

Department of Physics and Astronomy

2024-2025 Committees

Revised:

Astronomy Task Force Coordinator

Anil Seth (Chair)

Awards (Faculty/Staff)

Mikhail Raikh (Chair)

Christoph Boehme

Valy Vardeny

David Kieda

Awards (Students)

Oleg Starykh (Chair)

Gail Zasowski

Jeremy Thomson

Anthony Pantziris

Gernot Laicher

Shanti Deemyad

Kelby Hahn

Computing

Wayne Springer (Chair)

Brad Hawks

John Belz

Development

David Kieda (Chair)

Daniel Wik

Tino Nyawelo

Equal Opportunities

Eric Montoya (Chair)

Shanti Deemyad

Qi Feng

Claudia De Grandi

Faculty Mentoring Program

Benjamin Bromley (Chair)

Futures

Vikram Deshpande (Chair)

Kevin Zhang

Douglas Bergman

Benjamin Bromley

Mengxing Ye

Graduate Admissions Coordination

Jordan Gerton (Chair)

Dennis Soldin

Daniel Wik

Vikram Deshpande

Oleg Starykh

Qi Feng

Gustavo Marques-Tavares

Shanti Deemyad

Kyle Dawson

Nicholas Borys

Graduate Comprehensive Exam

Douglas Bergman (Chair)

Kyle Dawson

Charles Jui

Eugene Mishchenko

Gustavo Marques-Tavares

Graduate Program and Recruitment

Kyle Dawson (Chair)

Douglas Bergman

David Kieda

Oleg Starykh

LAOA

Benjamin Bromley (Chair)

Paolo Gondolo

Eugene Mishchenko

LGBTQ+ Listserv

Tanmoy Laskar & Yao-Yuan Mao (Chair)

New Building and Moving Committee

Vikram Deshpande (Chair)

Gernot Laicher

Harold Simpson

Andrey Rogachev

Ombuds Liaison

Benjamin Bromley (Chair)

PANDA Network Committee

Jordan Gerton (Chair)

Eric Montoya

Gail Zasowski

Rhett Zollinger

PASSAGE Advisor

Mengxing Ye (Chair)

Physics Circle Committee

Tugdual Lebohec (Chair)

Oleg Starykh

John Belz

Kevin Davenport

Program Statistics

Paolo Gondolo (Chair)

Eugene Mishchenko

Postbacc Program

Ramón Barthelemy (Chair)
Zheng Zheng

Postdoctoral Affairs

Kevin Zhang (Chair)
Valy Vardeny
Christoph Boehme
Yue Zhao

Public Presentations

John Belz (Chair)
Mengxing Ye
Christoph Boehme
Kevin Zhang

RPT (Retention, Promotion, and Tenure) Chair

David Kieda (Chair)

SAC Advisor

TBD

Safety

Charles Jui (Chair)
Ziheng Liu
Gernot Laicher
Andrey Rogachev
Harold Simpson

SPS Advisor

Kelby Hahn (Chair)

SRI Liaison

TBD

SURF&REU

Tino Nyawelo & Jordan Gerton (Chair)
Qi Feng

TA (Teaching Assistant) Committee

Kevin Davenport & Jordan Gerton (Chairs)
Rhett Zollinger
Kelby Hahn
Zheng Zheng
Andrew Ve'e
Kyle Dawson

Teaching Excellence

Claudia De Grandi (Chair)
Benjamin Bromley
Rhett Zollinger
Kelby Hahn
Kevin Davenport

Undergraduate Program

Anil Seth (Chair)
Andrew Ve'e, staff
Jeremy Thomson
Isaac Altamira
Gail Zasowski

Undergraduate Recruitment & Teacher

Outreach

Anil Seth (Chair)
Christoph Boehme
Yue Zhao
Claudia De Grandi
Andrew Ve'e

Education and Outreach

Paul Ricketts (Chair)
Dennis Soldin

Adam Beehler
Kevin Davenport

Brief Description of the Committee Charges

Astronomy Task Force Coordinator - Coordinates meetings and communication within the Astronomy Task Force which is open to all faculty interested in the astronomy program. Address teaching of astronomy courses & maintenance of the astronomy/astrophysics undergrad and grad programs.

Awards (Faculty/Staff) - Manages internal and external award nominations and recommendations for faculty & staff. Supports writing and soliciting nomination letters. Assists the Students Awards committee in organizing the program for the annual department Spring Award Ceremony.

Awards (Students) - Solicits and selects student/postdoc recipients of awards and scholarships. Work with CoS advancement staff and Development Committee to identify giving priorities. Develops criteria and procedures to ensure equal opportunities for access to awards and scholarships. Works with staff and the Faculty/Staff Awards committee to organize the annual department Spring Award Ceremony.

Computing - Guides the management of department computing & IT services. and writes the annual student/faculty computing proposals. Ensures cybersecurity measures are in place and up to date, responds to questions by faculty, staff, and students about the use of departmental IT resources.

Development - Assesses and defines department development priorities and coordinates departmental development efforts with the CoS and University development efforts. The chair of this committee is expected to attend relevant meetings between the CoS Development committee and the department chair.

