

PHD COMMITTEE MEETING 11/5/19

Members in attendance: Williams, Pianko, Lucero; Non-voting members: Alhadeff, Ward, Katsman, Lee

Members missing: Curran, Novetzke, C. Yang

OPEN SESSION

UPDATES

1. Student cohort representatives approved by the committee to attend all open sessions of the committee meetings
2. Students to attend faculty meetings – Williams will clarify if this is possible with Kasaba
3. Lounge missing refrigerator – there is now a refrigerator in the lounge
4. Ph.D. Students and Summer Teaching
 - a. Formal process was created 2 years ago
 - b. PCE has changed their rules so the formal process is undergoing revisions
 - c. Alhadeff to hold info session next week, 11/13 @ 1:00pm in THO 403
5. Ph.D. Offices – 10 new offices available to TAs and Ph.D.s
 - a. Alhadeff to allocate in consultation with Williams
 - b. Offices located in Thomson Hall can have desktop computers, if requested
 - c. Offices should be set up on a yearly basis
 - d. Alhadeff to inform TAs how to reserve study rooms for office hours
6. Career Services Director, Alison Wattles departing
 - a. Discussion around possibility for a Graduate Student to be on the search committee. Ally Anderson's name was floated.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Date and time for written preliminary exams
 - a. Agreement to allow 2nd year cohort to decide using anonymous poll (doodle or google) administered by Alhadeff
 - b. All students must take exam on same date and time
2. Chilean applicant petitioned to not have to take the GRE as the testing center closed due to safety concerns created by current unrest. Committee agreed to waive GRE requirement for student due to the exceptional circumstances in Chile.

NEW BUSINESS FOR COMMITTEE 2019-20 (IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE)

Overarching theme: What makes this program unique? Who is our ideal student? How should we be advertising what we do well?

1. Revisit the 4 fields
 - a. What are they? Do the categories make sense?
 - b. How many field seminars should be required?
2. Qualitative Methods class availability
3. Holistic admissions update
 - a. 3 letters of recommendation
 - b. Should the GRE be required?

- c. Possible revision of statement of purpose
- 4. Revise Bridge Lab
 - a. What format should it be? (some thoughts: 1-day seminar, class open to MA students)
 - b. What should students produce? (some thoughts: op-eds, podcasts, portfolio)
 - c. When should students take the Bridge Lab? (Ph.D. students concerned that doing it in the 2nd year while preparing for exams is too much and they don't have time to complete quality work)
- 5. Written Exams – do they contribute to the students' study? Should the structure be changed?
- 6. Faculty job placement coordinator
 - a.