In Fall 2014 each CMNS SAB representative met with students in their respective majors to discuss concerns and ideas. SAB members are working with Department administrators and advisors on specific concerns. Updates on these concerns will be posted Fall 2015.

Common themes

- Clarity and logic on curriculum requirements
  - Overlap in content between courses
  - Overlapping class times
  - Courses that serve non-majors mixed with majors, especially supporting courses
  - Student interest in courses in additional content areas, relevant to graduate school and professional careers
  - Student input on which courses are working and which are not, student involvement in course development
- Guidance on application process for graduate school
  - Online information about timelines, things to look for, getting research experience, letters, etc.
- Meeting spaces for students
  - Access when available
  - Some majors have none

Atmospheric and Oceanic Science
30 students in attendance

- Courses and curriculum
  - Dept is working on offering the mesoscale meteorology course that AOSC majors need
  - Not having enough oceanography
  - More meteorology earlier
  - Too much overlap between courses
  - Comp sci courses not relevant- C and Java not used in field
  - Flexibility of class time
  - Engineering physics vs. majors version
  - Finding research opportunities for graduation requirements
  - Study abroad, and how to do it. Hard to schedule

Physics/Astronomy
8 students in attendance

- How to help students find research opportunities
- Undergrad research fair for just astr and phys—Allison will follow up on this
- Advertising APS meetings, getting students to go
• Undergrad lounges, how to get access- not automatic for all students
• Curriculum- more computer science such as MATLAB. Need more progress. They have a student helping to work on lab development. But MATLAB is not really used in the field. Maybe should do some different math program.
• Suggestion for CMSC122 to count as Scholarship and Practice Gen Ed
• Physics labs are not successful. And can’t double count in astr and phys. Lab manuals not well done. Also question about how lec and lab are staggered. Can’t use partners in labs. Maybe students can write clear critiques and suggestions.
• Options for GRE review (such as review sessions)
• Need better advice on how to get to graduate or professional school
  o Timeline for applications to grad and professional school for undergrads
  o More information on careers in Physics and Astronomy

Computer Science
approx 10 students in attendance
• Intro classes- how to prepare for them if you don’t have high school background. How can we help students prepare. You can take CMSC122 first but that makes graduation difficult.
• Rumor about CMSC131 programming language dispelled- course will remain on JAVA, not Python
• CMSC131 and 132 are critical courses but not well taught, and expectation that students should already know material. They are taught in java, but 200- levels don’t use it, but 400-level courses go back to JAVA
• Some concern about getting more women in computer science
• Concerns about growth of major, class space
• Discussion about making Computer Sciences a limited enrollment program (LEP)
• Study abroad came up—dept does not accept study abroad. Might look to engineering that has good study abroad material.

Biological Sciences/Chemistry/Biochemistry
25 students in attendance. Mostly Biological Sciences.
• Poor match between faculty advising and student interest
• Want more information about career options
• More about grad school
• Concerns about PHYS131/132
• More courses on specific application topics
• More options for Biochemistry major courses
• Tutoring for students in upper level BSCI courses
• More courses that apply computer science techniques to biology research

Geology
• Courses and curriculum
• Students want more geophys
• More choice in geol areas
• More programming, comp sci
• More labs in geophys, geomorphology.
• Overlapping course schedules that limit enrollment
• More tips for applying to grad school, mechanics and next steps
• Want more information about applied jobs and opportunities
• Study abroad problems with scheduling
  o Although the requirement of a geology field camp experience can compensate for the lack of a study abroad experience
Math
• Matlab and high level course—such as MATH246
  o Students need to study on their own
  o MATH246 is mixed major course, with engineers. This distracts from math coverage
  o transfer students have problems with matlab and struggle
• other issues with curriculum,
  o students need to make choices but they don't know how