Event: CS Town Hall Spring 2022
Date: Wednesday, May 11, 2022
Time: 6 pm
Location: Mong Learning Center
Faculty Attendees: Richard Korf, Carey Nachenberg, Yizhou Sun, Paul Eggert, Peter Reiher, Glenn Reinman, Veronica Santos, Christina Lee, Bill Goodin, Michel Campbell
Google Drive Folder: UCLA CS Town Hall Spring 2022 - Google Drive
Presentation:
https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1L9dSMVUr1TSazZu0-LqSHRSjEMMOO4GG-kZlOrkAjOM/edit

Reinman Updates
- Video game design
- Physics requirement (faculty split)

Veronica Santos Updates
- Hiring initiative: mentorship professor search
- Awareness to Action Training
  - gender bias and racial bias
  - 12 trained facilitators (6 grad students, 4 staff, and 2 faculty)
  - recruited 10 more faculty who are willing to train up as faculty facilitators
- Samueli subcommittees
  - Graduate recruitment and retention
  - Meet over summer to analyze recruitment data
- Engineering for Humanity Symposium
  - Society of Women Engineers, Graduate SWE, AISES, NSBE

Q&A
- UC Berkeley's transparent grading system
  - Can't set cutoff exactly
- Physics
  - Faculty 50-50 split
  - Korf likes physics
  - Graph-related deep learning to simulate physics systems and make predictions
  - 3 quarters of some hard science; otherwise, department doesn't get accredited
- Cybersecurity
  - Carey might teach :)
  - Eggert thinks this is most pressing need
  - Reiher offered cybersecurity courses before
- Course overlap
  - Professor Cho, Professor Sun restructured CS 145 to focus on data types. Reduce fundamentals and basics.
  - That was communicated
- CS M152A technology is deprecated

- - Professor Sarrafzadeh
  - Infrastructure problem since latest language changes so quickly
- Course Evaluations
  - Faculty promotions are partially based on course evals
  - Matt's suggestions: a) announcing at beginning of class what students from previous iterations of the class didn't like and what prof changed b) Math department lists most common complaints of each course and what's being done to resolve it
- Testing scripts
  - Release some of the test cases
  - Carey's 131 will have test cases
  - Korf's 161 gave test cases
- Research
  - Undergraduate research portal is difficult to use and doesn't have many postings
  - Resort to cold emailing professors directly
  - From Reinman's experience, undergraduate research hasn't turned out that well from classes, hackathons, etc. Find students in class who are really interested in the topic and are really self-motivated.
  - Professor Sun's lab has a lot of undergraduates, many of whom took her class. Introduce them to PhD students to work as time. Difficult to create post saying what type of research needs to be done. Different from a job.
  - Carey did some undergrad research with the psychology department because high demand for CS undergraduate research positions.
  - Undergraduate Research Portal. ENGR 24 class.
- Keeping up with EDI committee updates
  - ESUC EDI committee receives nominations from student orgs
  - Reinman attended lecture on making an inclusive syllabus
  - Professor Sun recommends taking concerns directly
- Women and people of color
  - Prop 209
  - Grant from Melinda Gates Foundation to try to improve the presence of women and binary students in artificial intelligence
  - Outreach efforts
  - Department does admissions for graduate students, but not for undergraduates (school of engineering and campus)
    - Secondary holistic reviews to complement campus-wide holistic reviews
- Pushing out information
  - Social media, website
  - High school outreach program, CSSI, Break Through Tech AI
- Better way to provide or implement feedback
  - Don't have to wait until town hall to give feedback
  - A lot of topics are brought up, but it's not obvious which are most important to students. Carey's suggestion: Have student groups identify top items and then focus on those.

- - Chemistry requirement got removed because of CS Town Hall meetings.
  - Promoting orgs
    - Tag ucla_engineering
    - UCLA CS page only lists 3 clubs: ACM, UPE, exploretech.la. What about Nova, SWE, LA Blueprint, DevX, etc.
- BA in Computer Science
  - Like what Berkeley does
  - Creating a brand new major is a really challenging thing to do
  - Fragmentation of resources
  - Accreditation issue is perhaps decided by a layer higher than the dean of engineering. Not a choice department has.
  - Eggert holds a BA in Electrical Engineering. If priority (i.e. ACM, UPE, exploretech.la push for it), then maybe this will happen.