The Fletcher School PhD Committee Meeting Minutes for POSTING
Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2016 in Cabot 407 from 11am-12:30pm
Present: Karen Jacobsen, Nadim Rouhana, Robert Pfaltzgraff, Zeynep Bulutgil, Ann Marie Decembrele, Jessica Daniels, Jenifer Burckett-Picker, Roxanne Krystalli and Jeffrey Bacon
Absent: none

A. Approval of Minutes of May 18 and May 19, 2016 APPROVED

B. Petitions (11-11:05am)
One student petition was approved.

C. Other Business

1. Discussion of the PhD Student Memo of April 12, 2016 (see attached) (11:05-11:45)
   Also see Jenifer’s document in reply to this memo (attached)

Nadim Rouhana introduced his memo of May 18, 2016 (and also referred to Jenifer’s memo sent to Committee last week) and explained what we’d done at last PhD Com. Mtg. in May 2016, where we’d spoken of having three subcommittees that would consider one to two items each of the five major concerns of PhD students. Other members of PhD Committee then felt that it was more useful to discuss all of the items as a complete committee.

There then ensued a preliminary discussion of the first point (financial support). But first, Roxanne spoke of the importance of dealing with the proposed advanced qualitative methods course proposal (and she and Karen Jacobsen agreed to come up with a syllabus and proposal for this course for Oct. 25th PhD Com. Mtg. which, if approved, could then go to Academic Council for its approval).

Then Roxanne gave some suggestions for student funding support. She mentioned a faculty panel to speak about grants both they, and particularly their students, have been awarded. (Roxanne will send Jenifer a list of grants that students are interested in, so that Jenifer can obtain more info on these. Roxanne will also bring a list of foundations that have predoc grants to October Mtg. Jenifer will also send a note to faculty asking them what grants they have received themselves or for students they have supervised.)

Bob Pfaltzgraff suggested having a panel of Fletcher alums who work at foundations. He also wondered whether it is better for individuals or programs to try to attract funding?

Jeff Bacon asked for a list of Fletcher Programs that supply funding for tuition and/or stipends. (see discussion below).

There was then a long discussion of stipends (how much money we have, where it comes from, and how it is awarded, and how it varies greatly from year to year), transparency regarding funding, and a discussion of what Fletcher programs (mainly ISS, IERP and Inst. for Human Security) have funds for tuition, stipends, research. (see below for more details)
• JBP:
  o When people have no outside source of support, when they are not sponsored by the military, Fulbright, and when they apply for financial aid, we’ve been providing tuition scholarship (for both MALD and externals).
  o That restricts the numbers of people we can admit.
  o When people have external funding, it allows Fletcher to admit more people.
    When people come with funding, it enables us to go beyond the initial slots for admission.
  o This year, due to the special circumstance of having no external admits from 2015 who needed funding, we were able to use almost the entire Grad. Competitiveness Initiative (GCI) funds (minus the $10K for PhD Conf. Fund) for stipends for 2016 entering students. Everyone that wasn’t paid by their work.
    • 10,000 - 15,000
  o We tend to give outsiders a little more support, as they are here for 12 classes rather than just the 4 that MALDs are required to take."

• We are very non-competitive with many other schools. For outsiders we promise a stipend for two years. An insider would get it for one year.

• Four pots of cash
  o Admissions office pot of cash
    ▪ Allocate funds to PhDs for tuition only (not stipends).
    ▪ Jerry Sheehan, in discussion with Jenifer and Laurie, makes that decision.
    ▪ Always based on merit and need
    ▪ No merit-only scholarships
    ▪ Also support tuition enrollment fee for those who request it
  o Provost
    ▪ 2 $5,000 stipends for 2-year provost fellowships ($10,000 per person total)
  o Graduate Competitiveness Initiative
    ▪ $80,000 for stipends goes to JBP
    ▪ Ideal world: all of that money would go for stipends
    ▪ Sometimes PhD Admissions Committee admits more people than Admissions Office has money for for tuition. If those people don’t bring in their own funding, Jenifer dips into this money to pay these people's tuition.
    ▪ She also saves $10,000 out of this for PhD conference fund (students presenting at conferences) — approximately $3,300 per conference cycle.
  o ISS and CIERP and IHS
    ▪ Sometimes, various centers offer tuition and/or stipend money
    ▪ IHS has a fellowship for dissertation research.
    ▪ Centers have their own processes for handling this money: for example, ISSP doesn’t make distinctions between entering students and students already in the program, supports students at all stages, etc. If you have Center funding (for tuition or stipend), you deal directly with the Center.
  o Other than applying for financial aid to cover tuition/enrollment fee through admissions and certain open fellowships, students can’t initiate applying for any of the other funding (Graduate Competitiveness Initiative, Provost Fellowship).
  o Jenifer’s number 1 issue is always financial support.
Scholarship funding is a high priority for the Dean. There are very few PhD students, and a lot of needy MALD/MIB/LLM students.

We will have 1. “financial support” as the first item on Oct. 25th agenda with 2. “academic rigor and depth” as the second item. Please send Jenifer (and cc committee—see names at top of these minutes) a list of agenda items for a discussion of these first two areas (out of five) on the PhD student memo by Oct. 18th.

2. Human Security Field discussion (see attached memo from Babbitt to Rouhana) (11:45-12:15)
We looked over correspondence among Eileen Babbitt, Nadim Rouhana, and Jenifer on this item and there seemed to be missing information on WHAT courses would constitute a PhD “Human Security” field if we were to go forward with separating HS from Comp. Politics. Karen Jacobsen commented that HS is not a field and one would never be hired into a dept as such. Zeynep Bulutgil commented that HS will not sell as well as comparative politics for an academic career.

It was suggested that we might want to see what a comps reading list for HS would be (ZB mentioned that the HS comps reading list that she took over from Peter Uvin was 80% comparative politics), but then someone else suggested that we should just ask for a memo describing the field of HS. We also need to see a list of what courses would be included in a HS field for PhDs – both courses central to the field and those that are crosslisted. (Jenifer will ask Eileen for both these items for the Oct. 25th mtg.)

3. Social Science Research Council (Dissertation Proposal Development Program)
There is a call for applications for this very worthwhile program that is now being outsourced to individual universities? Do we want Fletcher to apply? Deadline is Oct. 28, 2016. (See attached “SSRC DPD University Initiative”) (12:15 on)

We had a short discussion of whether we should go forward with Fletcher application to SSRC. Kimberly Theidon (who joined us at 12:30pm) will contact other faculty who might be interested (Karen J, Dyan M, Alex de Waal, Nancy Hite) and get back to the group ASAP. Roxanne has sent us info from her participation this year in Diss. Dev. Program that will be useful in an application. Teri Vienot from Office of Corp Dev. will support us in putting application forward.

D. Future Ph.D. Committee Mtgs.
All Tuesdays from 11-12:30 unless noted
Oct. 25 C407 (NOTE THIS MTG WILL GO FROM 11am-1pm), Dec. 6 C407 (This mtg will also go from 11AM-1PM), Jan. 24 C702, March 14 C407, April 18 C702
Thursday, May 18, 1-3pm (just before Faculty Mtg.)