

PhD Leadership Meeting Minutes
October 3rd, 2019

Attendance: Josh Acklin, Sindhura Gopinath, Basil Hanss, Maggie Hung, Abigail Lubin, Bar Nachmani, Shikha Nayar, Matthew O'Connell

Start time: 16:05

PLM Business 5 mins

1. Newsletter compilation
 - a. Everyone to send newsletter components to Josh by Tuesday after PLM.

Updates from the Deans ~10 mins

1. Basil Hanss, Senior Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Career Development
 - a. General updates
 - i. PEERS curriculum is rolling out this month (MSTPs included → joint with 1st year of the PhD program).
 - ii. This month is mental health awareness month—keep an eye out for events.
 - iii. New mistreatment policy and process on board (in the handbook as of last week); official announcement to be coming soon.
2. Matthew O'Connell, Senior Associate Dean for Curriculum, Recruitment and Admissions
 - a. General updates
 - i. Applications have started coming in → complete list of student groups to be involved at interviews to be compiled by student leaders and Rewtie.
 - ii. 1st year students are settled in; they should become more aware of the list that updates on PIs taking rotation students → Basil to send this to MSBS and PhD listserves.

Curriculum Committee- Abigail Lubin, Guha Arunkumar, 5 mins

1. General updates
 - a. Meeting tomorrow.

Student Affairs- Sindhura Gopinath, Allison Kann, 5 mins

1. General updates
 - a. Meeting Monda.
 - b. International student resources update: the international office sent out a newsletter with link to intranet websites to students, postdocs, department admin; there will also be a seminar coming up.
 - c. URISM Graduate student rep on Student Council Steering committee → in contact with first gen/URISM reps → new listserve/group formation.

Student Council- Josh Acklin, Chris Panebianco, 10 mins

1. Mistreatment updates

- a. New resources being rolled out: mistreatment questions will be incorporated into annual review to faculty; unconscious bias training (in person); online mistreatment modules.
 - b. Mistreatment subcommittee comprises the student representation for mistreatment committee → this will be modified to include representation from programs who currently aren't represented.
2. TV screens with student pictures in Aron Hall
 - a. Photos are being fixed, and screens have been minimized once security has been notified of the issue at hand.
 - b. Security guard on Park Ave. and 97th St. has been reinstated.
3. Orientation groups
 - a. Student groups to be included in orientation and interviews (akin to what we have at interview coffee hours): Student Council, THAW, Student Affairs, Curriculum committee, Graduate School Steering Committee, Consulting Interest Group, GEMS, GCSC, MiNDS, oSTEM, Biotech group, SEOS, WiS, young Eisner scholars.
4. Winter formal update
 - a. Disproportionate ticket sales have been going on for a while; new venue will incorporate more students.
 - b. New venue: same price, more tickets → won't sell to guests until all tickets have been solicited from student body (after a week, guest tickets will be offered after any student tickets remaining have been claimed).
5. STMH in Aron Hall
 - a. Email from Dean of Graduate School came out today → STMH moving to Aron Hall.
 - b. Survey from THAW given to the administration → Focus group to verify this move was conducted 3 years ago → recommended to consolidate STMH and disability in one place.
 - c. Feasibility to address students' privacy concerns: opening up a side entrance to Aron Hall specifically for STMH → stairwell door straight to STMH.
 - d. Perhaps a Town Hall discussion for anyone to come and openly speak about how they feel on this, hosted by student leaders.

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

1. Continue discussion on STMH
2. General updates

Steering Committee- *Bar Nachmani, 10 mins*

1. Thesis committee structure—dealing with conflicts of interest
 - a. Discussion on members of students' committee and their abilities to vote (conflict of interest/collaborator) → change the language in handbook (collaborators are defined as coauthors of your paper). Chair cannot be a collaborator.
2. Students/postdocs with children—work/life balance

- a. Daycare (funding for this is currently not there)→ Bar and Postdoc rep reached out to students to get advice (handbook language for taking parental leave/family care leave can be edited and codified→ this will be discussed at the next meeting).
- b. Social workers encouraged to talk to young parents→ form this community for trainee parents at Mount Sinai.

Feedback from the student body 5-10 mins

1. Students would like upfront travel money for conferences→ Student Council reps to write up guide to apply for travel guide to clarify procedure.

Meeting adjourned: 17:03

Next meeting: November 14th, 2019