

Doctoral Committee Meeting
Notes
Friday, February 11, 2021
Zoom

Present: Eun Kyoung Choe, Susannah Paletz, Emily Dacquisto, Kate Izsak, Niklas Elmqvist, Joel Chan, Ekta Shokeen

1. Student business
 - Postdocs serving as committee members on Integrative Paper committees
 - i. Consensus: Postdocs can only serve as extra members (not full members of the committee)
2. Admissions update
 - 6 formal accepts
 - 6 verbal accepts
3. Discussion: 3-paper dissertation format (see an example guideline from QUT)
 - Occasionally faculty members ask whether it is okay to allow their students to do a 3-paper dissertation (3 published papers (maybe 1 is under submission) and including an introduction & conclusion)
 - i. Currently the iSchool does not have any guidelines for how to handle this
 - ii. Individual faculty have sometimes allowed their students to do it, and others have not allowed it because there is no guideline
 - UMD currently does not have any guidelines in place for this format
 - Should we allow this? If so, how? Do we create guidelines or ask the GS to create them?
 - i. Find out if other departments on campus do this and what their guidelines are (Step 1)
 - ii. Also find out which faculty are already doing this (Step 1a)
 1. Let faculty know we are thinking about this and ask to share their thoughts/if they want to be involved
 - If we do have a guideline, would it be helpful?
 - i. Authorship could be an issue
 - ii. Topical relationship between the 3 papers is important
 - iii. Some people are probably already doing it, so guidelines would be helpful
 - Add this to the Spring sub-committee topics
4. Discussion: Admitted Student Open House
 - Typically held in March to invite admitted students to talk to current students, potential advisors, etc.

- In-person vs online vs hybrid format?
 - i. Online component necessary because we have so many international students
 - ii. Online would be more equitable (if some are online and some are not it can be weird)
 - iii. Will other universities hold in-person events?
 - iv. Consensus: Hybrid format
- What activities?
 - i. Online info session
 - ii. Student panel
 - 1. Obtain recommendations from faculty beforehand (either as a panelist or moderator)
 - 2. Create different break out rooms so students can self-select every ~20 minutes
 - iii. Current student give a tour of both the iSchool and the campus
 - iv. Host lab open houses
 - v. Host a dinner?
 - vi. Tentative date - Friday, March 18th
- Student peer mentoring (now)
- 5. Spring priority sub-committee sign-ups
 - Mentorship and pathways (mentor doc students; mentor faculty to mentor doc students) - Joel, Ekta, Emily
 - i. January's CADGE meeting had a discussion about requiring/expecting/suggesting that each PhD program develop a statement of mentoring expectations and creating an annual mentoring award
 - 1. Should we work on implementing either of these things?
 - a. Reluctant to add required paperwork that is not intrinsically useful
 - b. Voluntarily sharing advising stories, experiences, etc. to show the diversity of student advising models would be more beneficial
 - 2. Make concrete suggestions on the Google doc to share with Brian
 - Master's degree for students to gracefully exit the PhD program - Kate, Susannah, Emily, Jeff
 - i. A number of programs have these, but they were not proposed specifically as this (a program that can't be applied for independently)
 - ii. Kate can set-up a document to add notes to it

1. Need to be clear about the need for it and the value of the degree in terms of student's employability
 2. Consider the course requirements and a capstone or thesis project
 - a. Scholarly paper while taking 818 or 898 (not a thesis) so they have a concrete deliverable
 3. Think about how to structure tracks/electives
 4. Need to go from 27 credits up to 36 credits (can include 818 or 898 credits)
 5. Will set it up as a dual MS/PhD and students can get a Masters when they hit a certain point (maybe after they pass 898)
- 3-paper dissertation format - Eun Kyoung, Niklas, Emily
 - Anything else?
 - i. Launching the special topics course / reading seminar (Fall 2022) - Joel
 - ii. Training PhD students to be teachers (from Fall 2021) - Kate