The Fletcher School PhD Committee Meeting Agenda (2nd revised)
Tuesday, October 25, 2016 in Cabot 407 from 11am-1pm

Present: Rouhana, Pfaltzgraff, Jacobsen, Bulutgil, Daniels, Decembrele, Burckett-Picker, Bacon and Krystalli

A. Approval of Minutes of September 20, 2016 APPROVED

B. Human Security Field Proposal (Eileen Babbitt, 11:10–11:30am)
1. This is a proposal to reinstate a separate Human Security field (not attached to Comparative Politics) at the PhD level. (See attached proposal.)

The proposal for creating a separate (from Comparative Politics) Human Security field at the PhD level was presented by Eileen Babbitt. See attached document. After a very complete presentation, and some discussion of the pros and cons of separating the fields, the Committee asked her a few questions about credits for field (5?) and a few required courses. Eileen will make some minor changes to document and resend to Jenifer for her presentation to Academic Dean for Academic Council approval. Zeynep Bulutgil (currently coordinator of Comparative Politics/Human Security Field) will prepare a similar document with field rationale and course requirements for both MALD and PhD for a Comparative Politics field.

C. Petitions (11:05-11:10)
2. Carol Prather APPROVED
She petitions for an independent study course with Sulmaan Khan in spring 2017 on “Employment of Historical Methods in Understanding Chinese Strategy”, in which she will delve into original Mandarin sources, to count as her third methodology course. The final product of this course will be a research project. Approved by her adviser Sulmaan Khan.

3. Mohannad Al-Suwaidan APPROVED
He petitions for a 2nd six-month extension of time until Feb. 15, 2017 to defend his dissertation proposal due to changes he is making as a result of attending IQMR, although he hopes to defend it by December 2016. He passed comps in April 2015. Approved by advisor Hess.

D. Other Business

4. Discussion of the PhD Student Memo of April 12, 2016 (see attached) (11:30-12:45) Also see Jenifer’s and Nadim’s documents in reply to this memo (attached). Of the “five most important points to discuss,” we discussed ‘financial support’ at the Sept. 20th meeting, so at Oct. 25th meeting we will discuss:
   a. Academic rigor and depth
   b. Sustained faculty and advisor support for students
   c. Transparency regarding these issues
That will leave “program management/strategic leadership” for the Dec. 6th meeting.

Nadim Rouhana started this discussion by saying we would first address some additional financial concerns (carried over from our last meeting) and we proceeded to spend the next hour and fifteen minutes discussing
tuition/stipends/summer research funding/PhD Conference Fund and Fellowships with internal Fletcher competition, because of the importance of these issues. See attached. Points a, b, c will be continued to our next meeting.

5. Qualitative Research Methods Course discussion (Karen and Roxanne) 12:45-12:53

A course concept (see attached) for a Qualitative Research Methods course prepared by Karen Jacoben (and with additional syllabi from Roxanne Krystalli) will be given by Jenifer to the Academic Dean, who will contact faculty member/s able to teach this course. Eventually a professor would be identified to teach this course and would then provide a more detailed syllabus to take to the Academic Council for their approval.

E. NOTE: In response to my email to faculty requesting them to send me list of grants they had that included PhDs, I received three responses (see attached). Note also attached list of Fletcher faculty grants rec’d from Greg Simpson.

F. Also see attached “Fletcher PhD Program Review” done by FBO Hans Binnendijk in October 2007, which we may discuss in the near future.

G. Future Ph.D. Committee Mtgs.
All Tuesdays from 11-1:00 unless noted
Dec. 6 C407, Jan. 24 C702, March 14 C407, April 18 C702
Thursday, May 18, 1-3pm (just before Faculty Mtg.)

PhD ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE MTGS (Faculty and administrators only)
Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2017 11am-3pm C702
Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2017 11am-3pm C702 (cancelled)
Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2017 11am-3pm C702