Summary of committee meeting held on December 11, 2015

Committee members present
Albert Courey, (Assoc. Dean of Phys. Sci. for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion), Chair
Joseph Rudnick (Dean of Physical Sciences)
Andrea Ghez (Physics & Astronomy)
Abby Kavner (Earth, Planetary & Space Sciences)
Joseph Teran (Mathematics)
Jorge Torres (Chemistry & Biochemistry)
Qing Zhou (Statistics)
Alexandra Mendoza (Graduate Student Representative, Chemistry & Biochemistry)
Jaeyeon Hwang (Undergraduate Student Representative, Chemistry & Biochemistry)
Brittany Miles (Undergraduate Student Representative, Physics & Astronomy)

Committee members absent
Suzanne Paulson (Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences) – sabbatical leave
Tama Hasson (Asst. Vice Provost for Undergraduate Research) – schedule conflict

Guest in attendance
Shanna Shaked (Physics & Astronomy)

Agenda Item #1) NSF IUSE proposal
Shanna Shaked presented information on an NSF IUSE (Improving Undergraduate STEM Education) proposal from the physical sciences division that she is preparing. The proposal is entitled: "Integrating Faculty Peer-to-Peer Mentoring with Undergraduate Learning Assistants to Broaden Student Success in STEM by Transforming Teaching". It will include data showing that methods of instruction that shift the focus from the instructor to the students (sometimes called "student-centered learning" or "active learning") result in improved student learning and a narrowing of the achievement gap between URM students and the student population as a whole. The proposal, which adopts a faculty mentor/mentee model, will fund teaching release to allow for the development of expertise in modern teaching methods as well as the formulation of interactive course content. Funds are also being requested to support the training and stipends of undergraduate learning assistants who will facilitate collaborative learning.

Agenda Item #2) Climate for diversity in the UCLA Physical Sciences Division – Planning for a student/faculty town hall
Brittany Miles suggested the idea of a student/faculty Physical Sciences Division town hall to discuss the diversity, equity, and inclusiveness of our working and learning environment. The committee was supportive of this idea and there was a consensus that it should take place this academic year. The town hall would include a presentation of student, staff, and faculty attitudes (perhaps culled in part from the recent campus climate survey), presentation of information about diversity and equity resources available to students and faculty, and plenty of time for discussion.

**Agenda Item #3) Reaching out to incoming URM Physical Sciences students**

We discussed ideas for encouraging diverse students to pursue physical sciences degrees and for enabling them to succeed in the physical sciences. Ideas included:

- A letter from the Dean to prospective physical sciences majors sent out after students are accepted but before statements of intent to enroll are due. This letter would serve to generate enthusiasm for study and research in the physical sciences and would encourage students to attend Bruin Day Physical Sciences activities. Al Curley will ask Director of Undergraduate Admissions Gary Clarke about mechanisms for contacting the students.

- The formulation of fall quarter events that would bring together freshman physical science majors with faculty in informal settings. These events would include receptions or luncheons attended by selected students and members of the diversity committee as well as informal research presentations by faculty specifically tailored for freshman.

**Agenda Item #4) Request from VC Kang**

Committee members were asked to suggest graduate students who might be willing to serve on a student advisory committee being created by Jerry Kang (Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion). See the message from Brandie Henderson Kirkpatrick on the second page of the meeting agenda.