

**PhD Leadership Meeting
November 11th, 2022**

Deans' Updates (10 minutes)

Sr. Assoc. Dean for Graduate School Administration *Brad Gano*

- Absent

Sr. Assoc. Dean for Student Affairs and Career Development *Basil Hanss*

- Absent

Director of Postdoctoral and Student Affairs *Matt Cipriano*

- General Updates

Sr. Assoc. Dean for PhD Programs *Matthew O'Connell*

- Absent

PLM Discussion *Sally Claridge, Carisse Lansiquot* (5 minutes)

- Welcome the new MD/PhD representative to PLM, Christian Stevens

Feedback Form Discussion *Alexandra Magee, Anina Lund* (15 minutes)

- Ally and Anina absent, so Carisse handled feedback
- PhD students should be able to get \$1.85 towards all Sinai food options
- IT should be more professional in supporting employee to student transitions
 - Transition is dictated by the relationship between the particular department and graduate school → it all depends on how terminations are handled by each department; there is no standard operating procedure
 - Sally: Send Matt email about writing a blurb for the newsletter
- Move-in stipend: This is happening?
 - Sally: Email Matt about confirmation for future roll-out
- PhD salary → wait until January mark to officially release details
 - Postdocs haven't been given across-the-board bonuses and were dependent on the departments and PIs
 - Postdocs are not eligible for the healthcare subsidy
- School should consider an equivalent housing subsidy so that students have access to affordable housing options
- PhD Program Manager usually orients students to direct deposit set-up prior to students starting, but the PPM didn't exist → this will be addressed in future years
- Look at NIH graduate program vacation days to push for an increase in minimum vacation time allotted in Student Handbook
- International students having issues with IPO and Payroll Dpt
 - SSN: IPO will get them letters for the SSN and then it is left up to the SS Office
 - Brad has been speaking to IPO about this issue
 - There have been some staffing changes in the IPO that likely contributes to the disconnect with students
 - Medicare and SS are being taken out of international student paychecks and the deducted FICA taxes are not being refunded
 - For all students, can Student Affairs work on mediating the conversations between students and Payroll? Getting a list of student names who are experiencing issues gives the Office leverage to make actionable change
 - Mack will make Google Form to collect information from students on financial issues to supply the Office of SA

- Matthew: Are PIs being reminded to fill out rotation evaluations so that students don't have to email them multiple times?
- Pre-tax commuter credits and/or help for purchasing for Metrocards? Likely won't happen but maybe we can work a relationship with the MTA to get commuter credits? There are examples of this in other universities

Student Council *Alexandra Magee, Anina Lund, Christian Stevens (5 minutes)*

- Ally and Anina absent
- Christian: MD/PhD comprehensive survey has some of the highest levels of support—maybe there could be a summary update of MSTP students who are in their PhD years
 - Will write up a couple slides on MSTP PhD students
- Sushi Party on Dec 8!

THAW *Bryce Rowan, Mackenzie Herb (5 minutes)*

- PhD and MSBS Peer Mentorship Fall/Winter Mixer planned for December 1st
- **PEERS** *Mackenzie Herb (5 minutes)*
 - Toxic Academia Module training occurred on 11/10 and sessions are happening next week
 - Training format has changed to help students learn how to lead a session

URiSM *Qixiu Fu, Kristie Oluyemi (5 minutes)*

- Qixiu absent
- DiverseBrain update: event cancellation and an apology letter was circulated
 - Which listservs was it sent to?
 - SEOS and DiverseBrain partnered to sponsor a Mental Health Week in response to this event, week of October 24th
- Graduate program-wise moving stipend: Gayatri and Moataz as BMS representatives
- Application process for URiSM → Can URiSM PREP students at Sinai have access to FlexGrad like the SURP4US students do? Maybe email Dr. Hala Harony-Nicolas
- Lecture recording close-caption quality → Accommodations for students? Will be brought up with the Office of Diversity Services by Matt

Graduate Steering Committee *No representatives*

- No business

Student Affairs *Pushkala Jayaraman (5 minutes)*

- Student programming/workshop survey from the Office of Student Affairs: Get a sense of what issues they want SAC to champion

Wrap-up *Sally Claridge (5 minutes)*

- Send Carisse blurbs for the November newsletter by Friday next week, 5PM