

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.
 - d.

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