

**PhD Leadership Meeting Agenda**  
**October 14th, 2020**

**Updates from the Deans 10 mins**

1. Basil Hanss, Senior Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Career Development
  - a. Advisory group for racism and bias: Close to releasing a mission statement to Marta for review, a code of conduct and a statement of diversity, inclusion and equity (within a week or two), and questions for course evaluations (ready soon).
    - i. Course evaluation questions → Marta → Curriculum Committee for approval/endorsement. Should be in place before the end of the semester
  - b. Exit interview → Adding questions about student experience with bias and equity.
    - i. Ready to activate in ~3-6 weeks
2. Matthew O'Connell, Senior Associate Dean for Curriculum, Recruitment and Admissions
  - a. Application assistance and advisory program 230-240 applicants
    - i. Give individual 1 on 1 assistance for document writing and mock interviews to ~95 of them
    - ii. 40 minute student panel specifically on q and A on how to interview
    - iii. Volunteers to speak about what to expect at an interview selected from previous interviewers
    - iv. Wholistic approach explanation
    - v. Designed to help people irrespective of where they apply
    - vi. Basil will hold a session on wellness and resilience
    - vii. Diversity and inclusion session as well
  - b. Application numbers might be down this year as a result of the pandemic, but it's too early to tell
3. Bradley Gano, Associate Dean of the Graduate School – absent

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

- Exit survey: in the process of revitalizing this survey, asking questions about bias and equity, discussing how data is analyzed and who is analyzing it.
  - Looking for student participation in question drafting and evaluation
- PREP Scholars Program:
  - Little to no communication to the Prep students
  - Bottleneck seems to be based on availability of the director of PREP
  - Trying to put together a group of students to meet with the PREP scholars regularly to mentor in application processes, etc.
    - Build a drive where current students can submit their application essays to assist PREP students in applying
  - Deans: Is Eric Sobie supposed to be meeting with the PREP students?
    - Can we identify the educational plan for this program?
    - MSBS program has major Med/Grad application support. Basil can expand this to the PREP program in a formalized way. Bottleneck here again is a meeting with Eric Sobie

- PTD faculty have decided to put forth a stipend to help cover PREP. The idea is to expand this eventually to cover a second year.
  - Additional idea to apply for diversity supplements on existing NIH grants
  - Whether it gets funded 1-2 years is also determined by the NIH
  - Grad steering is drawing up a budget for what the price of expanding the program would look like (as well as relative grad school contribution)
    - Katherine to follow up with Eric tomorrow in her pre-planned meeting
  - Also discussing increasing resources to students we already have
- Compensation for racial equity and anti-racism work:
  - Medical program has drafted a proposal, there is an agreement that there will be some form of funding available.
  - Med plan to modify: Apply to receive compensation for any type of initiative that you help lead that promotes racial equity or antiracism. Compensation is ~40\$/hour based on diversity consultant rates
    - Modifications: If you attend an interview session, should you be compensated? Should it only be for leading these initiatives?
  - Is there a chance to expand this to graduate students, or does the graduate program need to draft their own proposal.
  - Timeline: By the next meeting with Student Council Steering
- Is there any training for faculty to mentor LGBTQIAP+ students?
  - Deans to follow up – compile a list of all trainings faculty are required to complete currently
  - Structural change in faculty development office → now run out of Office of well-being and resilience, but it's run by an MD with a very strong MD focus. There is a need for education around the needs of graduate students. Run by Lauren Peccoralo.

**THAW- Denise Jurczyszak, Lauren Vetere 10 mins**

- STMH and efforts to expand resources for out of state students
  - In negotiations with an external provider that can hopefully expand STMH coverage to out of state students (as well as additional resources for current students)
  - MedEd is driving this, there should be an opportunity for the Grad school to get on board
    - Basil thinks that this is now being driven by STMH which would mean it would apply to both the Grad and Med Schools
- Updates about the new center for stress, resilience, and personal growth + other wellness resources
  - Interviewed head of this new center to learn more about it. Essentially this office was made to address stress and mental health issues as caused by COVID19. Most of their work has been focused on healthcare workers, now expanding towards students and researchers
    - Wellness health app (to access resources, surveys, etc)

- Social worker matching
  - Resilience workshops focusing on different aspects of resilience (based on Charney's book)
  - Student Council sent out an email looking for students to help design the way this can be expanded to students
- THAW recruitment efforts
  - Quite a few new members, please continue advertising recruitment
  - Looking for PhD students interested in helping run PEERS
    - Longterm goal to expand to all students and postdocs
- DEIA recruitment of BIPOC/LGBTQIA+ STMH providers (Dania)
  - Working to build a list of BIPOC providers around NYC to recognize that mental health services may be best provided by someone with a shared identity
    - Abby: Can this list be expanded to include LGBTQ providers? → Original plan was BIPOC only, but list can be expanded to include this
  - Meeting with students to identify providers, as well as other resources to find extra providers
  - Sindhura: Can we host this somewhere more accessible? Webcommons?
  - Marisa: Can we look into the financial side of this? Ie places that take student health insurance → Yes
  - Timeline: Month/1.5 months