Education and Outreach - Oversees and coordinates the departmental outreach effort and maintains the department's web presence on outreach activities. Produces an annual report that summarizes the outreach impact of the department. Maintains a DB of the outreach activities conducted by members of the department. Hires and manages undergraduate students to help with outreach events

Equal Opportunities Committee - Develops concrete proposals for events, activities, or policies that further P&A's goals to promote equal opportunities and access, as agreed upon with the Department Chair. Manages a web presence that promotes equal opportunities; advises faculty search committees on search practices that ensure equal opportunities; interfaces with Public Education & Outreach Committee on outreach practice that ensure equal opportunities; promotes a sense of belonging in our P&A community, with a focus on students. Coordinates with the undergraduate recruitment, the graduate recruitment, faculty search committees, and awards committees to ensure equal opportunities and access. The chair of this committee is a member of CoS Committee on Belonging and Community and attends relevant meetings.

Faculty Mentoring Program - Oversees the departmental Faculty Mentoring Program as described in the Faculty Mentoring Program handbook.

Futures - Assesses future research directions and faculty hiring for the department.

Graduate Admissions Coordination - Runs the graduate admissions process, including training faculty to perform holistic reviews and implementing the reviews process; conducting interviews; summarizing the process and making recommendations for future improvements.

Graduate Comprehensive Exam - Creates, administers, and grades the comprehensive exam, per the Graduate Handbook. Makes recommendations to department leadership regarding passing scores. Curates and disseminates study materials.

Graduate Program and Recruitment - Oversees the execution of the graduate program policies and procedures, as well as graduate recruitment. The committee is chaired by the DGS.

LAOA - Coordinates the departments Learning Analytics and Outcome Assessments (LAOA). Assesses our undergraduate program learning outcomes through the design and assessment of course data. This involves working with instructors of targeted courses each year, and should follow the 7-year plan for assessing all learning outcomes. The committee is required to attend the LAOA workshops. The final report of this committee should provide a quantitative assessment of the learning outcomes selected for this year; this report will be used as part of our graduate review.

LGBTQ+ Listserv – The responsibilities of the committee is to work toward building LGBTQ+ community in the Department by creating opportunities for LGBTQ+ department members and all interested in participating (including but not restricted to students, postdocs, faculty, and staff) to meet, socialize, and network.

New Building and Moving Committee - Supports the organization of moving to the new building. Coordinates with faculty, staff, postdocs, and graduate students to minimize disruption during the move. Ensures the new building meets the needs of all department members, including accessibility considerations.

Ombuds Liaison - An Ombuds Liaison is available for consultation with students, postdocs, faculty, and staff. The purpose of Ombuds Liaisons is to connect department members with other on-campus resources to facilitate conflict resolution or resolve issues brought to their attention. Details see web.

PANDA Network Committee - Oversees the Physics and Astronomy (PANDA) peer mentoring program.

PASSAGE Advisor - Advisor for the Physics and Astronomy Society for Support and Advocacy for Gender Equity.

Physics Circle - Responsible for organizing the physics circle.

Program Statistics - Compiles statistics about our program/department including rankings and comparisons with other programs/departments at peer institutions. Looks through the last graduate program review and determine all the needed statistics. Then search, collect, and compile these statistics about our program, including graduation rates, student enrollments, rankings, etc. from OBIA and identifies other sources.

Postbac Program - Oversees the execution of the Post-baccalaureate program and its alignment to the overall graduate program. Pursues options and advises department leadership to create a self-sustained program that is externally supported.

Postdoctoral Affairs - Responsible for professional development and community building for postdoctoral researchers. Oversee postdoc annual reviews.

Public Presentations - Responsible for all aspects of the colloquium and speaker visits. This includes soliciting and vetting speakers for colloquia and seminars; working with administrative staff to arrange travel and advertise events to colleagues; hosting speakers; drafting and maintaining templates for speaker invitations, hosting duties and other relevant documents.

SAC Advisor - Advisor for the departmental USAC and GSAC (should be tenure-line faculty). Responsible for ensuring USAC and GSAC carry out their responsibilities regarding RPT; supports social and other programming pursued by SACs.

Safety - Oversees lab, field-site, office, and general safety policies, procedures, including training; responsible for Emergency Management Plan; organizes the annual department safety day; coordinates with College of Science Safety Committee. The committee chair serves on the CoS Safety Committee.

SPS Advisor - Advises the departmental Society for Physics Students chapter and represents the department to this sponsored student group. Also serves as Sigma Pi Sigma advisor.

SRI Liaison - Coordinates Physics & Astronomy SRI streams with the College of Science SRI program.

SURF/REU - Coordinates and organizes the departmental REU program and SURF. One member organizes the skill series and documents the outcome.

TA Committee - Planning and implementation of annual departmental TA orientation, supervision of the Mentor TA and their duties, hiring of Mentor TAs, collaborating with Associate Chair on TA assignments.

Teaching Excellence - Supports effective instructional practices across the department. Supports the organization of the i2i meeting in collaboration with the Associate Chair.

Undergraduate Program - Oversees operation of the undergraduate program. Maintains the department's undergraduate web pages.

Undergraduate Recruitment & Teacher Outreach - The primary task of this committee is to plan semesterly High School Physics & Astronomy Teacher Workshops. Additional duties include creating/maintaining recruitment materials, attending recruitment events, and website information.