

**PhD Leadership Meeting Agenda**  
**July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**Attendance:** Josh Acklin, Guha Arunkumar, Sindhura Gopinath, Bar Nachmani, Maggie Hung, Denise Jurczynszak, Allison Kann, Abigail Lubin, Shikha Nayar, Matthew O'Connell, Chris Panebianco

**Meeting start time: 16:01**

**PLM Business 5 mins**

1. New newsletter template and progress
  - a. PhD Newsletter to include highlights from each body; upcoming events to be distributed among newsletter.
  - b. Josh to compile newsletter and bodies to send things to be included within one week after PLM.

**Updates from the Deans ~10 mins**

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. General updates
    - i. New students start arriving in 2 weeks.
    - ii. Matthew to send out orientation schedule to student leaders.

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

1. Mental health steering committee meeting updates
  - a. Met last Wednesday → mental health de-stigma campaign will be held in October.
    - i. Oct 10: booth in Guggenheim with screening resources etc.
    - ii. Story share event later in the month (all members of Sinai community).  
Taskforce seeking members to join this.
2. Transition of STMH to Aron Hall
  - a. This is currently occurring in August—survey sent to Graduate students and Postdocs (86% think this is negative, 7% have no opinion, 7% feel positively). THAW will be collaborating with the MD side to add Medical students to this to add numbers before sending results to the Deans.
  - b. For PLM members: send any additional questions that would be useful to Maggie—new survey will be distributed to all students.
3. THAW events and peer mentoring
  - a. Orientation event—training sessions for mentors before orientation will be conducted.
  - b. At orientation itself: 2 hour session including student health, STMH, title XI, disability.
  - c. Working with MSBS more this year to codify mental health and wellbeing goals.

#### 4. PEERS

- a. Last module is in the final stages of being developed—working with social workers to finalize this.
- b. Mentors will be trained with social workers→ program will start in the Graduate School in September (1<sup>st</sup> years pilot).

#### **Steering Committee-** *Bar Nachmani, <5 mins*

1. General updates
  - a. Steering committee is drafting a questionnaire for exit interview. Next meeting in Sept.

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

1. General updates
  - a. June meeting: reviewed MPH course proposals.
  - b. Went over 5 course evaluations→ clarification will be provided to incoming first years wrt which biostatistics course to take: 6400 or MPH + supplement.
  - c. Entrance exam is mandatory, but even if you pass, taking 6400 is optional.

#### **Student Affairs-** *Sindhura Gopinath, Allison Kann, 5-10 mins*

1. Orientation involvement
  - a. Matthew to send Allison schedule for orientation. Student Council to collaborate and include a time in orientation panel session with other student leaders.
2. Student resources on student portal
  - a. Student Affairs is reorganizing the student resources section on the student porta. This is to include: handbook, staff, forms, milestones.
  - b. Student leaders to send to Allison with any recommendations→ Graduate school resources will go into info packets for incoming students.
  - c. International student handbook/guide is being worked on and will also be included in resources for students.
3. Non-curricular workshops
  - a. Professional workshops in collaboration with Ellie and library are being planned.

#### **Student Council-** *Josh Acklin, Chris Panebianco, 5-10 mins*

1. Post-doc admittance to student lounge: updates
  - a. Survey sent out to post docs to gauge interest for using student lounge per paying basis→ preliminary results to determine if this is an issue worth pushing. Next step would be to survey students if there is sign for a go-ahead.
2. 97<sup>th</sup> street guard
  - a. The 97<sup>th</sup> street guard has been removed from the corner of 97<sup>th</sup> and Park avenue. Students feel unsafe, but the administration has been made aware and are working on this issue.
3. Student activities fair/orientation/elections
  - a. Student activities fair: September 4<sup>th</sup>. This will be advertised to 1<sup>st</sup> years

- b. Panel at orientation: introductions to all student leaders will be done at the beginning and then Student Council will present on initiatives and recruitment of 1<sup>st</sup> years.

**Feedback from the student body 5-10 mins**

1. TVs when you walk into Aron showing suspects; facial recognition is being used. Student Council is working on this.
2. TVs showing footage of elevators, stairwell, corridors—Student Council is also working on this.
3. Response that students would like to make Sinai more environmentally friendly—this will be passed onto the Greening Committee of Student Council.
4. Sinai kids→ feedback to be taken to Women in Science (Kavya).
5. Fee for late dental/vision insurance→ Financial Aid is handling this for next year. Current issue: registration is being held because of this late fee. Registrar is aware and can release holds when you pay dental/vision. Process is being streamlined.
6. Student requesting for an explicit time off statement → the minimal amount is stated in the Student Handbook, and any time taken off after that should be between the student and PI.
7. Promoting Sinai innovations—this will be done and try to mitigate any class conflicts so that students can attend.

**Meeting adjourned: 17:00**

**Next meeting:** August 15, 2019