

The next Ph.D. committee meeting is scheduled for January 8, at 11:00 in 317 Thomson.

I attach a short draft survey to administer to the Ph.D. students. I hope the survey and your ideas on it, additions, subtractions, and changes, is the core of our discussion.

I hope Sonja can give us a sense of how many Ph.D. applications we have received, so we can start planning for Ph.D. admissions.

Additional issue that has come up is first year student's changing their faculty advisor.

Other things equal, this should be a relatively short meeting. February's will be longer as we will have to review quarterly progress reviews for the first year students.

- 1 72 PhD applications started as of 1/7/19. Reading committee to be determined.
- 2 First year student is changing his assigned Faculty Advisor as his advisor is no longer a good fit for him.
 - No precedent for this situation. Is there a reason to change FA mid-year?
 - Students need an FA for guidance, QPRs, etc. for the first year.
 - Students can ask for intellectual guidance outside of their FA to guide their research.
 - Typically students identify committee chair in spring of first year or fall of second year.
 - FAs should be supportive of students regardless of whether the FA continues as committee chair.
 - Going forward, we match incoming students and FAs and ask the FA to guide the student throughout the entire first year of the program. In exceptional circumstances, the FA may change, but students should identify new FA before changing advisors.
3. Survey suggestions:
 - Update question #1 to "Have you completed your general exams?
 - What important changes would you like to see in the program?
 - What has your experience been with mentoring?
 - How does the funding system impact your experience in the program?
 - Scale 1-100, change 1-5.
 - Mentorship
 - Coursework
 - Funding
 - Career planning and placement
 - Accelerated degree timeline
 - Overall contentment with program
 - Has your view of the program or career goals changed since you started the program?
 - Career options: are a mix of institutions and skills. What do you want to do vs. where do you want to work?
 - We want to know where (what type of institution) does a student want to work?
 - Is your goal to work in an academic setting? Do you feel the program has prepared you to do that?
 - How important is it to you to work in an academic institution? Then follow with ranking.

*Google Forms are a good option for administering survey.

Next month: the committee will discuss QPRs

Sonja: send David timeline for admission