

GSAC Meeting Minutes

7/6/20

Attendees –

Karsten Heeger, Bonnie Fleming, Rona Ramos, Stacey Watts, Samantha Pagan, Joseph Shomar, Hannah Bossi, Aniket Maiti, Sheridan Green, Ako Jamil, Lauren Saunders, Kelly Backes, Sumita Ghosh, Emily Kuhn, Sohan Vartak, Ryan Petersburg

Qualifying Exam – No Quails in the Fall

- Karsten working on charge and committee to discuss graduate program and how exams can better fit into the program
 - Draft charge this week
 - What are the learning goals for the program?
 - What actions need to be taken to meet learning goals?
 - Committee Chair - undecided
 - Plan deadline mid-Fall term
 - Committee will meet weekly and work closely with students
- Opportunity for department to make the program better
- Transition year - the goal will be to make sure no students are delayed in advancing to candidacy. Still working on what it will look like for students who have partially passed quals

Webpage – GSAC webpage created

- Daphne to announce in newsletter
- <https://physics.yale.edu/academic/graduate-studies/GSAC>
- Request for GSAC email address -
 - Physics-GSAC@mailman.yale.edu

How can Graduate Team support GSAC/Students –

Suggestions -

- Point of contact for international students
- Job market advisor, academic and non-academic, resume assistance
 - Should be Faculty Advisors role
 - Ask faculty to join YPPO

- Provide current students with list of alumni, work experience, and contact information
 - how did they decide where to go and milestones they had to reach in the process?
- Yearly newsletter to alumni and current student connecting department
- Have a Rona equivalent role for Undergrads
- Creation of mentorship program with faculty that's not the student's faculty advisor
 - How do thesis committees play into student advising?
- Mandated check ins with years 1-3

Anti-Racism Efforts –

- Dean's office requesting formal plan for increased diversity and inclusion from all Yale Depts
 - Looking to develop a sustainable short, middle, and long-term plan
 - Multiple committees will be running in parallel to address program shortcomings
 - Staff community to also moving forward with diversity and inclusion initiatives
- GSAC Immediate request – to discuss anti-racism suggestions with committee
 - GSAC doc still work in progress
 - What can be done in next 4-6 weeks by the time of the fall semester?
 - Start inviting minority speakers for AY20-21 Physics Club seminars
- Working on Diversity and Inclusion webpage
 - GSAC suggestions for webpage welcomed
 - Who will the point of contact be for students?
- Provide study hall or paid tutoring for students to assist in Inclusivity
 - What more can be done during social distancing to foster community?

ICE Email –

- In-person component needed to remain under lawful visa status
- Department will do whatever needed to make sure students are in compliance

CTL Feedback –

- Reviewed Poorvu doc
 - Priority 1 – Clarity
 - Committee will discuss program learning goals
 - Priority 2 – Instructional Methods
 - Priority 3 – Student support and belonging
- Karsten and Bonnie to discuss document with faculty prior to term start

- How will faculty be held accountable for implementing feedback?
- How do we measure progress?
- Suggestion – integrate Poorvu points into course evaluations
 - Themes from doc incorporated into mid-term survey
 - May want to expand survey to undergrads

Action Items –

GSAC

- Finish anti-racism document
- Provide list of things immediate initiatives that can be taken before semester starts
- How to measure success of action items
- Suggest how to best graduate program team can support students
- Suggestions for Diversity and Inclusion webpage
- Model of how student/faculty members should work

Grad Team

- Complete description of program team roles
- Consider establishing a point of Contact for Diversity, Job Search, and International student items
- Notify GSAC once committees are established
- Create email list for GSAC - Done

Next meeting in 2 weeks - 4pm, July 20th