

## **PhD Leadership Meeting Agenda**

### **August 12th, 2020**

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

1. Basil Hanss, Senior Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Career Development
  - a. General Updates
  - b. Orientation is going pretty well – no significant complaints so far
  - c. Social event from orientation first night may not have worked – Highfidelity
    - i. Poll more first years to figure out if this worked
    - ii. Problem might have been scale (140 people vs 10)
  - d. Advisory group on racism and bias – met twice, making baby steps forward with low hanging fruit issues
    - i. Goal: Strategic plan for Marta's review and implementation
    - ii. Student, Faculty and Staff representation
2. Matthew O'Connell, Senior Associate Dean for Curriculum, Recruitment and Admissions
  - a. General Updates
  - b. Orientation has been going well
  - c. Classes are ready to roll on Monday (virtually) all involved have been trained on principles of online ed and on how to work with blackboard
  - d. Biostatistics recommendation: email went around, Matthew has a set of recommendations,
    - i. Deferring to academic advisors
    - ii. Anecdotal feedback: Most PhD students are interested in the new biostats course. Has a python course pre-req (fall)
    - iii. Expectation: Few will do the MPH course, most will choose between new course (lab research, spring) vs 6400 (fall, theory heavy)
3. Bradley Gano, Associate Dean of the Graduate School – *absent*
  - a. List of PIs accepting rotation students resource

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

1. 3 CLR course reviews
  - a. Ethics and Methods focused. Mostly positive feedback with all of the courses, many of the professors want to coordinate with each other to strengthen the courses
  - b. Small comments on the introduction of rubrics and structural changes
  - c. Introduced plan for virtual learning strategies

#### **Student Affairs- Sindhura Gopinath, Chris Guevara, 5 mins**

2. General Updates
  - a. Diversity and Inclusion – partnered with SEOS to assay student experience. Waiting on Basil's new committee to further partner
  - b. Student group for international students – applied for student council funding. Allow and facilitate more communication between the graduate school and the student population

- i. Open to all students, but there are very few international Medical students
  - ii. No existing email list – IPO has not been responsive about this
  - iii. Information session last Tuesday and upcoming next Friday
  - iv. Semi-regular communication with Student Affairs
- 3. Financial Literacy Workshop
  - a. Deciding on expertise to host the workshop
  - b. 2 part workshop: Part 1: Geared towards international students and URISM students on fundamentals Part 2: More information, more advanced, what do graduate students have access to?
- 4. PhD Representatives interviewed new financial advisor hire
  - a. Asks for Student Council to include Student Affairs in these conversations

**Steering Committee- Katherine Meckel, 5 mins**

- 1. Continued discussion of DEI initiatives at Sinai
  - a. Ways to identify bias in faculty but also in trainees and staff
  - b. What formal reprimand process exists for accountability?
  - c. No co-representative yet, Katherine is still trying to convince other students to take this role on.
- 2. Expansion of PREP
  - a. Goal: double this program in size
  - b. Where is the funding? NIH funded slots, can MTAs help contribute funding to this? Can these students be supplemented with a diversity supplement?
    - i. PIs can apply for NIH supplements to fund students in their lab
  - c. Should the program be doubled right away, or 2-3 a year until it doubles?
    - i. Short term doubling will increase diversity at Sinai now
  - d. Eric Sobie currently directs the program, he will need additional faculty support to co-direct the program
  - e. Current requirements: Standard MTA course sequence that PhD Students take
    - i. Student Affairs and Basil raised concerns about juggling coursework and lab time to propel PREP students
    - ii. Matthew: Coursework is an important point on applications (to show that they can succeed in PhD coursework)
  - f. NIH wants Prep to be a 1 year program, Students have felt staying a second year was more beneficial
  - g. Will coordinate with the URISM PLM reps

**Student Council- Daisy Hoagland, Camille Goldman, 5 mins**

- 1. July Steering: COVID updates
  - a. Focused on a recap of June Steering, mostly on COVID19
  - b. Anti-racist work follow up, Medical school deans are planning a response to the SMSA letter at the end of August
- 2. August StuCo Events & Meeting dates
  - a. August 19<sup>th</sup> – General Body Meeting (Last GBM of last year)

- b. Elections in early September
  - c. Issues with medical student elections without being in person – interim panel of MS1 students serving in this role
  - d. Recently got approval for a socially distanced mixer for the first years – attempt to do this mid-August (groups of ten in the park)
  - e. More events like this on the horizon
3. Admin are in the final steps of hiring a director of financial aid – involvement on Student Council steering
- a. Daisy, Dania and Emily all participated and sent a recommendation on who to hire out of two finalists.
  - b. Recommendation also included an ask for hiring additional staff
  - c. Both candidates were excellent, and they both mentioned doing financial literacy workshops/financial aid that didn't just center around medical school student loans

