

PhD Leadership Meeting Minutes
December 19th, 2019

Attendance: Guha Arunkumar, Sindhura Gopinath, Basil Hanss, Maggie Hung, Denise Jurczynszak, Allison Kann, Bar Nachmani, Shikha Nayar, Chris Panebianco

Start time: 16:19

PLM Business *none*

Updates from the Deans *~10 mins*

1. Basil Hanss, Senior Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Career Development
 - a. General updates
 - b. Student survey results
 - i. Comprehensive survey: students would like increased fellowship advertisement from grad school. Potential solution: having a list of fellowships on a website (NIH or private); GCO has a list of current fellowships held by students. Even a website of a list of examples would be helpful + list of training grants available at Sinai.
 - ii. Mistreatment: largest category of perpetrators is students → try to dissect this further; where is this occurring? Labs? Living areas?
2. Matthew O'Connell, Senior Associate Dean for Curriculum, Recruitment and Admissions
 - a. General updates
 - i. Coordination and integration of courses → student focus group to assess this. Look into qualitative answers: curriculum committee to put out a survey to get into this more granularly.
 - b. Interviews
 - i. Point of contact for people at social events (mixture of students from different years and programs). Chris and Student Council to provide list.

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

1. Town hall in January details
 - a. This will occur Jan 22, 2020 and will be hosted with Student Affairs → get an idea of what people want to see from THAW in the new year onwards.
2. New committee structure of THAW in 2020
 - a. Post-doc co-chair and Maggie to be splitting up roles (community engagement, newsletter etc.; vs. more educational based things that come from student leadership, other issues at a program/school level).

Steering Committee- *Bar Nachmani, 10 mins*

1. Parents community at Sinai- first two events recap
 - a. First event had more turn out than second event but still formed email listserve and whatsapp group; Facebook group next to be created (for shared resources).
 - b. Goal is to have social worker to attend these meetings → advice and help to Sinai parents.
2. Discussion on non-PI personnel mentoring PhD student (on-going from last meeting)

- a. Committee meetings are a good place to start these discussions
 - i. standardizing sending PI out could help with providing a space for students to help with the conversation
 - ii. Specific questions could be asked to PIs and students before the meeting. Goal is to empower students to bring things up (this is also being done in RCR e.g. mentor-mentee class that happens).

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

- 1. Course evaluations
 - a. No new course proposals; 4 courses evaluated (2 stats, 2 BSR courses)—largely no issues.

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

- 1. General updates
 - a. URISM mailing list → first meeting/holiday event went well: more to come.
 - b. International office would like the student body to have an international students group → requesting a Student Council club will be easiest way to proceed.
- 2. Student portal reorganization
 - a. List of topics: basic fixes for international students; basic information for milestones. A more formal milestone tracking system is being instituted by the Graduate School as well.
 - b. PLM members to send things to Student Affairs that they would like to see increase in visibility → calendar, forms, handbook etc.

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

- 1. Chat with the Deans
 - a. Plan to do this in January 27th with the whole school invited (get questions beforehand for the Deans).
- 2. Winter formal updates
 - a. Higher capacity; higher grad participation → overall successful.
- 3. Future student council steering topics
 - a. Jan: substance abuse; Feb: diversity, March: housing & alumni, April: curriculum
 - i. If you want to get involved in these Student Council Steering Curriculum meetings, email Chris.
- 4. PhD interviews (Happy hour and student groups)
 - a. List of groups to be at student groups hour: Student Council, THAW, Student Affairs, Curriculum committee, Steering committee, Biodesign and AI, CIG, GEMS, GSCS dinners, MiNDS, Policy, oSTEM, Biotechnology group, SEOS, WiS, Young Eisner Scholars

Feedback from the student body 5-10 mins

None to report.

Meeting adjourned: 17:17

Next meeting: February 13th, 2020