

## PhD Leadership Meeting Minutes September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019

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

**Start time: 16:04**

### **PLM Business 5 mins**

1. Scheduling for October meeting
  - a. Moved from October 17<sup>th</sup> to October 3<sup>rd</sup> 4pm due to quorum requirements; location TBD.

### **Updates from the Deans ~10 mins**

1. Basil Hanss, Senior Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Career Development
  - a. General updates
    - i. Mental health awareness campaign in October (story share to be hosted→ email sent out to multiple bodies in the school to ask for those who would like to share).
    - ii. First year classes from all programs to be added to general listserves so they are included on announcements.
    - iii. PEERS curriculum rolled out for first years this month.
2. Matthew O'Connell, Senior Associate Dean for Curriculum, Recruitment and Admissions
  - a. Student group needs for interview days
    - i. Comprehensive list of groups asked by Rewtie for participation in coffee hour during interviews. Same groups will be asked for orientation.

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

1. Diversity and inclusion initiatives
  - a. 2<sup>nd</sup> year student and postdoc working together to work on URISM initiative→ creating a listserve and town hall so that those who identify have a group and space to talk about certain issues that may be affecting them.
  - b. Student Affairs to liaise with Graduate URISM representative on Student Council Steering committee and SEOS to collaborate.
2. Career resources
  - a. Career planning workflow created with Ellie.
  - b. For students who have graduated and before starting jobs (if you don't want to stay and do a mini postdoc in your lab), Student Affairs working on looking at short term salary opportunities with Office of Career Services.
  - c. Easier access to Alumni Office→ email Josh and Alumni subcommittee from Student Council to make this easier.
  - d. Career interest groups: A list of these could be housed on the Office of Careers Services website, and whenever a new group is form, this could be updated.

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

1. New representatives
  - a. First GBM yesterday—new induction of members.
  - b. First Steering Committee meeting next week (topic will be mistreatment) to continue discussions from the summer. This meeting will include mistreatment subcommittee representatives.
2. TV screens/petition form
  - a. Some students are uncomfortable with CCTV/facial recognition screens on display to everyone in Aron Hall. Housing subcommittee is assessing from administration if it is possible to do something about this. There are certain logistical issues; security mandated.
  - b. Larger issue: students are becoming misidentified through the facial recognition as persons who are barred from campus → security has not been responsive so far. Chris to reach out to Steering committee to see if members of administration can be alerted and involved; URISM and student affairs diversity group to get involved, as most students misidentified are underrepresented individuals.
  - c. School-wide petition form mechanism to be started on the Student Council newsletter. Updates in future months.
3. March for Science
  - a. The March for Science initiative is partnering with Student Council and has been endorsed by the student body; similarly, climate story has been endorsed by student body, which will be held on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September.

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

1. Bachata class
  - a. West Lobby Friday 9<sup>th</sup> of September, 6pm.
2. Postdoc--student social end of September
  - a. Aron Hall courtyard on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September—encourage Graduate students and Post-docs to attend!

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

1. General updates
  - a. Meeting next week (will be discussing work-life support for students who are parents; committee member requirements).

**Curriculum Committee-** *Abigail Lubin, Guha Arunkumar, 5-10 mins*

1. Updates from course evaluations
  - a. Effective science communication: expanding this to other programs as it has been a success!
  - b. Immunotherapy international course: graded now, not just pass-fail.
  - c. Data analysis for behavioral neuroscience: students can gain access to coding packages when taking this class.

- d. Genetic epidemiology: baseline introduction for the course is requested, so that students are on top of the material.

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

1. 21<sup>st</sup> floor Annenberg hallways → no food and drink is allowed.
2. Aron Hall piano: students are worried that this interferes with quiet study spaces → Student Council Housing subcommittee to be notified.
3. STMH: student had a difficult time getting an appointment → THAW to reach out to STMH to follow-up.
4. Graduate School Disorganization
  - a. Orientation: students would like to know prior to orientation when they will get their first stipend and direct deposit → perhaps distribute this when housing info is distributed. New students are encouraged to make use of their peer mentors over the summer to ask about this type of information.
  - b. Matthew will include a document with a list to say what to do over the summer and what to do during orientation during the welcome emails over the summer.

**Meeting adjourned: 17:04**

**Next meeting: October 3<sup>rd</sup> 4pm**