

PH.D. COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES 10/27/20

Attendees: Nathalie Williams, Noam Pianko, Sara Curran, Tony Lucero, Rebecca Alhadeff, Frank Kuzminski, Trung-Anh Nguyen, Bernard Loesi

Missing: Stephen Meyers

OPEN SESSION

INTRODUCTIONS

PH.D. COMMITTEE MEMBERS, MANDATE AND PROCESS

1. Mandate shared from handbook: oversight & design of program, procedural issues, etc.
2. Overview of how meetings are conducted: student roles; professional conduct; open vs executive session; expectation that everyone contributes; voting process; agenda and minutes posted online

UPDATES

1. Student funding:
 - a. 10 quarters unfunded for our students this year due to limited TA positions, a decrease of available external funding and students who received travel funding unable to use it
 - b. faculty is considering closing admissions process next year and we hope to have some resolution soon; we expect funding to be hard next year.
2. Communication and community with students: students reported some issues, not possible to replicate the in person experience, but people are still getting together.
3. TA Training: will discuss next meeting
4. Committee chairs and members meeting: conducted on 10/16. Faculty primarily discussed how to help students. There was little conversation around procedural questions.
5. Capstone workshop(s): online format seemed to go well last week, looking forward to the second part in two weeks
6. Bridge Lab: Nathalie turned it into a class in order to comply with the State Department visa regulations. It is open to everyone, even if they are not registered for the class.

NEW BUSINESS

Agenda for PhD Committee this year

1. Regular matters: student requests, student assessments, funding priorities
2. Curriculum revisions: continuing discussion
 - a. Bridge Lab – actually making it a real class
 - b. 4 Field Seminars – students seem really excited about it when they want to come here, but they are too broad and it is unclear what we are actually accomplishing

EXECUTIVE SESSION NOTES

1. Credit waivers for 1st years
2. Ph.D. Program internal review
3. Next meeting plans