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

- Course Evaluations: Programming for big data in biomedicine is no longer being run by the original faculty member. Looking for a new faculty to run this. Also asked if there were any courses that could serve the purposes of this course → Nothing that clearly covers the same material. Making a recommended list of courses to supplement the material that was taught in this course
  - RCR via zoom → Evaluations have been fairly good. Talks about whether this will be allowed by the NIH. The course might be better online than it was in person, the only loss was in some group discussion.
- Sindhura question: Is there a list of requirements/guide for a course to go online? There has been nothing conclusive on this. Guha will follow up

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

- General updates
  - New members: first years working on international student affairs
  - Focusing on international student affairs, diversity/inclusion and paracurricular resources.
    - Lists like THAWs (see above) could be hosted like this
  - New member is going to be working with Brad to figure out a solution to editing the international student page and link out to other resources (perhaps sourced on webcommons)
  - ISO is running and has a leadership board now

- Dania question: Sending funds to first year students for moving, tech, etc → Something SAC will look into and pursue. Perhaps stipends could be advanced. PhD y1 rep could be interested in working on this issue
- ISO Event
  - Meet and greet event – liaison between ISO and SAC

**Steering Committee- Katherine Meckel, 2 mins**

- No meeting in September
- Discussion offline with Katherine via slack: Discussion of virtual admissions

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

- GBM tonight @ 7pm / Steering Meeting 10/22: STMH
  1. Tonight we'll talk about the health/wellbeing and STMH, as well as IP
  2. 15 minutes for subcommittees to break out
- General
  1. Student Council retreat: last weekend 10/3
    - Made gameplan for topics for the rest of the year. Provided time for subcommittees to break out for the rest of the time
    - Making list of action items
  2. Workgroup on Genomic Medicine
  3. URiSM Fall Mixer 10/16
    - Basil is funding this, thank you Basil!
  4. Mistreatment report incorporation into annual review
    - According to admin, this is done and will be incorporated into the annual review
  5. BoT and Annual Comprehensive Survey
    - LCME accreditation legally needs to be administered by students. It continues that students need to do the survey (including on the PhD side of things). However, working on changing this for non accreditation years
      - The data students give to each other is very different than to the administration. Try to find a mechanism for students surveying peers while burden of removing the creation of the survey from students
  6. Financial aid working group:
    - Meeting every 4 weeks, discussing current and future options for graduate students
    - Loop Sindhura in
    - Dania question: What's going on with emergency financial aid loan program? Is this being discussed? Daisy isn't sure, but will send comprehensive minutes from their last meeting and agenda for next meeting

**Infection Prevention Updates – Josh, 5 mins**

- Testing Updates: Infection prevention subcommittee reps have built an FAQ on how and where to get tested. This resource includes locations for voluntary asymptomatic testing. IP reps to be building a webpage on webcommons and an email address for regular communication to the student body.

- Holiday Plans: Currently, the plan is to practice harm reduction. Any travel, even within the tristate, will require testing upon return. For students traveling within the tristate, they must quarantine until a PCR- result. For students traveling to hotspot states, they must quarantine (in Aron) for 2 weeks. For new students moving into the building from a hotspot state, they will be housed separately for 2 weeks as was done over the summer.
- Guest Policy: Currently, there are no changes to the guest policy. The discussion on guests revolved around either allowing MS1s to move into Aron or to open the guest policy. Because of socioeconomic inequities, MS1s were prioritized. Student representatives are working with IP to advocate for slowly opening the guest policy valve, allowing current Sinai students (non Aron residents) into the building.
- Entry to Sinai buildings: New entry requirements include limited employee entrances (5<sup>th</sup> ave entrance, Icahn Entrance and Hess entrance if employee works in Hess), as well as temperature screenings and daily attestation on the health form. Currently students are to use the ISMMS symptom tracker, however this will be merged with redcap in the weeks to follow. Some logistical issues came with the change, like students being delegated to patient lines instead of employee lines, however these have since been resolved by Phyllis. Concerns over distancing and accuracy of temperature screening devices have been raised to IP. The devices do **not** use facial recognition software, however default to “individual unidentified” as the devices could have come with Facial recognition software (Sinai did not purchase this software).

#### **Feedback from the student body Camille Goldman 10 mins**

- Security (97 and Park): Guards are being told to stand elsewhere, not at the corner of 97<sup>th</sup> and Park. Students feel unsafe
- Annenberg Lounge: Social distancing difficulties. IP student team to tape down seats to enforce social distancing
- IP updates: Requests for more frequent IP updates from students. Townhalls being planned, additional emails to be distributed
- Zoom classes: There isn't space in labs to take courses over zoom, but commuting to school after classes stop delays the start to the day. Can we reserve rooms for this purpose?