

Faculty Meeting Minutes
(Non-executive session)
January 7, 2020
Lewis 208

Present: Sasha Aravkin, Bernard Deconinck (chair), Anne Greenbaum, Nathan Kutz, Tim Leung, Matt Lorig, Hong Qian, Eli Shlizerman, Eric Shea-Brown (arrived at 1:15 pm), Tom Trogon, KK Tung

Absent: Ivana Bozic, Chris Bretherton (on leave), Ryan Creedon (GSR), Mark Kot (on sabbatical)

Others present: Rachel Reichert (staff representative), Tyler Chen (GSR), Kelsey Marcinko (GSR)

Meeting called to order by chair at 12:03 pm

Minutes approved from November 2019 Meeting

Announcements

*Current administrator Rachel Reichert is resigning effective January 31st, she will be going to Aeronautics and Astronautics. In the interim she will help to fill in part time until another administrator is hired.

*Reminder concerning chair search – a call to schedule meetings with the Search Committee will come out via email from Rachel later this week. These meetings will take place February 6th and 7th

*Add for two additional Acting Instructors will be posted later this week- Craig Gin is leaving at the end of the year and we need up to two acting instructors to cover courses

*January 15th is the deadline for PhD applications for Autumn 2020- please make sure to get your feedback to Loyce

Quals feedback

- Kelsey Marcinko gave presentation on the results of feedback from the first-year graduate students regarding the new system that replaces the old qual exams
- Findings – better than quals – Suggestion to make it more effective, some more formal structure would be helpful.
- Discussion regarding what expectations need to be communicated to both advisers and students. It would be good for SIAM to resume the first-year student experience presentation on what is expected of graduate students, Re the adviser/student relationship and many other topics.
- Also discussed reading requirement where students are required to spend two quarters doing a reading with different faculty – is this necessary? Some felt it was duplicative and created unnecessary work and would be better if it was an option but not a requirement. Some felt it was good because it helped students to have an easy way to approach faculty about being their adviser and to set up the advising relationship. Students will be asked for input and feedback.
- Additional discussion on how the general exam is now the gatekeeper and the rule that it takes place before the start of the third year
- Next steps- graduate program leadership will review feedback and circle back with a proposals for the summer for first year students

Postdoc Union

- Shared slides from chair's meeting
- Immediate changes included: faculty now have to approve vacation, holiday and sick time on workday and written annual review is now required
- Graduate School Individual Development Plan (IDP) example was shared
- IDP examples will be posted on the intranet

Grad School Rule on Food

- Advisers need to let their students know not to provide food or coffee or other refreshments at general exams and defenses
- This may represent an undue hardship when students feel it is expected to provide food

Fin-Tech Certification

- PCE asked for sponsorship from Amath for a Fintech Certificate that is created by a third party
- This is because only departments can grant certificate, PCE is not a certificate or degree granting organization
- The current proposal would create additional administrative work for Amath and not provide any benefits.
- It was decided not to sponsor the certificate- some discussion about designing amath's own certificate instead

1:20 pm Non-executive portion of the meeting completed