

PhD Leadership Meeting Agenda March 10th, 2021

Updates from the Deans 10 mins

1. Basil Hanss, Senior Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Career Development
 - a. Nothing since the last meeting
2. Matthew O'Connell, Senior Associate Dean for Curriculum, Recruitment and Admissions
 - a. Recruitment updates: Continuing the process
 - i. Interviewed ~211 students across 4 different time zones
 - ii. Offers went out 1 week ago
 - iii. Acceptances are starting to come in – continuing to do recruitment to keep acceptance rates up.
 1. Last year was abnormal (surge after 2 years) – acceptances this year are running similar to how they have in previous years
 - iv. Matthew to hold office hours Monday for accepted students
 - v. Dania: Are there any resources to help relocate international students?
 1. Basil: We have not yet done anything on this, but Basil will start a discussion on this going forward.
3. Matthew Cipriano, Director of Student and Postdoctoral Affairs
 - a. No updates
4. Bradley Gano, Associate Dean of the Graduate School
 - a. Staffing: Recruiting new staff is moving along. New change is that Rewtie is leaving this Friday. We will be recruiting a new program manager. In the interim, we have a coverage plan as Rewtie was just on leave.
 - b. Grad School is about to announce new fellowships and awards:
 - i. Work in antiracism
 - ii. Stem from work done by the Compensation proposal by Dania and Adrianna
 - iii. 2 new fellowships which allow for multiple projects, 1 liaison project for advancing anti-racism work in the grad school (\$2-4k), 1 professional development fellowship (\$1-3k).
 1. RFP will go out this spring to propose projects to be worked on next year. Primarily imagining individual projects
 - iv. Leadership awards for anti-racist work, soliciting student nominations for this (\$1500 monetary awards). Open to all graduate students, not restricted to graduating students

THAW- Lauren Vetere and Madeline O'Brien 5 mins

- Recap of burnout panel
 - ~60 attendees
 - 3 postdocs and a social worker spoke about their experiences, as well as professional thoughts from the social worker
 - Newsletter links to summary of the discussion as a resource for students,
 - Need to decide on the next discussion topic
- PhD PEERS updates and potential curriculum/scheduling adjustments
 - Current 1st years just started – a few stumbling blocks in getting people to tune in
 - 1st years need mental health support but we also need to keep zoom fatigue and the overwhelming nature of virtual classes in mind

- Right now each group has an older student and a social worker – the social workers are now reaching out to each student individually to check in
- Attendance strategies: Combining groups to prevent groups with none present, food budgets for those who come, changing the format of the modules to just be 1 on 1 sessions with mentors as needed/a module only once/month instead
- Zoom is the top reason stated why students weren't participating
- THAW Mental Health Survey results
 - Will be discussed with the student feedback

Curriculum Committee- Abigail Lubin 10 mins

- February Course Evaluations
 - Clinical research courses
 - 2 Grad student courses reviewed:
 - Systems biomedicine – MATLAB gets overwhelming, discussion on how to introduce a bootcamp to the bootcamp at the beginning of the course. Minor changes in the problem sets (word limits were too restrictive).
 - Commercialization – weaknesses in the coordination between the MSIP fellows program, this is being restructured. Some comments about wanting more experience in customer validation, so new training will be added.

Steering Committee- Katherine Meckel (absent), 2 mins

- No Updates this month

Student Affairs- Sindhura Gopinath, Chris Guevara (absent), 10 mins

- Survey on fellowship resources (brief update)
 - Focus on fellowships that don't have a citizenship requirement, decided to include a question on the current resources that are present. Principles of proposals course, can it be broadened to be applicable to non F-grants as well? Soliciting more feedback by sending from GradAffairs email.
- Survey on incoming international student experience & the IPO (brief update)
 - In progress, updates to follow
- Summary of current international student distribution: -
 - To serve as info for new applicants, recruits & prospective students)
 - No documentation of this for the entire student body
 - from grad school or IPO?
 - Matthew will seek this out (might be based in citizenship? Matthew will follow up)

Student Council- Daisy Hoagland, Camille Goldman, 5 mins

- GBM tonight 3/10 @7pm
 - Focusing on structural changes to Student Council

- Voting on leadership and voting dynamics of student council
 - Formally chair subcommittees
 - Each Chair will have a vote in GBM moving forwards
 - Josh: What about maintaining programmatic representation?
 - Daisy: Hoping that GBM attendance requirements will help catch uninvolved people
 - Also of the co-VPs/President, at least one must be Grad
 - Expand steering position eligibility to subcommittee members
 - Restructuring of IP subcommittee and mistreatment
- Steering 3/16: Structural changes
- Comprehensive Survey updates
 - Going out within the next week. Decided incentive is a ¼ chance of winning a giftcard

URISM – *Dania Figueroa Acosta, Marisa Goff, 5 mins*

- Compensation proposal
 - See Brad's updates
- Upstander workshop
 - Run by a local non-profit to help provide tools on what to do if you witness a form of racism (or any -ism). How do you step up?
 - Looking for leadership partners, if interested contact Dania or Marisa
- DREAMS events
- Panel for students with disability/chronic illness on joining labs, starting next week as the first official event of the organization. 2/3 winners of international alliance for ability in science (scholarship for scientific excellence). Karon Rose is publicized, the other wanted to remain anonymous. Will be highlighted in the newsletter. <https://iafais.org/award-announcements>
- Need URISM rep nominations for elections, which are upcoming

Infection Prevention Updates – *Josh Acklin, 5 mins*

- Gym Policy Updates:
 - Gym now open to all matriculated students that are not Aron residents – see email from Phyllis for more information
- New CDC/DoH guidelines
 - Can we maintain a mandatory hybrid option?
- Study Spaces
 - Grad student lounge – vaccination activity is now in that space, but now that vaccine pushes have died down, we can reclaim the study lounge. Brad will coordinate
- Mediation updates
 - Starts on Monday!
- Elections
 - Need a replacement for the PhD position, talk to Josh if interested

Feedback from the student body *Camille Goldman 10 mins*

W2s missing?? Abby and Josh will follow up with Osei

Career Services: Position is coming back; Matt is currently serving the role in the interim

Aron Hall Gym: Resolved, send back instructions. Guest policy – concerns about 3 days not being enough. Josh will write a response about data driven policy and directly address ableism.

Aron Hall card swipe: Camille will go to a housing meeting to get this done. The act of asking someone to do something is the equivalent of doing it yourself – it is not a viable solution for Sabbath.

Schoolwide Software access: statistical software schoolwide? (SAS) – SAS is only on the library computers, and R has a steep learning curve. Could the grad school offer a license, like GraphPad?