• Math notes
  o put international students at ease about TAship because they are unfamiliar with classes in the US
  o what does it mean to TA or RA
  o Math has a much lower teaching requirement compared to other schools, need to advertise that more
• Physics notes
  o The format will change significantly from previous years because we have potential for a very large visit, potentially 70 student visitors

Other updates
• Thursday, April 4th - Alumni panel at Linde, 5pm with reception to follow
Sofie proposed a professional development workshop on led by a PMA alum on a topic such as leveraging your academic background towards a career in industry. There was moderate interest, but more pressing issues to handle now, so we won’t pursue that immediately.

Next steps
- Follow up meetings scheduled for Tuesday February 5th in B161 W Bridge
  - 12-1pm Math prospective visit
  - 1-2pm Physics prospective visit
  - 2-3pm Townhall and grad student survey