

PhD Leadership Meeting Minutes
October 10th, 2018

Attendance: Josh Acklin, Jesse Gelles, Basil Hans, Maggie Hung, Denise Jurczynszak, Allison Kann, Shikha Nayar, Matthew O'Connell, Nick Upright

Meeting start time: 16:11

PLM Business <5 mins

1. Communication within PLM and to the student body
 - a. System of communication between PLM members and student body discussed: all to confer within PLM before sending similar messages to student body.

Updates from the Deans ~10 mins

1. Basil Hanss, Senior Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Career Development
 - a. General updates
 - i. Graduate and Medical School wellness: institutional wellness committee created by Senior Associate Dean for Well-being and Resilience, Jonathan Ripp.
 - ii. Talking about big picture projects to work on. Leadership had an all-day workshop to figure out mission, short and long-term plans. This encompasses all different training programs at Sinai.
 - iii. THAW will be a partner in this for Graduate student/postdocs side of things.
2. Matthew O'Connell, Senior Associate Dean for Curriculum, Recruitment and Admissions
 - a. General updates
 - i. PhD applications have started!
 - b. Undergraduate symposium
 - i. 13th Oct 9am-4pm student and faculty encouragement and support is welcome and appreciated.

Steering Committee- *Jim Duehr (will be absent), ~5 mins*

1. Outcome of discussion re: Masters of Science pathway for PhD students leaving early
 - a. Discussion was had re: potential new policy for PhD students obtaining an MPhil; ongoing discussions at Graduate School Steering Committee meeting and Deans to make executive decisions.
2. Emails before next steering meeting
 - a. Jim Duehr; student representative for Steering Committee will be gathering information from PLM members before Steering Committee meetings.

Curriculum Committee- *Guha Arunkumar, Abigail Lubin, both absent <5 mins*

1. Curriculum committee meeting canceled last week

Student Affairs- *Jesse Gelles, Allison Kann, ~10 mins*

1. General updates
2. Discussion re: student issues and communication with student body
 - a. Student Affairs will be sending out a survey to the student body that aims to identify large scale programmatic gaps that currently exist in the PhD program.
 - b. Results from the annual Comprehensive Survey will assist with survey generation so as to avoid redundancy.
 - c. Basil Hans to send this out and introduce the group to the student body.

Student Council- *Josh Acklin, Nick Upright, ~10 mins*

1. Comprehensive survey
 - a. Being analyzed currently (quantitative and qualitative analyses).
 - b. Results will be distributed to appropriate parties and a large-scale presentation of overall results will be presented (along with the Medical student representatives) to the Board of Trustees at the end of November.
2. Masters housing updates
 - a. Student Council housing subcommittee and Student Council PhD representatives working together to generate an opt in Masters housing database→ types of information include: moving out and in, landlord info, distance to Sinai.
 - b. Joy Colelli has a document on real estate availability for students.
 - c. Real estate website has updated a PDF on available places.
 - d. This information is to be included in Graduate School Webinar for housing.
3. Student portal and handbook
 - a. Basil Hans to confer with Graduate School administration and IT re: student portal dissemination to student body. This will be out soon, and Student Council to put in newsletter.
 - b. Basil Hans is updating the Student Handbook currently→ PLM to make relevant changes for completion purposes.
4. Student Council Retreat will be held Oct 20th

THAW- *Maggie Hung, Denise Jurczynszak, 5-10 mins*

1. PEERS-type implementation in the Graduate School
 - a. Integrating a PEERS-type program in the Graduate School will focus on tackling issues of: burnout, wellbeing and resilience, values, cognitive distortion, empathy, personal reflections. Likely to be formed by the Fall of 2019.
 - b. Tweaking and implementation of the program will be discussed with the rest of the Sinai well-being initiative leadership.
2. Upcoming Come Chill With Thaw event
 - a. October 19th 5pm pumpkin decorating and crafts.
3. Postdoc parenting group
 - a. Group for parents at Sinai (postdoc executive committee doing this for post docs)→ working on potentially including graduate students in this too.
4. Possibility of social worker check-ins for PhD students
 - a. Larger wellness initiative: to be updated as discussions are on-going re: rollout and timing.

Feedback from the student body ~5-10 mins

1. Microsoft office should be provided free for students
 - a This is actually free for students with a .edu email address → Student Council to respond to student body with the link
2. Student Council to bring non-Student Council (primarily) feedback to PLM

Meeting adjourned: 17:05

Next meeting: November 14th