

Agenda:

- I. Names, pronouns, #ShutDownSTEM check in (5 minutes)
- II. Committee check-ins/follow-up (20 minutes)
 - A. Equity, Diversity, Inclusion
 1. Division-wide EDI committee proposal
 2. Black Lives Matter response
 3. Suspension of Entry for Chinese students
 - B. Student Community Engagement
 1. PMA talk swap
 2. Regular COVID reopening meetings
 3. SAB feedback form
 - C. Academic Experience
 1. Faculty hiring criteria
 - D. Student Experience
- III. Climate survey (10 minutes)
 - A. Update on progress
 - B. Writing a report
- IV. Continuing SAB work (20 minutes)
 - A. Over the summer
 - B. In the fall
 1. Action items for the next academic year
 - a) Inter-division letter with Caltech-wide demands
 - b) SAB website
- V. SAB Website update? (<5 minutes)
- VI. Respect as a Part of Research update? (<5 minutes)

Notes:

Sean: intro, check in re: shutdown STEM. something positive, something we learned, etc.

Some ideas that came up: thinking about language we use to talk about anti-Black racism, is it a pipeline issue? New slack channel for radio astronomy group to confront anti-Black racism + developing mission statement. People are going to protests, it's nice to see people out on the streets. Hard to be a student and make impactful changes to the world at the same time. Doing a lot of reading. Meditating. Looking at economic disparities between Black people and non-Black people in the U.S. Caltech accepting purely on academic merit is a refusal to consider socioeconomic factors. The impact of class and other blindspots in our approach to dealing with the problems.

Sean: check in with committees. Discuss the climate survey. And then talk about how we will continue our work. EDI committee first.

Shreya: thought about what would be the charge for the EDI committee. Many ideas came out of the Shutdown STEM event. Have been putting together list of things this committee could do.

There is some kind of momentum for this now. Put out feeler to see if people would be interested in joining an EDI committee to get a sense of how many people would be interested in joining this committee.

Ashay: meeting with Black students and students of color before we draft EDI proposal.

Raj: working with international student committee. Difficulties with international students with research restrictions. Starting to inform people of their challenges as international students. Focusing on research suspension for Chinese students. Thinking about how we can get legal restrictions for international students. Thinking about some kind of program to combat anti-Blackness in Asia and Asian communities, in light of recent events.

Nam: feel very passionate about this issue. Happy to facilitate conversation with Shreya, Ashay, and Raj and faculty. Needs one faculty from every option. Needs to include different set of people in the division.

Shreya: that would be fantastic. We can set up a meeting to discuss what the structure could look like. We can discuss ratio of faculty, postdocs, etc.

Raj: great platform for international student issues as well.

Sean: we sent out a BLM statement from PMA SAB

Mia: we have emails from people who are interested in helping the cause. Many people in PMA have signed. Black Techers are in the process of developing their own statement and a list of demands for Caltech. Start drafting a statement of support to go along with their statements. We

Sean: can write a statement re: international student issues

Raj: casteism in indian community at Caltech

Ashay: issues of timing so that we dont draw away attention from present anti-Blackness conversation

Raj: issues are related and we can open up a broader slate of issues in people's minds

Mia: we can play it by ear and wait some amount of time

Raj: don't know if international students will be coming in the Fall.

Nam: we don't know about whether international students will be able to come to study. Probably dependent on decision of reopening campus in the Fall and having students come.

Raj: moving to program in a completely virtual way in case students have to study virtually

Duxing: Visa issue even before the Trump proclamation. Visa office isn't open and it typically takes a month and a half for students to get visas. Housing is also complicated.

Nam: international students have offer to defer by a year without consequence. Hold up is difficulty of scheduling visa appts in their own countries.

Raj: some things we can do right now. Gathering data about what is happening on students' ends. Give students space to share what is troubling them and give them confidence that Caltech is behind them. Many current students are not in the US right now, and there could be problems if they are out of the US for longer than five months. We will know more in about 2-3 weeks.

Dillon: Are there efforts to work with PIs to make sure that students can continue their work remotely?

Raj: not yet. Currently gathering data to determine how many students are currently abroad and what their conditions are.

Nikita: Doug Rees sent out a form in April if people were going to be off-campus. Grad office probably has info on their temporary addresses.

Sean: we don't have all the info right now. We can address this at the next meeting.

Sean: talked earlier about doing another PMA talk swap. We should have regular re-opening meetings with Fiona. Give feedback over slack or email. Create an anonymous feedback form.

Sean: Has there been any progress in faculty hiring proposal in academic experience subcomm?

Nikita: emailed Fiona for current list of criteria for hiring. Fiona hasn't responded. Can ping Fiona again.

Mia: Have a draft version of a faculty hiring proposal. There is a lot of momentum for faculty hiring.

Nam: nudged Fiona about faculty hiring. She says she is already talking to faculty about it.

Dillon: did you hear if anyone is being hired in the future?

Nam: I did not.

Mia: probably math is only dept that might hire soon. Other hiring committees have been disbanded until further notice.

Sean: climate survey went out. We can think about how we want to structure our report and what we can learn from it.

Sean: future of SAB. are people willing to work over summer?

Raj: maybe increased frequency over the summer?

Sean: schedule regular meetings right now for duration of the summer. Meet every other week?

Sean: let's talk about the Fall. next academic year. How do Nam and Mika imagine reconstituting SAB for Fall and the next year.

Nam: re-open interest form for SAB to join to allow new folks to join and also allow people to leave if they want a break. Hope is to start early and begin work by October. Could have a brainstorming day or have a lunch off-campus. Have some event to build rapport with group. Have a list of things we accomplished and things that are remaining to be done. This will keep continuity between groups. Sean, email group as a whole to see if people have energy/inclination to continue over the summer

Ashay: have a calendar. Have a fb page. Mission statement?

Nam: we could overhaul the official website (<https://pma.caltech.edu/resources-programs/resources-for-pma-students/pma-graduate-student-advisory-board>) and rebrand with our own mission statement.

Sean: we can link website to fb page.

Nam: we can change the website in a way that is useful for students

Sean: any updates for respect as a part of research?

Shreya: not aware of any progress since the last meeting. Still need to recruit facilitators. Planning a training this summer.

Nam: might split up option day during orientation. Can plan with Mia and Shreya offline about splitting up RPR event.

Action items:

- EDI: meet soon, develop plan to get input from other people, develop committee
- Start drafting a statement of support to go along with their statement
- Sean: create agenda for recurring reopening meetings with Fiona, deliver to SAB and Fiona for feedback
- Sean: tell Angus to put together a google form for anonymous feedback
- Sean: email group as a whole to see if people have the time/inclination to continue over the summer
- Ashay: email the mission statement out to everybody, can have an editing period and vote on it