PHD COMMITTEE MEETING 12/2/19

Members in attendance: Williams, Curran, Lucero, Yang; Non-voting members: Kim, Ward, Katsman, Olson

Members missing: Pianko, Novetzke

OPEN SESSION

UPDATES

1. PhD student representatives will be invited to JSIS faculty meetings.
   a. Meetings are regularly scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month, 9:30-11:00, TH 317.
   b. To ask for agenda items, email Resat.

2. Scheduling exams
   a. Second year students being polled.

3. PhD student on search committee for alumni relations position
   a. Resat is thinking about it.
   b. Position hasn't been posted.
   c. Wholesale review of staffing going on in JSIS in response to large growth over the past 10 years. Not sure when Alumni/Career position will be posted.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Target number of new students for Admissions Committee
   a. Past few years have had 5 students from 7-8 offers
   b. Five students can be covered by TA-ships as well as with advisers time
      i. Advising load for first two years is heavy. More than one student per advisor is a heavy load.
   c. Nine students in earlier years was a stretch
   d. Students are generally promised 1 year funding but most students are funded through five years
   e. Vote- Offer up to eight students aiming for five students – Voted and confirmed unanimously

2. Rethinking foundational field courses
   a. Currently two must be completed to obtain candidacy
   b. Exams don't need to be based on them though faculty frequently do so
   c. Some thematic courses are not relevant to exams and dissertation
   d. Thematic buckets came out of an inductive approach to match faculty research into groups
   e. No strong attachment to current buckets
   f. Need for strong theoretical grounding as part of training, for example:
      i. Comparative political economy
      ii. International security/geopolitics
      iii. Culture
g. Proposal: take PhD students out of 594 and put them into a survey course (reading, writing, and thinking synthetically) that covers three thematic groups
   i. Only one field would be required later on
   ii. Students could take others as they see fit