



# IfA Response to Manoa Budget Team Suggestions

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## Overview

- IfA wishes to maintain its ORU status while pursuing the goal of more strongly integrating world-class research and undergraduate education
- The Astronomy and Astrophysics undergraduate program is currently managed collaboratively by IfA and P&A.
- We have consulted both internally and with our P&A colleagues in developing this response, and we expect this to be an ongoing process.
- Relocation of IfA to the main campus, in a new modern building shared with P&A, would enhance our collaboration and advance the integration of research with undergraduate education

Reorganize the Astronomy degree program into the Institute for Astronomy OR explore a collaborative administration of the program between IfA and Physics (1)

- Astronomy and Physics are closely related disciplines
- The Astrophysics major requires more PHYS courses than it does ASTR courses
- Students are able to switch easily among the BA and BS in both ASTR and PHYS
- Over half the P&A faculty are engaged directly in astrophysics or cosmology research
- Therefore, in agreement with P&A, IfA favors a continuing collaborative approach to administering the undergraduate ASTR degree programs

Reorganize the Astronomy degree program into the Institute for Astronomy OR explore a collaborative administration of the program between IfA and Physics (2)

- For the near term we will continue to work on improving the current collaborative administration.
- We will work with P&A/CNS to address areas where resources, reporting and administrative responsibilities are not clearly and optimally aligned.
- We must ensure that IfA and its faculty receive proper recognition and credit for their teaching.

Reorganize the Astronomy degree program into the Institute for Astronomy OR explore a collaborative administration of the program between IfA and Physics (3)

- For the longer term, we will research and evaluate more ambitious organizational changes.
- Possibilities include a School of Astronomy and Astrophysics in collaboration with CNS/P&A; a School of Physics and Astronomy; or even a School of Interdisciplinary Natural Sciences
- Any of these would be easier to implement and more effective if IfA were located on the main campus.

*Consider a professional master's in Astronomy for neighbor island personnel in IFA facilities.*

- A professional masters in astronomy could be used for workforce development in high-tech fields related to astronomy across the islands
- Faculty on Maui and Hawaii want to increase the science vibrancy in their facilities with more student research
- Given our strong reputation in astronomy research this could generate tremendous outside interest from the mainland and internationally and generate significant revenue
- We have begun discussions of the potential for such a program with IfA faculty on Maui and Hawaii and with colleagues at UH Hilo.

## Reduce inequities in the level of graduate student support

- This refers to inequities between the salaries paid to IfA TA's and those paid to other TA's within CNS.
- Our ability to attract the best graduate students depends in part on our being able to offer GA salaries that are competitive with those of our peer departments nation wide.
- We propose that the responsibility and funding for employing the TA's for ASTR courses be transferred from CNS to IfA.
- We support all efforts to increase other TA salaries