

PhD Leadership Meeting Agenda December 9th, 2020

Updates from the Deans 10 mins

1. Basil Hanss, Senior Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Career Development
2. Matthew O'Connell, Senior Associate Dean for Curriculum, Recruitment and Admissions
 - a. Admissions Updates: Screening is happening now
 - i. Metrics: Fewer applicants than last year but more than 2018
 - ii. Screeners were given a training on wholistic evaluation and bias training
 - iii. Used self assessment as a way of testing efficacy of this training
 - b. Zoom interviewers: MTA directors are sharing these names to make sure everyone has ZAP access. Draft plan for how interviews will work. Some material will be provided ahead of time as videos, sessions will be run at different times to account for time zones.
 - i. Interviews will be a little bit later – In early February
 - c. Moving into the spring – coursework will be virtual for the foreseeable future. TA workshops are happening now (on how to teach in an online environment)
3. Bradley Gano, Associate Dean of the Graduate School
 - a. Reorganization of administrative staff:
 - i. Trying to pull masters programs and PhD program together more
 - ii. Increase responsibility cross over for times when people are out
 - iii. New model: Separate student and post-doctoral affairs team, and curricular affairs team
 1. Student affairs team will continue on commencement and event planning, but also support infection prevention, quarantining, new initiatives, etc
 2. 3 New positions: Director of student and post-doctoral affairs, new program manager for career services and alumni relations, program coordinator to support the team
 - iv. Team of staff (Ariana, roland, etc) will work on supporting the biomedical science programs (more energetic support around curricular affairs)

Student Affairs- Sindhura Gopinath, Chris Guevara, 5 mins

- General updates
 - Compile list of resources to curate into a student website
 - International student office to curate resources specifically for this
 - International student affairs will be having a virtual holiday party – communication to follow.

Student Council- Daisy Hoagland, Camille Goldman, 5 mins

- GBM 12/9 @ 7pm
 - A lot of discussions and updates, please attend if you're interested

- LCMA survey – this spring there will be a rolled-out analysis of the comprehensive survey
- December Steering 12/15: Anti-racism and Racial Equity Student Compensation Proposal
 - David Muller and Marta were sent the proposals earlier this week for review, there will be discussion of the proposal at steering.
- New Associate Director of Student Financial Planning: Sharoya Sales
 - Starting in January – to plan workshops for financial literacy

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

- disability services website
 - Starting to move into the next stages
 - Finalizing content, Christine has reviewed
 - IT to be contacted next week to launch the website
 - Talk to be shared in newsletter: Lydia X. Z. Brown
- compensation proposal
 - Dania and Adriana Sistig wrote this – recommending
 - Student liaison position at student affairs/ODI
 - Fellowship opportunity to instigate students to do self-work/ work with the lens of anti-racism
 - Advocating for compensation for students engaged in anti-racism work
 - Reviewed by major stakeholders (affinity orgs, student council, etc).

THAW- *Denise Jurczynszak, Lauren Vetere 10 mins*

- Holiday activities/how we can support trainees over the holidays
 - Art event to make holiday ornaments
 - Trying to do a holiday cookie decoration event
 - Ugly sweater competition
- Upcoming events planned for 2021
 - Events focused around burnout (also as it relates to the pandemic)
 - Mixed panel with at least one social worker, postdoc, faculty and student
 - Start thinking about a seminar like series to get faculty to talk about failure
- Holiday meals? Started from medical student affairs
 - Basil and Brad are looking into if this is happening again
- Dania suggestion: The cultural relevance of new years

Curriculum Committee- *Abigail Lubin 5 mins*

- 3 Course evaluations
 - Principle of neuroscience unit one – evaluations were better than they had been before
 - Quiz with too much material, now being fixed
 - Techniques and approaches in neuroscience
 - Taught by postdocs, teaching relevant modern techniques
 - Big issue is that between each post doc to post doc, some focus on their own work instead of techniques, some were too dense, etc. Solution: In

advance, course director will review all presentations to ensure cohesiveness

- Discussion of extending number of credits (1 credit currently)
- Principles of scientific proposals
 - Small issues about links and details
 - Biggest issue was they wanted more time to go through the different proposals
 - Josh: Was there any discussion on allowing students that have not passed proposal to take this? Abby to follow up

Steering Committee- Katherine Meckel, 5 mins

- COVID1-19 Policies
 - Advocated for rolling periodic asymptomatic testing to aron hall as they are the largest risk.
 - Household case definition

Infection Prevention Updates – Josh Acklin, 10 mins

- Winter Holiday updates
 - Hotels need to be booked, so register for travel by the 13th of Dec
- Student Pledge
 - Oath on keeping to public health policies – being drafted by student IP taskforce
- Asymptomatic testing resources
 - Now available through EHS (voluntary testing)
- Mandatory periodic testing
 - 4 proposals drafted – hopefully there will be traction on this soon
 - Will be limited to Aron residents

Feedback from the student body Camille Goldman 10 mins

1. Student Lounge: lack of masking in the student lounge, what can be done about this?
Discussing an idea of having a reporting mechanism for covid policy abuse
2. Not being able to reserve conference rooms for people that can't go home: Brad –
what's the ability to reserve the room in the library? Brad will look into this
3. Training for faculty: People don't think all faculty are equipped to teach class well on zoom. Training sessions have happened in both the summer and now again on teaching virtually
4. Farmer's fridge in Icahn?
5. Getting your \$ back when your washer/dryer doesn't start in Aron