

PH.D. COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES 1/16/20

Members in attendance: Williams, Pianko, Lucero, Yang; Non-voting members: Kim, Alhadeff, Ward, Abugbilla, Olson

Members missing: Yang, Novetzke, Curran, Zielonka

OPEN SESSION

UPDATES

1. Per Dean of the Graduate School email on Dec. 9, 2019, all graduate students are no longer allowed to bring refreshments to meetings. This is an attempt to address how the power differential between students and faculty makes this “voluntary” practice an implicit expectation not at all voluntary.
2. Summer Teaching Updates
 - a. Applications have been received.
 - b. Katherine elevated our concerns about the late notification of summer teaching allocation. It will be discussed among a group of faculty administrators who work for Continuing Education.
 - c. There was discussion about the requirements for summer teaching instructors (i.e. previous teaching experience).

NEW BUSINESS

1. First year letter
 - a. Cohort and Community Building:
 - i. After discussion about past and current practices (welcome receptions, monthly matters, holiday party, etc), it was agreed that this type of community building among Ph.D. students would work better if the push came from the students. The students will put together a proposal and, if approved, the committee will ask the school for a small budget to fund.
 - ii. There was some discussion of reinstituting the “buddy system” for first year students.
 - b. Career Support for the Ph.D. Program:
 - i. The careers position has been posted and closed, we are currently waiting for the interviews to be scheduled. Lara Inglitsen will be the interim careers director. She will be asked to carve out some specific time for the Ph.D. students.
 - ii. There was some discussion about the alt-academic track and the professional track and how the faculty could support this. Items discussed included the current Career Development class, Ph.D. Committee help with Job Talk preparation, foundational skills and podcasts.