

Dean's Office Graduate Council
Meeting Minutes

19 April, 2018

Present: Dan Knopf, Po-Tsan Ku, Scott Burghart, Katelyn Poole (Chem), Courtney Walsh (HDFS), Aaron Conrado (MBS), Dianna E. Gutierrez Lopez (Ntr), Georgios Stratis (Phy), Raquel Martinez (Ast), Jessica Meinke (Biochem), Cory Dubois (CMB), Lauren Castro (EEB), Gillian Grindstaff (Math), Deise Pereira Gonçalves (PB).

Next meeting: TBD

I. Inclusive Classrooms Workshop

- a. Dan discussed desire to have workshop available to and attended by all students.
- b. Students expressed desire to see faculty take part.

II. SURE 2018

- a. Will take place Oct 4th – 5th

III. Concentrations & professional development

- a. Barriers to participation in CNS electives
 - i. Faculty may not approve of students taking the time
 - ii. Faculty may not be comfortable advising students on non-academic career pathways.
 - iii. Graduate advisors need to be in the loop on when classes are occurring and what they are.
 - iv. Students agreed word of mouth will be the strongest persuader for other students to pursue the courses
 - v. Students pointed out need to have a set and staggered rotation
- b. CNS is in early stages of planning a concentration in Science & Public Policy
- c. Big data skills
 - i. Dan reviewed current plans to ensure all students receive some training in big data skills.
- d. Foundational skills workshops
 - i. Dan outlined plans to offer 60 to 90-minute workshops in: *resilience, effective communication, disABILITY, responsible employee, and conflict resolution*. Goal is to give students some transferable skills to take into the workplace, no matter which career path they end up on.
 - ii. Side discussion regarding mental health concerns in graduate students nationwide. Students asked if mental health questions were on the annual survey.
 - iii. Students mentioned concerns about effectiveness of conflict resolution given power differential between themselves and faculty. Asked what was being done on that side of equation.

IV. Title IX & mandatory reporting

- a. Dan related that he is now the Title IX liason for CNS.
- b. Outline definition of responsible employee. In short, all grad students are responsible employees.

V. TA workload guidelines

- a. The college office is currently working with departments & programs to adopt reasonable and standardized workload guidelines within each program.

VI. IDP

- a. Dan expressed that IDP services are underutilized despite general agreement that Po-Tsan's services are helpful.
- b. Students suggested it might be helpful to have IDP module available more than once.

VII. General questions from students

- a. Loss of funding by Texas Petawatt Laser in physics has had impact on several students.
- b. Students asked about family friendly policies and were informed of policies already in place.
- c. A suggestion was raised that the college host social events with faculty to help advertise 21st Century initiatives.