

PhD Leadership Meeting Minutes
April 17th, 2019

Attendance: Jim Duehr, Jesse Gelles, Basil Hanss, Maggie Hung, Allison Kann, Abigail Lubin, Matthew O'Connell, Shikha Nayar, Nick Upright

Meeting start time: 16:03

PLM Business <5 mins

1. Thinking about the next academic year
 - a. June will be the PLM transition meeting where new members from each Body will join, and elections will occur for Chair and Vice-Chair positions.

Updates from the Deans ~10 mins

1. Basil Hanss, Senior Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Career Development
 - a. General updates
 - i. See Student Affairs updates
2. Matthew O'Connell, Senior Associate Dean for Curriculum, Recruitment and Admissions
 - a. General updates
 - i. Admissions numbers are confirmed! Large diversity in the class (both female: male ratio as well as racial diversity).
 - ii. THAW to start peer mentoring from the summer; faculty mentors for new students will be assigned before/beginning the summer.
 - iii. 2nd year orientation will be occurring sometime in May.
 - b. Sinai Graduate student conference occurring June 24th.

Steering Committee- Jim Duehr, 5 mins

1. PhD duration policy
 - a. Finalized:
 - i. By the Fall of your 5th year, you cannot switch your lab
 - ii. By the beginning of your 6th year, you have to have a committee meeting to say you will graduate in 3-6 months, or a waiver from your PI to say that you will graduate within a year (this takes into account leave of absence but not suspension).
2. Size of PhD program
 - a. Goal is to increase incoming size to 50: constraints are finances, housing, long term endowment plan, course sizes. Jim to update on this after future Steering Committee meetings.

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

1. General updates
 - a. Emails from student body seems to be working.
 - b. No courses to discuss this month.

Student Affairs- *Jesse Gelles, Allison Kann, 10-15 mins*

1. Student Affairs survey results
 - a. 116 students responded (5 different Graduate programs: PhD-neuro and BMS, MD-PhD, MSBS, MSGC)
 - b. Common themes from the survey were: oversight in training, variation between MTAs, lack of centralized resources, unclear deadlines. Student Affairs is working on generating resources for programs, and on timeframes that are appropriate for each program.
 - c. Administrative staff in the Graduate School Office is working on automating various aspects of program tracking and development. Student Affairs to follow-up and work with administrative people on this.
 - d. Many students want to help with Student Affairs taskforce!

Student Council- *Josh Acklin, Nick Upright, 5-10 mins*

1. Student Awards gala
 - a. 25th April at 7pm in Stern Auditorium (awards will comprise of both faculty and student awards). Organizers have been encouraging alumni support and participation.
2. Alumni list updates
 - a. Jason Soto has said that the list is currently in the system (accessible through the alumni database through the Alumni Office).
3. Housing update
 - a. Meeting with housing department occurred to discuss Aron Hall survey data— findings and next steps to be discussed at the Student Council Steering Committee meeting on 4/23.
 - b. Policies that need to be updated and enforced will be detailed to the student body once finalized.

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

1. PEERS updates
 - a. Resilience planning is going well→ social workers and curriculum to be put forward to Marta soon.
2. End of the year social BBQ
 - a. Governors island June 1st.
3. Parenting survey
 - a. Survey of all parents in postdoc community was conducted.
 - b. Qualitative and quantitative report will be submitted to Eric, Marta, and overall wellness office (Jonathan Ripp and team).
4. Joint wellness event between school-wide wellbeing groups
 - a. “Sina (I Messed Up)”: Moved to the Fall of 2019.

Feedback from the student body 5 mins

1. Is the NYAS membership stipulated to first year only? Can we extend this to any year of PhD?
Matthew to check if this is an organization stipulation or Sinai stipulation. In any case it is \$35/year for student memberships.

Meeting adjourned: 17:00

Next meeting: May 15th