INSTITUTE FOR ASTRONOMY

Context: Explore other avenues for IfA to be more present in both the Mānoa educational programs and the broader community.

October 12, 2020 Presentation:

- Astronomy Presentation
- Astronomy Presentation Video

Revised Recommendations (as of October 13, 2020)

- Reorganize the Astronomy graduate degree programs into IfA.
- Continue collaboration with the Department of Physics and Astronomy on the Astronomy and Astrophysics undergraduate degrees.
- Work with the campus administration to ensure that IfA faculty receive credit (SSH attributed to IfA) for instruction where appropriate.
- Consider a professional master's in Astronomy for neighbor island personnel in IfA facilities.
- Reduce inequities in the level of graduate student support.

Details

- The Mānoa Budget Team met with faculty in the Institute for Astronomy on Tuesday, October 6, 2020. The Team met with the Physics & Astronomy faculty on Friday, October 9, 2020. Summaries of meetings with department faculty will be posted on the Planning for Post-Pandemic Hawai'i website.

- The IfA and Physics & Astronomy faculty acknowledge that the graduate degrees are fully managed by IfA. As such, the team recommends that these be officially housed under IfA, and that IfA faculty receive teaching credit for the graduate-level Astronomy courses, as appropriate.

- The IfA and Physics & Astronomy oppose the reorganization of the undergraduate degrees in Astronomy and Astrophysics to IfA. The faculty note that students often switch majors from Physics to Astrophysics as they progress through the program. Moving the programs to IfA may make this more difficult for students. The team agrees with the assessment of the faculty. The recommendation to move the undergraduate degrees to IfA has been removed; however, we encourage continued collaboration.

- The team understands that the IfA faculty are working with partners in Hilo to develop distance learning options for the master’s degree. We encourage these efforts to support neighbor island personnel and students.
● The IfA and Physics & Astronomy agree with the recommendation to address pay inequity between the graduate students. The Provost’s Office will work with the College of Natural Sciences on this issue.

● The faculty and administration in IfA are interested in exploring a more ambitious organizational change that would establish a School of Astronomy & Astrophysics or School of Physics and Astronomy. The team urges the faculty to discuss with faculty in Physics & Astronomy how a School (real or virtual) would benefit the programs and research across both units. The team looks forward to hearing more about this vision.