

CAP Student Advisory Council (SAC)

Meeting Minutes

DATE: 2022/07/10



Present: Will, S.E, Samira K, Ben H, Julien-Pierre, Turkuler, Annie

Regrets: Valentina, Michaela, Simone, R.M, Maryam, Eduardo

AGENDA

For motions:

- Motion to Approve June 12th Public Meeting Minutes
 - Vote: 6 in favour, 0 opposed, 0 abstained

SAC Annual Meeting:

- 5 people attended outside of CAP & SAC
- SAC should think of making it more engaging. An idea was to start the meeting with a research presentation. However, this may not be very effective as the people who are not interested in SAC topics will leave after the presentation.

CAP:

- CAP has been pushing the federal government for an increase in funding for decades through reports and meetings.
 - We need students to attend the meeting. It will be an opportunity to directly talk to their local representatives.

Sunday Workshop:

- This year the workshop was squeezed in between lectures. Thus, it was hard to get student engagement.
- It may be beneficial to reschedule it for next year.
- The congress runs from Sunday to Friday. However, usually, students are not there on Sunday and Friday as this will require an extra day(s) of expenses. Thus, scheduling the workshop on Sunday is not inclusive.
- Although, if students have to choose between attending a student workshop, talk, or a networking opportunity then, the student workshop will be the last priority for them.

Student Email List:

- The email list should be updated
- Annie is making a university/student society email list
- Unfortunately, some students delete emails from CAP
 - Thus, students should be emailed directly. Also, email the department because when students make sure to read emails sent by the department.

Events:

- Starting date of the lecture series is July 19th, and the last day is September 27th

- August 23 and September 20 is empty, a lecture can be organized if a speaker is found
- The events team is working on the webpage and finalizing the social media template

Discord:

- Beta has been running
- We don't have enough people to sustain conversations
- Dyno form is not the best method because you need to re-login to discord. The team will be comparing Dyno with Google form or come up with a different solution.

Results of Interview Analysis:

● **Finance:**

- 60% of graduate students said they find the funding sufficient
- One student mentioned "the minimum funding is below minimum wage"
- NSERC Scholarships haven't increased in 19 years.
- In some universities, there is a shortage of TAs relative to the number of available positions. Most of their positions are for the Math department, not physics.
- Some universities have collective agreements with the union. But to meet the unionized pay rate, the student needs to have a set number of hours

● **EDI:**

- There are three universities in the U15 without an EDI committee
- Overall, there is a systematic resistance
- In some universities, some people feel like they don't feel they belong in the department. It was mentioned that "the department is a boys club".
- "Department is predominantly white men"
- Most students did not know discrimination and harassment policies

● **Education:**

- "Good curriculum, but sometimes poor execution"
- The pandemic impacted education and especially the labs. During that, the TAs did not receive training for online labs.
- Most graduate students have access to professional networking workshops and events. But, the undergraduates do not.
 - Most grad students quickly understand the importance of attending workshops but undergraduates are usually not aware. This may be a contributing reason.
- "Academic advising exists but it is not widely advertised"
- "Feeling of competitiveness in the undergrad physics community"
- Working on the side impacts the year of graduation because it interferes with the course schedules

● **Networking:**

- Most students connect with other students
- However, "international students don't integrate well"
- The majority said they connect with faculty members
 - But, it seems like those relationships are not built through departmental activities rather they are a result of individual efforts

- One university has a meeting at the beginning of the year for grad students to introduce them to resources
 - CAP can recommend this to other departments
 - The outreach question was not understood accurately thus there is not much data.
- **Professional Life:**
 - In most cases, there is no departmental support for non-academic careers
 - There are counsellors and career centers but they are not physics centred.
 - Most departments do not provide resources regarding careers either.

Regarding Phase Two of the Interviews:

- Create yes or no questions instead of open-ended
- Send them out before the interview to the interviewees.
- Oral interviews can be conducted after.

Social Media:

- The post for Pride Month is up
- “What Happened in Physics in June” is up
- Story advertisement for the first lecture is planned for July 11th and 12th
- The social media team will be meeting up to plan for the rest of the summer

Website Updates:

- There is a new page launched on the website for The Physics Hour
- French translation is on the way

CUPC 2022:

- Division for Applied Physics and Instrumentation reached out and we can set up a general meeting
- Divisions don't recruit students. However, having a student representative be at the Division for Applied Physics can be beneficial.

Minutes submitted by: Samira K. (Secretary)