

## PhD Leadership Meeting Minutes September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**Attendance:** Josh Acklin, Guha Arunkumar, Jim Duehr, Jesse Gelles, Maggie Hung, Denise Jurczynszak, Allison Kann, Abigail Lubin, Shikha Nayar, Matthew O'Connell, Nick Upright

**Meeting start time:** 16:02

### PLM Business

1. Welcome to new members (Curriculum Committee representatives)

### Updates from the Deans

1. Basil Hanss, Senior Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Career Development
  - a. Absent.
2. Matthew O'Connell, Senior Associate Dean for Curriculum, Recruitment and Admissions
  - a. List of PIs for first year rotations
    - i. Incomplete list compiled. Still waiting on CAB.
    - ii. List of PIs to be placed on Student Council website: next year onwards the updated list will be given to students during orientation.
  - b. General updates
    - i. Graduate School is gearing up for recruitment.
    - ii. Undergraduate symposium: October 13<sup>th</sup> → student involvement will be asked for closer to the time.

### Steering Committee- *Jim Duehr*

1. Follow-up on digitized committee meeting forms
  - a. Logistics of this will be rolled out soon: to be implemented. Students should continue to use current forms on Graduate School website for committee meetings.
2. General updates
  - a. Eric Sobie will be continuing his involvement in Steering Committee; Rob Krauss is the chair.

### Curriculum Committee- *Abigail Lubin, Guha Arunkumar*

1. New course re: Biobanking
  - a. Ron Do and Girish Nadkarni have proposed a course on Biobanking and training individuals to use the resource at Sinai; professors to provide syllabus to discuss at next meeting.
2. First meeting updates
  - a. 8 courses evaluated.
  - b. Going forward, Curriculum Committee student members will email students for courses to be discussed on the agenda, in order to add any additional comments during discussion at monthly meetings.

**Student Affairs-** *Jesse Gelles, Allison Kann*

1. Initiatives for the year:
  - a. Student resource consolidation
    - i. International resources (taxes, travel etc.); working with postdocs to consolidate these.
    - ii. Disability resources.
    - iii. Student portal: members to ask Eric Sobie for updates and to determine if this is live or not as of yet.
  - b. Career development and advancement
    - i. Usual Sinai Innovations networking event has been discontinued→ Student Affairs will try to rebrand and rebuild something autonomously.
    - ii. Student Affairs is working with Ellie Schmelzer to orchestrate GSCS dinners, what can you be with a PhD type panels etc.
  - c. Para-curricular issues
    - i. Student Affairs will be working with Basil Hans and other administration as a top-down approach to address para-curricular issues.

**Student Council-** *Josh Acklin, Nick Upright*

1. Aron Hall Housing updates
  - a. Masters housing options database will be acquired from Student Council housing subcommittee.
  - b. Long-term: with this database, would strive to create a “school specific craigslist” for Masters housing options.
  - c. Paint policy: Student Council Housing subcommittee will be working with housing on adjusting the paint policy; update by next meeting.
  - d. Emotional support animals have become included in Aron Hall.
2. Elections
  - a. New First Year PhD reps: Daisy Hoagland and Colin Teague.
  - b. Masters and MD rep elections are being run this week.
3. Board Games in Student Lounge
  - a. Students have stolen many games over the summer from the student lounge.
  - b. To rectify this, communications are being drafted with the club, PhD Student Council reps, and Syed to email the student body.
  - c. More warning signs about theft to be placed in the student lounge.
4. Lab coat ceremony
  - a. For Third year students who have successfully completed their Thesis Proposal exams by the appropriate deadline: If your PI is not there you will still get a plaque, awarded by Matthew O’Connell.
  - b. The Graduate School has now sent out instructions and program details for the ceremony on Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup>.

**THAW- Maggie Hung, Denise Jurczyszak**

1. First event of the semester September 14<sup>th</sup>
  - a. Friday September 14<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the student lounge: “Come chill with THAW” in collaboration with PhD mentoring— general trivia will be held between mentor-mentee groups.
2. Looking into parent groups at MSSM for students and trainees
  - a. No centralized group exists currently—THAW is putting together a group to start bringing this initiative together.
  - b. Day care help and babysitting are also initiatives that will be addressed (new building will have new day care facilities to supplement what is currently available at Sinai).

**Feedback from the student body**

1. PIs relationship with students
  - a. Student leadership will draft a communication to the student body outlining the zero tolerance policy for abusive PI behavior and will also outline the processes by which a student may report a faculty member.
    - i. Emphasize that MTA co-directors are the immediate port of call
2. Aron Hall
  - a. Alarm keeps going off—students need to stop going through the back door that leads to Park Avenue. Issue will be directed to Student Council Housing subcommittee.
  - b. Accupure water is available in the Aron Hall gym.
3. Animal training
  - a. This is very lab-specific and PI-specific; your lab and PI should point you to resources on animal training.
4. Better communication of deadlines/expectations
  - a. Milestone tracking and emails to students with expectations will be sent at the beginning of each year.
  - b. Milestones have been completed and these will be disseminated to students shortly.
5. Room reservations
  - a. This is not run by Student Council. Students need to contact individual department assistants to make room reservations.

**Meeting adjourned: 17:00**

**Next meeting: October 10<sup>th</sup>, 4pm**