

**PhD Leadership Meeting Minutes**  
**March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**Attendance:** Josh Acklin, Guha Arunkumar, Jim Duehr, Jesse Gelles, Basil Hanss, Maggie Hung, Denise Jurczynszak, Allison Kann, Matthew OConnell, Shikha Nayar, Nick Upright

**Meeting start time:** 16:04

**PLM Business** 10 mins

1. Communication between Graduate School and school-wide student leadership
  - a. The purpose of the meeting is to have a platform to bring PhD-specific issues to the Associate Deans of the Graduate School, and disseminate this information to relevant and appropriate Committees to tackle necessary issues.
  - b. Communication between other leadership structures (including school-wide student voice such as Student Council) must continuously occur.

**Updates from the Deans** ~10 mins

1. Basil Hanss, Senior Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Career Development
  - a. General updates
    - i. Wellness: work is being put into formalizing discussion groups facilitated by social workers (there will be an open forum once a month).
    - ii. Revamping of mistreatment policy: this includes reinstating Graduate School Mistreatment Resource Panel (student run with a faculty moderator).
    - iii. Office of wellbeing and resilience: the office is focusing on issues around reducing stigmatizing of mental health and care.
2. Matthew O'Connell, Senior Associate Dean for Curriculum, Recruitment and Admissions
  - a. General updates
    - i. The first Graduate Student Research Symposium (akin to Undergraduate Research Symposium) will be held on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The purpose will be to celebrate diversity in Science and attract potential post-doctoral candidates to Mount Sinai.

**Steering Committee-** Jim Duehr, 5-10 mins

1. PhD duration
  - a. The specifics and policies around structures for PhD duration and when theses need to be deposited/defenses need to be scheduled are being revamped and rewritten to make this clearer and more specific in the Student Handbook.
2. Size of incoming PhD classes
  - a. There has been a petition to increase size of incoming class to ~50: monetary resources are being discussed to fund this proposal.

**Curriculum Committee-** Abigail Lubin, Guha Arunkumar, 5 mins

1. Normalization of courses discussion

- a. 8 courses were evaluated: Neuroscience seminar was discussed where grading system could be moved to pass/fail.
  - b. Normalization of courses is being worked upon to equally incorporate preparation time, exam hours etc., which are then translated to credits.
2. Email whitelist
- a. The Curriculum Committee representatives got their email address whitelisted by the Graduate School so reps should be able to send emails to the student body to solicit feedback for courses to be discussed without any barriers.

**Student Affairs-** *Jesse Gelles, Allison Kann, 5 mins*

- 1. General updates
  - a. Masters students will be included in the current Student Affairs group to ensure these issues are also effectively being titled by the appropriate leadership group.
  - b. The Student Affairs survey will be distributed this week to Graduate Students.

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

- 1. Comprehensive survey 2018-2019
  - a. This will be sent out in the next few weeks after the Student Affairs survey, and survey content will largely remain the same as last year's survey for statistical comparison purposes.
  - b. Completion of this survey is necessary for admission to the Sushi Party in May.
- 2. Alumni list updates
  - a. Student Council Alumni Committee will follow-up with Basil, Jason Soto, and Matthew re: a comprehensive list of graduated alumni.
- 3. Housing update
  - a. Josh, Nick and Jim had a meeting with the Student Council Housing Subcommittee and Syed to go through the data collected from the survey.
    - i. A meeting is to be scheduled with Rose Associates for early April to discuss a) apartment entry policy, b) front door entry policy, c) furniture policy, d) resource allocation
    - ii. All agreements will be brought to the Deans at the April Student Council Executive Steering Committee meeting, as well as issues that still need to be worked on.

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

- 1. Joint wellness event
  - a. This is being worked on—between the post-docs and medical residents of the Graduate and Medical Schools and will be held on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019.
- 2. First year mentorship dinner
  - a. First year mentorship dinner will be occurring soon with an interactive session with Q&A.

**Feedback from the student body <5 mins**

All feedback that Student Council PhD representatives received from the PhD student body this month are issues that were disseminated and handled by relevant Student Council subcommittees.

**Meeting adjourned: 17:00**

**Next meeting: April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019**