

JSIS FACULTY MEETING Minutes

May 11, 2021

9:30 – 11:00am

Meeting attendees: Mika Ahuvia, Marie Anchordoguy, David Bachman, Denis Basic, Jeff Begin, Daniel Bessner, Jessica Beyer, Patrick Christie, Sara Curran, Rebakah Daro Minarchek, Madeleine Dong, Leela Fernandes, Vanessa Freije, Kathie Friedman, Christoph Giebel, Angelina Godoy, Yong Chool Ha, Liora Halperin, Judy Henchy, Danny Hoffman, Chris Jones, Hajin Jun, Sunila Kale, Taso Lagos, Sabine Lang, James Lin, Sarah Lohmann, Rick Lorenz, Celia Lowe, Tony Lucero, Mark Metzler, Stephen Meyers, Scott Montgomery, Matthew Mosca, Devin Naar, Christian Novetzke, Robert Pekkanen, Saadia Pekkanen, Noam Pianko, Deborah Porter, Scott Radnitz, Cabeiri Robinson, Sasha Senderovich, Clark Sorensen, Kevin Swantek, Jonathan Warren, Jim Wellman, Nathalie Williams, Shelly Wolf, Anand Yang, Glenny Young

Meeting Agenda

1. Announcements

Mike Williams emeritus electronic vote

DEI Interim Committee Survey: Vanessa Freije

2. JSIS Financial Updates

3. Breakout groups: Discussion of Graduate Reforms Report:

Where do we excel in our graduate programs?

What aspects of our graduate programs should we revise?

What should graduate study look like in JSIS in five year?

4. Additional Matters as needed

Leela Fernandes opened the meeting with following announcements:

- Formal introduction of Sarah Lohmann, and her participation in the panel discussion, “How Emerging Technology is Changing International Security” at 9:30am on Thursday, May 13.
- Link to E-vote on Michael Williams emeritus professorship will be sent to voting faculty after the faculty meeting

Vanessa Freije provided an update on the work of the DEI committee. She announced that the committee would be sending a 6 question survey to JSIS undergrads, and JSIS 202 students. An email from Tamara Leonard, DEI committee co-chair would also be sent to faculty asking them to distribute the survey to students as well. Survey results will be shared by the DEI committee in the Fall.

Leela Fernandes provided brief update on the JSIS financial reorganization. She announced that a new financial model for the Equity and Operations Fund (EOF) for the school would be introduced at the All-school meeting on Monday, May 17th at Noon. The EOF is critical for the financial sustainability of the school.

Christian Novetzke began the discussion of graduate reforms. Faculty were assigned to breakout groups for 20 minutes. A google document link was provided to record notes from discussions.

On the faculty's return to main meeting, Christian Novetzke facilitated the discussion and each group provided a summation of issues discussed around Graduate Reforms. Faculty listed below provided summaries of the discussions.

GROUP 10) Vanessa Freije – The group discussed that JSIS does Comparative Religion well and that this should be factored in when discussing reforms to the programs. There was a sense that some faculty feel peripheral to general International Studies MA and PhD programs. The group expressed the need to find sustainable ways to fund PhD students longer and to create course offerings more attractive to students.

GROUP 9) Marie Anchordoguy – The group discussed weaknesses in the MA & PhD programs and how to strengthen them. The group also thought about the ethics of creating MA & PhD students when considering high tuition. The group also expressed that the quality of MA students has been in decline over the last 10 years.

GROUP 8) Liora Halperin – The group discussed what they viewed as a lack of engagement between faculty and the MA/PhD programs. There was concern that faculty are asked to work with students whose studies don't align with the faculty member's discipline. The group discussed the lack of funding for students impacting admissions and quality of students admitted.

GROUP 7) Matthew Mosca – The group discussed the pros and cons of creating a standard preparatory course. Not all MAs enter the program at the same level. The group also recognized a tension between students who want to use programs as springboard into doctoral programs and students who have professional goals (who see the degree as a credential). JSIS lacks language to talk about diversity & excellence. One question that was raised was one that asks: when talking about "quality" of students, what does that mean?

GROUP 6) Sunila Kale – The group discussed the urgent need to rethink MA courses across programs, and consider a single MA with an array of tracks for students. The group also see the Graduate Lounge as place to build intellectual community, and need to find new ways to replicate that.

GROUP 5) Clark Sorensen – The group discussed the relationship between PhD programs and MA programs, and how it is hard to bring in students at the MA level without funding. There was question about whether admissions should be limited by the capacity to fund students, and whether that might impact diversity goals. There was a question about whether falling enrollments in MA programs is a national trend or a JSIS issue. The group observed a lack of fit between PhD students and faculty.

GROUP 4) Angelina Godoy – The group focused on the PhD program. A key strength of the program is the existence of excellent advising relationships. Placement for students is good. Questions were raised about whether the program is academic or professional. What do students want to get out the program? There was also concern that students are not given enough time to write & publish for academics.

GROUP 3) Stephen Meyers – The group discussed that positive impressions of the MA/PhD programs are not reflected in the report. There was concern that the report is moving these programs in the direction of consolidating all of the MA programs. The group discussed the possibility of a BA to MA program, as well as a MA to PhD program, and finding ways to make them more sustainable.

GROUP 2) Sarah Lohmann – The group discussed the idea of moving to a 12 month MA program, and making students more professionally ready. The group asked the question: what does JSIS look like in 5 years? They also discussed the ideas about making the PhD program more efficient.

GROUP 1) Patrick Christie – The group discussed the notion that the PhD fields as currently defined don't capture the strength of the intellectual interests of the faculty. They group also discussed the need for more coordination amongst faculty in order to deliver coherent programs. There was discussion about the need to provide practical/professional courses with area studies and potentially linking the number of students to server their needs better.

Christian Novetzke facilitate discussion following the presentation of these summaries.

Comments included:

-A need to think about where MA programs in the Social Sciences and Humanities fit in the broader ecology of education, recognize the decline of language skills taught at the undergraduate level, and recognize the inequality inn relation to other higher education institutions prepare their students.

-There should be an informed understanding of what students are looking for in an MA program in International Studies in order to get students to achieve their academic and professional goals. What are other comparable institutions doing and how are they providing skill sets to meet students' needs?

-The need to recognize the implications for undergraduate students when assigning MA & PhD students as Tas. TA assignments may fit the geographic area of interest but not expertise in the subject matter.

-There needs to be an important examination of the structural level around the realities of higher education centering around students and social sciences/humanities degrees. What is the responsibility of a program accepting students into an area where they likely won't get a job? Also, who are we to say that a student shouldn't go into debt for an MA where they likely won't find a job?

-One finding that came out of the report is that there are too many required courses, and so programs need to think about what they can let go of to free up faculty time.

-The need to use faculty-driven processes to allow people to feel vested in the shaping of graduate reforms

The meeting is concluded with one last announcement about the final faculty meeting in June. Nathalie Williams will facilitate a discussion on PhD admissions for 2021-2022.

Voting Results:

Do you approve Michael William's emeritus professorship?

Vote	Tally
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YES	38
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