

JSIS FACULTY MEETING Minutes

March 14, 2023

9:30 – 11:00am

Meeting Attendees: Mika Ahuvia, Danya Al-Saleh, David Bachman, Rebakah Daro Minarchek, Angelina Godoy, Hajin Jun, Sabine Lang, Bill Lavelly, James Lin, Celia Lowe, Mark Metzler, Matthew Mosca, Devin Naar, Noam Pianko, Clark Sorensen, Kevin Swantek, Jonathan Warren, Nathalie Williams, Shelly Wolf, Anand Yang, Glenn Young

Meeting Agenda

1. Thanks to outgoing CAO Shelly Wolf
2. Possible joint appointment spousal hire of Aditya Ramesh discussion (CV and cover letter attached).

Interim Director, Danny Hoffman is out of the country, and the March Faculty is led by Associate Director, Noam Pianko. Noam starts the meeting by thanking Shelly Wolf for her service to the Jackson School, and presents Shelly with an award.

Next, Noam asks faculty to discuss the merits of a possible spousal hire for Dr. Aditya Ramesh. The topic is opened to faculty.

Faculty generally agreed that Ramesh's academic background in medicine and public health as well as being a historian with a focus on environmental justice in S. Asia would be a strength for Jackson School. Ramesh was described as a sensational scholar, with publications in major journals and scholarship that crosses many important and relevant areas of JSIS research/teaching.

The discussion also weighed the benefits of .25 vs .33 vs. 50 FTE. Specific concerns included: multiple administrative responsibilities and complicated course allotment between units. At the same time, some faculty pointed out that many current faculty members successfully navigate JSIS lines that are less than .5% FTE. Overall, there was general agreement that .50 FTE would be optimal, but there was not strong opposition to a .25%FTE. Either way, point was stressed that it would be important to ensure that expectations were set to teach large courses to help make the case for additional future hires.

There was a concern raised that this is the 2nd unplanned hire this year, and that this hire might affect future hiring plans. It was pointed out that there are already 7 South Asia faculty in JSIS, but that religious studies (buddhist studies), S.E. Asia, and Canadian studies are all areas where the Jackson School is struggling with a lack of faculty. Subsequent comments, emphasized that unplanned hires in the school have allowed JSIS to forw and expand in very positive ways.

It was also indicated that Geography turned down the opportunity to add this individual as a spousal hire because it didn't align with their hiring plan for the over the next years. This point was used to also express concern that the Jackson School needs to act strategically with regards to the JSIS faculty hiring plan, and not make ad hoc hires.

Other opinions expressed include the need for an in-person interview if JSIS moves forward with spousal hire; and that JSIS enrollment #s may affect new hire opportunities.

Overall, the individual was considered on strong candidate on their merit. The discussion was closed.

Lastly, Noam provided an update on the PhD Committees review the applicants for autumn 2023. The committee has made 5 offers to PhD candidates with 4 years of guaranteed funding. 3 of the 5 candidates come from under represented groups. JSIS is also partnering with Law, Justice & Society to offer an additional at-risk applicant admission. JSIS could have up to 8 PhD students starting academic year 2023/2024.

No other updates were provided, and the meeting was closed.