

IPSS Steering Committee Meeting

August 4, 2020

Attendees: Mark Coyne, Bruce Downie, Carlos Rodriguez, Erin Haramoto, Jian Yang, Jon Stallins, Jason Unrine, Abbie Cain, Alayna Jacobs, Rebecca McGrail

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Block grant budget update
 - a. Block funds are given to all programs based on a formula
 - b. \$23,118 (+2 allocated scholarships) – same as last year
 - i. Travel and Presentations – most students can receive \$600
 - ii. GSA – professional development and officer stipends
 - iii. Awards
 1. Stipends for outstanding new and old students
 2. Performance – symposium
 - c. Encourage students to register for online conferences
 - d. PLS 772/symposium will go online this year
3. Teaching of IPS 625
 - a. Required for all students
 - b. Dave Van Sanford has been teaching this course since the program started
 - i. Dave is looking for a replacement instructor for the course beginning Fall 2021
 - c. The course has been a theme and book reading – this year is pandemic and coping with other types of disasters
 - i. Other activities include guest speakers and tours
 1. No student fee-based funding is available for transportation costs – this has been largely covered by the Plant & Soil Sciences department in the past
 - ii. There is no real end product of the course – just a diverse look of the departments and campus resources
 - d. Is the timing of the course still appropriate?
 - e. Can the instructor be rotated on a yearly basis or would it remain consistent?
 - i. It would be good to have faculty rotation for this course
 - f. Bruce may have some interest in teaching this course – he will reach out to Dave to learn more
4. Requirement for responsible conduct of research training
 - a. Anyone on a sponsored project must complete the “Responsible Conduct of Research Training” by January 31
 - i. Mark will briefly cover this during orientation with new students
 - b. This is required of all faculty, staff and students if they are paid on a sponsored project
5. Curriculum Proposals
 - a. Removal of the Forestry Sciences program and addition of the Environmental Sciences and Ecosystem Ecology discipline are sitting with the curriculum council
6. Issues surrounding starting the semester safely
 - a. Wellness kits are available for students
 - b. Current international students can take all of their classes online, if things go that route
 - c. Continue to practice social distancing and wear masks
 - d. New students have concerns about meeting people
 - e. The name of the game this year is to be flexible
 - f. What do we do if a student is not comfortable coming back to the lab setting?
 - i. This may need to be discussed within the committee

7. Priorities for the committee this year
 - a. Updating and clarifying the student handbook
 - b. Student checklist – first year, second year, etc.
 - c. Committee meetings – scheduling and having those before they defend
 - i. There is no requirements for master's students to have a meeting
 - d. University Scholars programs – AES, ABT, NRES
 - i. Requires undergraduate program committees to work with us
 - ii. Must revisit the ABT documents as the master's program requirements have changed a bit