

IPI Admissions and Advising Committee Meeting

January 27, 2016

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Nancy Bakalar, Becky Bailey, Bonnie Eisenberg, Audrey Feiner, Pat Hedegard, Chris Hill-Melton, Karen Sherwood

1. Georgian Mustata attended for first ten minutes and reported on the Welcoming Committee. Lorrie Peters was not able to attend. The blizzard has made it difficult to obtain the numbers of new attendees to the Feb. conference. Lorrie will assign the Fellows to the new attendees for the Feb. conference, once she obtains this information from Anna.

Karen sent Georgian and Lorrie a chart to keep track of the contacts between new participants and the Welcoming Committee. This chart was used for the October conference and will be used for the February conference. Georgian reported that the Welcoming Co. will introduce themselves and will reach out to new attendees and those returning who haven't attended for a while.

2. The minutes were reviewed and approved.

3. There was a lively discussion of the terms "Advising" and "Mentoring," and how to define the functions.

Karen suggested using terms "Brief Advising" versus "On-Going Advising," and dropping the word "Mentoring." Karen defined "Brief Advising" as 2 – 3 meetings with Core students, at the beginning and end of the year, and possibly in the middle as well, using assigned faculty members who would initiate contact with the students. Then, "On-Going Advising" would be voluntary: If the student expressed interest, the Brief Advisor would suggest an On-Going Advisor, possibly based on shared interest.

Chris reminded the committee that the prior Mentoring Committee encountered difficulties because students hadn't requested having a mentor, and faculty felt reluctant to initiate contact since it hadn't been requested. Other committee members agreed that this had seemed intrusive.

Committee members also understood that the Director would like each student to have an advisor. Committee members discussed how to take this into account with the concerns described above.

Karen acknowledged that her idea was a modification of the original preference of the AAC Committee that mentoring be student driven. She was attempting to offer a middle ground: Step one was assigned, but Step 2 was voluntary. Karen's point was that IPI faculty would want to have a way to get to know the students and to reach out to them, talking about their goals and training interests that might be addressed in IPI.

There was agreement among committee members for preferring the simplified terminology and consensus to use the terms "Short term Advising" and "Long Term Advising."

Pat reported that during a Strategic Planning session, students had expressed an interest in having human, friendly contact with faculty. Becky added that students want more casual contact with faculty. Various options for doing this were discussed.

Nancy observed that weekend participants used to congregate around the tea/coffee table during breaks, where students could have contact with faculty. Now students tend to make a bee line to the group rooms, being focused on their cell phones.

Nancy suggested the AAC poll the faculty for volunteers who would like to serve as Advisors. Advisors would then be paired with each student. Advisors would be tasked to introduce themselves to students in person at the first break during a conference and to provide their contact information. The purpose here is just to get to know the students a little and to be a familiar face. The student would then have a choice as to how much he or she wanted to develop that relationship—for occasional advice on programs or issues, or in a more extended capacity such as for mentoring. The advisor would commit to being available to the student for up to a year, and the pair could extend this relationship if they chose to. [note: I received clarification from Nancy following the meeting, for the wording of this section of the Minutes.]

The committee formed consensus agreement in favor of this idea.

Karen will re-write the document to reflect these changes.

The next meeting is Wed., Feb 24 at 7.

Submitted by,
Bonnie Eisenberg