

**REU Planning Meeting 1**  
**(Meeting on Feb. 26/2019; Notes last updated March 5, 2019)**

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**(I) Program Overview**

- 1) UT Astronomy NSF/DoD REU site  
“Frontier Research and Training in Astronomy for the 21st Century”  
<https://astronomy.utexas.edu/research/Astronomy-REU-ASSURE>
- 2) Summary of NSF proposal  
[http://www.as.utexas.edu/~sj/reu-2019/nsf\\_reu\\_summary.pdf](http://www.as.utexas.edu/~sj/reu-2019/nsf_reu_summary.pdf)
- 3) REU Team website (this is where most of the files for the team will be kept)  
<http://www.as.utexas.edu/~sj/reu-2019>

**(II) UT Astronomy REU Team for Summer 2019**

- 1) NSF REU PI and Program Director: Shardha Jogee
- 2) Lead of NSF REU broader impact: Keely Finkelstein
- 3) Lead of NSF REU observational astronomy module and trip to McDonald: Mike Endl
- 4) NSF REU program coordinator: James Medina, with assistance from Kelly Quinney
- 5) The 2019 selection committee has 8 faculty-postdoc/student advisor teams and we can hire 8 students. The 10 members who will rank applications are in blue.
  - a) Planetary Systems -- Observational/Theory (3)  
[Caroline Morley](#)  
[Aaron Rizzuto](#) (with Adam Kraus as faculty contact)  
[Andrew Vanderburg](#) (with Adam Kraus as faculty contact)
  - b) Star formation, Brown dwarf, Binaries -- Observational (1)  
[Will Best](#) (with Adam Kraus as faculty contact?)
  - c) Galaxies -- Observational (3)  
[Keith Hawkins](#)  
[Rebecca Larson](#) (with Steve Finkelstein as faculty contact)

d) Structure Formation/Dark Matter/Galaxies -- Theory (1)

[Mike Boylan Kolchin and Andrew Graus](#)

e) First Stars/Galaxies/Cosmology -- Theory (1)

[Volker Bromm and Anna Schauer](#)

6) Graduate student mentors: Dreia Carrillo, Sydney Sherman

7) Email alias list for all folks listed above: [nsf-reu-team@utlists.utexas.edu](mailto:nsf-reu-team@utlists.utexas.edu)

### **(III) Applicant Pool & Ranking File**

Files are on the REU team website (<http://www.as.utexas.edu/~sj/reu-2019>) unless otherwise indicated:

1) REU application form: **UT\_Astronomy\_REU\_Application\_Form.docx**

2) Master file: **Master\_Table1\_Final\_Feb28.xlsx**

This form compiles the information on the application form for all 167 applications. Of these 167 applications, 123 are complete (with CV, statement, transcript, at least 2 letters), 31 are missing 1 letter, and 13 are missing other files.

3) Gender, race/ethnicity breakdown: **REUApplicants\_Breakdown\_Final\_Feb28.xlsx**

We have ~75 female, and ~49 members of under-represented minority groups.

4) individual folders are at

<https://utexas.box.com/s/6qwxgpo0dc8uj8ke9o68uqcjw80re7h95>

5) Ranking file: **Your-Name\_Ranking\_Final.xlsx**

This file lists only a subset of the columns in the master file in (2). All rankers should use this file to rank the applicants, as described in section IV.

### **(IV) REU Selection Process and Schedule**

1) We aim to admit 8 external students:

- At least 50% will be female
- At least 50% will be under-represented minorities (URMs) (which include African Americans, Hispanics, American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians or Other Pacific Islanders, as well as first-generation college students, students with disabilities, U.S. veterans) and members of intersectional group.
- NSF mandate: REU directors are \*mandated\* to admit at least 50% from institutions with "limited research opportunities"

2) National landscape:

- a) AST REU directors have a semi-working agreement to make initial offers on Feb 28; and to expect initial responses by **March 5**. AST REU program try to follow this schedule if possible.
- b) A Google doc has been set for different AST REU program to share student acceptances (i.e., the list of students who have accepted specific offers) and thereby facilitate later round of offers. You can all view this, but only Shardha/James can write to this list.  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/14M78-U8En8IKNL10kx7K2qy1xPwcC\\_1qUGZuyQSMpU8/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/14M78-U8En8IKNL10kx7K2qy1xPwcC_1qUGZuyQSMpU8/edit?usp=sharing)

### 3) Suggested selection process

- a) Divide the 10 rankers from section (II) into 5 teams of about two rankers with different areas of expertise.
- b) Each team ranks 1/5 of applications (about 33 applications), giving a rank of 0 to 3:  
3 = Excellent  
2 = Above threshold  
1 = Borderline  
0 = Below threshold

using the following selection criteria:

- Academic preparation and trajectory
- Grit/Initiative
- Research engagement
- Community Engagement
- NSF REU priority: Female, URM, Institution Size
- Past REU experience (give priority to those who have **not** had an REU before). Note that the column labelled “Previous SURP?” in the ranking file has the answer to the question on the application form “Have you participated in a summer UG research program before?”. It is not clear if applicants have only considered external summer REUs when answering this question or whether they have considered internal summer research programs, so please look at their statements.

c) The ranking file (Your-Name\_Ranking\_v2.xlsx) lists the applicants and a subset of the columns in the master file. Ranking assignments are shown below.

- Ranking team 1: Mike Boylan Kolchin Aaron Rizzuto: **Aaronson to Della Costa**
- Ranking team 2: Volker Bromm, Andrew Graus: **Dillon to House**
- Ranking team 3: Rebecca Larson, Andrew Vanderburg: **Hussein to Mondoskin**
- Ranking team 4: Keith Hawkins, Will Best: **Myron to Shelby**
- Ranking team 5: Caroline Morley, Anna Schauer: **Silva to Zito**

c) Each ranker should download the ranking sheet (Your-Name\_Ranking\_Final.xlsx; see section III), rename it (e.g., Proust\_Ranking\_Final.xlsx), fill in the ranking and send it to James, Kelly, Shardha, if possible, **by 9 am on Th. March 7**.

d) James/Kelly will send back the average rank and dispersion to Shardha and the team, if possible, by 1 pm on **Th. March 7**.

e) Any member of the team can ask for a given applicant to be re-evaluated if she/he feel the applicants needs to be ranked significantly higher of lower. Once we have settled on a final ranking, we will select a list L1 of qualified applicants.

g) From this list L1, each of the 8 faculty-postdoc/student advisor teams listed in section (II) will provide Shardha and James with a **diverse** ranked list of six preferred candidates, if possible by **9 am on Friday March 8 or Monday March 11**. When making your list of six preferred candidates,

- please include as many candidates as possible who fit the criteria under point 1 (women, URMs, from institutions with "limited research opportunities", etc).
- please check the google file in point 2 to verify whether your preferred student has already accepted another AST REU offer
- please check the list of TAURUS offers (we will provide a list)

h) Shardha will propose a set of 8 offers bearing in mind the admission demographics under point 1 (at least 50% women, at least 50% URMs, and at least 50% from institutions with "limited research opportunities"). **We aim to make offers ideally by Friday March 8 or Monday March 11.**

i) We will decide on the next steps as we go along