**URISM** – Dania Figueroa Acosta, Marisa Goff, 10 mins

1. Updates on topics from last month:
  - a. Class evaluations
    - i. Questions given to Basil → advisory committee
    - ii. Plan to have these implemented by end of fall semester
  - b. Soft skills training proposal
    - i. Multiple certificate workshop programs
    - ii. Students will write a proposal for one of these programs to further build the curriculum
2. Programming for students with disabilities
  - a. Submitting application for student group for student council funding
    - i. Platform for self advocacy
    - ii. Coordinating with a parallel medical focused group
  - b. Updating website still (meeting biweekly with Christine Lowe going forward)
  - c. Student-Faculty mentorship program for students with disabilities
3. Meetings with MTA directors
  - d. Inclusion efforts in the MTA programs
  - e. Met with Neuro, IMM, GDS
  - f. Upcoming: MIC and PTD
  - g. Common themes are popping up, plan to meet with the deans at the end of the month to suggest changes that can occur at the graduate school level
  - h. Ideas: Exit survey related to URISM, PREP Program support, developing undergraduate opportunities at an early level, looking at speaker diversity, getting students more involved in recruitment
  - i. Emily and Camille involved in these conversations
3. Orientation sessions
  - a. Dania hosted with SEOS/Stufairs diversity initiative a summer event for incoming students
  - b. Held mandatory session yesterday to engage allies

- c. Topic sessions today for BIPOC, LGBTQ+, Disabilities, Women in Science

**THAW- Denise Jurczynszak, Lauren Vetere 5 mins**

1. Peer mentorship program updates
  1. Orientation session happened today
  2. Mentors have been very useful this year to combat the isolation of the pandemic
2. Plans to make students more aware of mental health resources, esp. social workers/make these resources more accessible
  1. Increased needs at STMH
  2. How do we match STMH demographics to that of our students?
  3. THAW and Basil have been working with Sinai social workers to supply more mental health resources to students in the interim. The team of social workers contains at least one BIPOC
3. Virtual Events - Currently hosting an art event once a month and looking for student feedback to determine what types of virtual events students would like to see
  1. Monthly art event (distribute art supplies, do art together over zoom)
  2. Determine a way to get student feedback on what students want
    - a. How to do this with zoom fatigue
    - b. Brainstorming Ideas over zoom with PLM

**PLM Discussion on Aron Hall Guest Policy – All, 10 minutes**

- Re-evaluated constantly
  - Driven by the infectious disease prevention professionals
  - Would more frequent testing allow this to change? Is cost a concern?
  - Communal living structure – trust is not necessarily there among roommates
- A lot of small pockets need to be addressed before we re-open:
  - Laundry room
  - Study spaces
- Working 100% but not supporting the students to do that work
- Can we change the narrative to build a safe Aron hall?
  - Policies to ensure safety in the building – temp checks, roommate approvals, limitations on where guests can go, etc
- Do we know how the student body feels about this issue?
- Could we at least allow Sinai students/employees in the building?

**Feedback from the student body Camille Goldman 5 mins**

- COVID testing:
  - More testing (regularly if we're working at 100% capacity)
    - No plan yet – the plan changes quickly though
  - Release of information on Aron Hall? Should go out soon from Lori
    - No positive cases in Aron hall in the last two weeks
  - Previously situation where exposure occurred from a student returning from a hotspot state
- Masks:

- People in the Annenberg Lounge being bad about wearing masks
    - Place where people are being lax about social distancing
  - People outside the building without masks on
- Hypocrisy in Graduate School Rhetoric:
  - Originally a lot of students were considered essential workers
  - Now students are not considered essential and has diminished the efforts that students have come in
- STMH moving into Aron Hall
  - Provider off site
- Housing office needs more staff
  - Will bring to housing subcommittee
- Institutional Biorender account
  - Medical Education team exists, we might be able to get a site license
- Discussion on 100% Capacity:
  - Considerations of “essential vs non-essential” rhetoric
  - 100% capacity when not addressing childcare, mental health, new policies, etc.

Action Items:

1. Ask administration for strategies to keep people accountable to mask wearing (particularly in student spaces)
2. Advocate for proactive policy making to ensure Aron hall is eventually safe to reinstate the guest policy
3. Discuss zoom fatigue with THAW over slack