

Agenda- PhD Committee meeting

February 10

12:00-1:30 PM

TH 403

1. Updates
 - a. Student social activities- *student reps*
 - b. Career advising and Laura Iglitzen as interim- *OAS*
 - c. JSIS library of dissertations- *Nathalie*
 - d. Others?
2. Old business:
 - a. Curriculum changes
 - i. Foundational fields
 - ii. Intro to international studies 594
 - iii. Bridge lab
3. Executive session- student reps asked to leave
 - a. JSIS nominations for fellowships- Alvord Fellowship and Distinguished Dissertation Award

As a reminder, notes from our discussion at the December meeting on curriculum changes are:

1. 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. Religion and Culture
 - g. Formal institutions (eg states) as well as informal institutions and non-state non-institutional actors should be included in all of the above topical courses.
 - h. 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