

## **Draft Agenda- PhD Committee meeting**

November 8, 2016

11:00 – 12:30 am

TH 403

1. Agenda for this year
  - a. NW ideas
  - b. Committee member ideas
  - c. Consider faculty and student focus groups reports from last year
  
2. Updates from the summer
  - a. Travel funding
  - b. Student funding this year- Deep Pal, Doug Miller, Indra Ekmanis
  - c. Office space for Principal RA
  
3. New business:
  - a. Request for field seminar in 2<sup>nd</sup> year- see notes below
  - b. Details of general exam schedule and grading
  - c. PVS seminar request from Daniel Bessner
  - d. Discuss feedback letter from last year's first year cohort
  - e. Funding estimates and admissions plans

See notes on new business on next page.

## **Regarding New Business**

### **3a. Field seminar in 2<sup>nd</sup> year – Request from Cabeiri Robinson:**

Email request from Cabeiri (FA to 1<sup>st</sup> year student Rachel Rothenberg):

“Do the students have to have taken both their field seminars in their first year? Rachel and I met yesterday to discuss her Academic plan for the year. It quickly became obvious that there is an issue with Winter. She needs to take RCC, SMS, [both in winter 2017] and the SA core course 508 (with Christian), and the Research Tutorial. Obviously, she can't do all of those. Ideally, in my opinion, she needs to do RCC and 508 (in addition to the Research Tutorial) as those are going to be the most direct in helping her prepare her proposal and she needs to work with Christian this year, as he will likely be her future committee chair. So she should take SMS next year. Can the program work with this?”

“I have discussed the matter with Christian (her likely committee chair) and he agrees with me that it is very important that she work with him this year; she should take 508 this year and then she can take SMS in the Winter of 2018.”

### **3c. PVS seminar, note from Daniel Bessner:**

“I'm writing with regards the PVS seminar I will be teaching in the spring. After speaking about the seminar with Saadia and Dan, who are the three people likely to be teaching it in the coming years, we have decided that it makes sense for the PhD committee to consider making a change in the seminar's assignment structure.

Basically, we think it would make sense if the Master's students and PhD students had different assignments. In short, we think we should consider allowing the Master's students to submit two response papers to class readings, while requiring the PhD students, instead of submitting response papers, to produce a 10-15 page literature review that they would run by their FAs and which they would link to their exams. In our opinion, this would help connect the seminar to the exams and would also help facilitate a 3-4 year graduation. “

### **3d. Feedback letter**

Feedback letter circulated to PhD Committee along with this agenda.

### **3e. Funding estimates and admissions plans**

According to Resat, the College of Arts & Sciences is anticipating at least a 20% cut in the TA positions it will be able to sanction in AY 17-18. This will impact many things, of course. Amongst the issues to talk about now is admissions and how many people we should aim to admit this year, and what our maximum number of offers should be.