

PhD Committee Meeting, 6/12

In attendance: Williams, Kale, Bachman, Christie (on conference phone), Radnitz

Grad Students in Attendance: Rachel Rothenberg, Emily Willard, Hayim Katsman, Clint Work

Updates:

TA funding

- JSIS received TA funding allocation – need more information from Dvorah about #s that PhD committee can allocate, and info from Sonja about how many TA quarter requests have been received, and info from Wolf about which classes need TAs next year
- Another meeting will be convened once this info is gathered to make decisions
- Has heard from Purnima Dhavan that History has more TAs than is needed to fund their students
- Will final decisions will be made by end of next week? End of June? Communication about timelines, which is something that Nathalie did last summer, is very helpful to students.

Gates Foundation visit last week

- Informative but not as helpful as possible because she is not a recruiter. More helpful would be more detailed info about how Gates recruits, selects, how to talk about PhD skills as “work experience.”
- 10-12 students attended
- Post-talk drinks at UW Club was more informal and more helpful.
- Up to 7 or 8 students for the post-talk drinks is best.

Graduation / PhD Updates

- Dustin and Oded graduated. Oded nominated for Distinguished Dissertation Award; did not submit application in time.
- Clint work (near completion) has offer to teach in undergrad Global Studies at University of Utah’s Asia campus in Seoul, South Korea. Patrick Thomson was also interviewed.
- Muyang Chen has interview at Beijing University next week

Student Handbook

- Needs to be put online / interactive
- Sonja is collecting options from other programs and will implement over the summer.

Student Survey

- Last year’s topics were: 1) student interactions with program admin and advisors (very positive responses) and 2) usefulness of field seminars (mixed results)
- This year’s topics / themes:
 - o TA training
 - Ally Anderson sent a letter to the committee, expressing grad student perspectives from her cohort . Poli Sci TA training was not as helpful (too many assignments, too much readings)
 - Tony Lucero has taken over TA training for next fall;

- Would be useful at Tony's training session to convene senior TAs and incoming TAs.
 - Some kind of handbook about TA logistics (how to pay for copies, where to get keys for audio-visual cabinets)
- Professional Development
 - Beyond visits like Gates Foundation, students need to understand how to frame / translate their research experience into CV lines
 - V-PhD – “versatile PhD” – universities can subscribe to it for money
 - Resources to investigate this summer / next year: Grad School, Simpson Center for Humanities, MA Professional Development Course at JSIS
 - What do PhD students want in terms of professional development opportunities
- Would be useful for some of the topics / questions from last year to be re-surveyed:
 - Was the re-designed director's course (594) useful?
 - Was the format for comprehensive exams manageable?
- PhD curriculum overall – questions about usefulness of field seminars, methods classes, preparation for research
- External funding – do you feel prepared when applying for external funding, where did you apply, were you successful, were your committee members helpful
- Student Placement – which sectors do you want to move into after the PhD?

Information

- Now field seminars will be taught one per quarter – PVS will not be taught next year
- PhD admin needs to let students know about when field seminars will be taught

Possible items for next year's agenda

- Consider admissions every other year
- Curriculum – methods, disadvantage of IS as opposed to other disciplinary PhDs
- Office spaces
 - Nathalie will ask Sociology again for next year
 - Hayim suggested History might have spaces also. David Bachman will talk to Anand about that.