



SOCIETY OF PHYSICS STUDENTS

An organization of the American Institute of Physics

Future Faces of Physics Award Proposal

Project Proposal Title	A Long Talk with Georgetown Physics
Name of School	Georgetown University
SPS Chapter Number	2333
Total Amount Requested	\$600.00

Abstract

Georgetown University SPS will invite expert speakers in anti-racism to support DEI efforts in our physics department. This will bring together students, faculty, and staff to talk about discrimination present in STEM and how we can each play a part in improving the physics community for all.

Proposal Statement

Overview of Proposed Project/Activity/Event

GU SPS would like to invite speakers from “A Long Talk” to bring together students, faculty, and staff for a discussion on how to improve the culture at Georgetown physics, and physics as a whole.

“A Long Talk” is an organization designed to, “eradicate racism and dismantle systemic oppression in America” and was founded in the wake of the murder of George Floyd and the calls for racial justice in 2020. There are three targets in these discussions, the first is to address how the history of the US affects the present, the second is to learn about tools available to challenge racist comments and beliefs, and finally, leave with action items for improving the community around you. The discussion will include a series of videos attendees will watch beforehand so that everyone has the necessary context and knowledge to fully participate in the discussion. During the two-hour discussion, moderators from A Long Talk will guide participants through uncomfortable but important topics. A couple of weeks afterward, we will reconvene and discuss how the discussion has affected us and what we have each been able to implement in our daily lives. The goal of this project is not just to discuss how systemic racism has affected our community, but how we can all combat the inequality present in physics. The target audience is a combination of undergraduate and graduate students, professors, and other staff members.

A member of the organizing committee for this project, Amada Paris, has participated in one of these discussions with the Georgetown swim and dive team and has been able to put us in contact with the directors of A Long Talk. We have had a Zoom meeting with the director and have been in touch since October to plan this event. Various professors in the department have also indicated support for this project, as well as several students.

How Proposed Activity Promotes Physics Across Cultures

Physics does not occur within a vacuum and has been impacted by ongoing events as well as systemic racism. This project will create a more aware and educated physics community at Georgetown, and create a more inclusive environment for traditionally underrepresented physics students, staff, and faculty. While the physics department has in the past attempted to facilitate these discussions, we believe that inviting outside experts would have the greatest impact on our community. This project's goal is to address the issues in physics and create a space for underrepresented students to feel seen and supported, as well as educate all in our department on what they can do to continue cultivating this space. The Future Faces of Physics Award would be used to help the retention of historically underrepresented students in physics by improving department culture and climate.

Plan for Carrying Out Proposed Project/Activity/Event

Personnel - Amada Paris, Davonne Henry, and Cece Ochoa will be the lead organizers for this project. We will enlist the help of our Society of Physics Students board and the Physicists Against Racism board for further support

Marketing - We will put flyers up on our department floor and physics classrooms. Emails will also be sent to the entire department in the weeks and days leading up to the event. We will also include the event in the monthly department newsletter

SPS member participation- Our seven SPS board members will be supporting the event through marketing and organizing. We expect that about 20-30 SPS members will be participating in the event

Expertise - Amada Paris has gone through A Long Talk before and has experience in DEI efforts. Cece Ochoa and Davonne Henry have been DEI organizers for the past three years. Sophie Taylor, another board member, also has three years of DEI organizing experience. Professor Amy Liu will also be assisting us in the logistics of organizing the event as well

Project/Activity/Event Timeline

December 2023: Finalize exact dates with A Long Talk and Georgetown Physics organizers

January 2023: Begin marketing the event upon students' return to campus after the winter break. Have a second meeting with A Long Talk to discuss the details of the discussion

February 2023: Continue marketing and confirm the final list of attendees, provide this list to A Long Talk. Have a final meeting before the discussion for final details.

March 2023: In early March, distribute pre-discussion materials to attendees. Mid-march, host discussion. Gather attendee feedback in the days following the event.

April 2023: Host post-event discussion. Put together a report on how A Long Talk went

Activity Evaluation Plan

Before the event, we will have attendees fill out a signup form to plan the event. Should there be more interest than space, we will also offer a waitlist option. In this form, we will have an option for attendees to declare if they identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group in physics, or if they identify as an ally. This will help us keep track

of who is participating in the discussion. In the signup form, we will also ask questions about how much they have thought about the systemic issues in physics, what they have seen, and what they may or may not have done to combat the issues. Following the event, we will send out a survey for participants to share their thoughts and experiences, as well as offer an opt-in opportunity to be interviewed for deeper discussion about their experience. These questions will ask if anything has changed since before the event, and we will compare their answers from before the event to those after to track any change that may have occurred. The exact questions asked will depend on whether the participant is a member of a historically underrepresented group, an ally, a student, or staff/faculty. This way, we can measure where our successes and failures were most seen, and how to improve for the next event of this type.

Budget Justification

A Long Talk normally charges about \$100 per person, however, they have agreed to give us a heavily discounted rate since we will only be hosting the main discussion with the speakers, rather than the pre and post-discussion portions. The Future Faces of Physics Award would be used in combination with department funding and club funding SPS receives from Georgetown University to pay the speakers a fair rate for their work. We have access to large physics classrooms in which to host the event, equipment, chairs, etc. at no charge. Depending on what our budget looks like closer to the event, we may partner with an on-campus non-profit organization to help supply coffee, tea, and snacks for the event speakers and participants. The Future Face of Physics Award would be purely used to pay A Long Talk speakers for their time, effort, and work in helping bring this important discussion to Georgetown Physics.