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I AM EXCITED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT:

Working with PLAs to add or improve active learning activities in class.

OFFICE HOURS:

During monthly PLA Faculty meetings, but please feel free to email me to set up additional times.

MOST USED PLA MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES:

For meetings, I check in with PLAs, ask how their classes are going. We debrief about recent examples, then discuss upcoming examples. I often ask them for feedback from their experience as students as well as from what they've noticed from the students. I encourage them to look for new example ideas that we could use in class.

BIGGEST SURPRISE IN YOUR PLA MANAGEMENT AND MENTORSHIP:

A PLA who wouldn't talk to students.

GREATEST TRIUMPH IN YOUR PLA MANAGEMENT:

In some of the 2017 and 2018 semesters of PHYS 1111, we got quite a good community going, both among the PLAs themselves and between them and the students. PLAs helped organize and participate in extra help/review sessions and engaged with students both in and out of class. Meetings often involved good discussions on the class topics and common points of confusion.

WORDS OF WISDOM:

I think a good goal is to try to encourage the PLAs to have a sense of ownership in the course. If they see their ideas being acted on, they tend to get more engaged. While I'm not always as successful in that as I'd like, it's something I always try to work at.

MOST MEANINGFUL PLA MEMORY:

In 2017 and 2018, I had a PLA who was studying to be a science teacher. She was consistently excellent at paying attention to topics that students struggled with and anticipating potential sticking points in upcoming examples. She found/came up with good ideas for examples that I still continue to use in classes.

ADVICE FOR OVERCOMING ROADBLOCKS:

I try to approach things in a somewhat similar manner to helping students at office hours: try to figure out the source of the issue and offer a variety of possible options to address it. I would say I've been fortunate not to run into any major roadblocks, with the one notable exception of the previously-mentioned PLA who wouldn't engage.