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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Admissions Open House - November 1, 2018

DEAN COOK: We have a light agenda today. I want to move through it and answer questions. Hopefully everyone else is enjoying the Red Sox being champions at the parade.

Tomorrow is the Admissions Open House. Sarah will say a few words about it.

ASSOC DEAN HERCHEL: It’s at 5:30 PM tomorrow in Dowling. 50-60 prospective students will be there. Bring them to the SEC. We will welcome them with a PowerPoint overview. There will be two tours. Hopefully we will get through them before it is dark. There was positive feedback last year. We are open to this being a work in progress. Let us know how successful we think the event is.

Community Conversation for Graduate Students

DEAN COOK: There is a survey going out soon about department orientations. We are making sure students are oriented. We want to see what departments are doing now and what improvements can be made.

Collecting information on departmental orientation activities

DEAN COOK: The Community Conversation for Graduate Students is on November 7, 2018 from 3:30 to 4:30 PM in Mayer Campus Center, Room 012.

ASSOC DEAN HERCHEL: The open house is a master’s programs only. This community conversation is run by two new positions. Community Fellows [inaudible]. These two students put together an announcement about this. You’ll meet them at an upcoming P&P meeting. Community Conversations are organized by these two students. They are looking forward to this event to address an inclusive community at GSAS.

NEW BUSINESS

GSAS Goals

DEAN COOK: I have an entertaining PowerPoint to make it worth your while. Looking Forward PowerPoint. There is a brochure making its way around, hopefully. We have a lot of spreadsheets about budget deficits. But what are the contributions of GSAS beyond those spreadsheets? We want to be a nationally ranked graduate program. It’s vital to faculty recruitment and retention.

[PowerPoint presentation]

New Programs
Diversity programs
Online Education
Reputationally, would like to be the Graduate School of NESCAC
International Connections

In addition, we are a traditionally a residency program. We have new and re-branded programs. We have increased marketing. In the new year, we are trying to increase part-time options (evenings and weekends).

New Programs since 2017. It is projected that the population of undergraduate students will increase by 100 next year and our goal is to increase the master’s enrollment by 20.

A new Brochure will be in print by next week. One of the best predictors of students coming to Tufts is if they visit, so we have recently joined with StudentBridge to provide a virtual experience of the campus. We also offered a relocation assistance for master’s students who moved from outside New England to attend. They received $1,250 once they matriculated. I talked to many of them; they were enthusiastic to receive the check. This will also be offered in the spring and again next fall.

PROF DAVIS: Mary Davis, UEP. How was this relocation award publicized?

DEAN COOK: Since last year was the first time something like this was offered, students were notified after they were accepted via Slate. It was not really advertised aside from that, but now that it is an established thing. You can start letting students who are eligible and inquire know that the option is available.

PROF DAVIS: This is for sure?

DEAN COOK: Yes. Outside New England, but only domestic US citizens for now.

ASSOC DEAN HERCHEL: We can send an email about who is eligible. We are not putting it on the website because it might cause problems.

PROF DAVIS: Could it go in their acceptance letter? They might want confirmation. It’s a lot of money.

ASSOC DEAN HERCHEL: Felicia could you confirm?

MS. ASTORINO: Students received an email from admissions stating that they are eligible for this. They were asked to respond and confirm that they would like to collect this funding. Once they were on campus and enrolled in classes they were able to receive their check.

DEAN COOK: Also, if you are trying to get a low-income student to commit against a competing offer, let me know and I’ll see if we can match the other offer.

Graduate Student Union update
DEAN COOK: Now a Graduate Student Union update. We have a 5-year contract with the SCIU. It’s not a student union, it’s an employee union. It started in 2018.

There will be an information session for DGS on November 13th. It’s just for doctoral students.

PROF LEVENTHAL: Is this a bad time for teaching?

DEAN COOK: Another option would be to move it to November 16th after the scheduled P&P meeting. Ignore the orange announcement and we will see if we can find a better time.

You do need to know about November 15th because it’s one of the new timeline requirements. You have to tell students if they will have TA and RA assignments. They don’t need to know which, just that they have funding. So, appointment letter November 15th and assignment letter January 1st.

We have an obligation to make sure students are ready to teach and know what they need to do. After we get an inventory from departments on how they are being orientated we can work on this. They also have health and safety concerns. In departments like chemistry, they want to make sure those concerns are addressed. Students should be making 18% more by the end of the contract. It will make us more competitive with other institutions.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: When do stipends and parental leave coverage start?

DEAN COOK: Next year.

DEAN COOK: I’m going to let Sarah have the floor to detail a particular goal of this year to improve Faculty-Student Mentoring.

DEAN COOK: We are in the midst of finalizing policies and the budget details for this.

PROF HAMMER: One possible way to help us with the added cost of research cos: a reduced tuition tax would help.

DEAN COOK: Duly noted.

PROF MARCHESINI: Do you require [inaudible] to be re-budgeted?

DEAN COOK: We have to enter a period of flexibility. That’s a Dean-ly answer. It’s going to be a problem. There’s not a lot of extra money in A&S. It’s going to take a couple years to get through this.

PROF HAMMER: We didn’t budget for the increase. I don’t blame them. They want the added salaries to start next year.

PROF FREUDENREICH: In biology we have high stipends, and our study sections, there is a level that you get. If you pay more for students, you have less money for supplies. We can’t keep
them on as RAs, so we put them as TAs. If you spend money on salaries or supplies, that’s up to you.

DEAN COOK: We are keenly aware of what these impacts are.

Faculty-Student Mentoring

ASSOC DEAN HERCHEL: I wanted to talk about faculty-student mentoring at GSAS. It’s been a priority for us over the last number of years. A&S at large is looking at faculty mentoring. We excel in this area. It’s a selling point. We are trying to strengthen that aspect by looking at what students are saying. From our office, how can we support students in this area?

We have a new landing page for mentorship in an upcoming slide.

[PowerPoint]

Students, upon graduation, are required to complete this exit survey. We have a whole section on advising and mentoring. We share this instrument with SOE. We consider the questions and make changes every year. If you are interested in helping us out, please consider looking at this and helping us determine if we are asking the right questions.

PROF SIMMS: Do SMFA students receive this survey?

DEAN COOK: Yes, since the response rate is so high they must be answering as well.

PROF BAZ: Is there a way for departments to edit these? Ask specific questions?

ASSOC DEAN HERCHEL: Rebecca Hatch is the person who IR reaches out so departments can edit these questions every year. She’s our point person in that office.

DEAN COOK: The overall feedback is great. But there are clearly people every year who leave not having the mentoring they need. Some of the responses… It’s heartbreaking.

ASSOC DEAN HERCHEL: I am very open to feedback on the mentorship landing page on the AS&E Grad Website. If you think your department does a really great job, we can highlight that. I’ve laid out next steps. Questions?

PROF FREUDENREICH: Mentoring when you’re running a research lab is very different from mentoring in the humanities. It would be great to have events at the Medford campus about this. Something that’s for all faculty doesn’t always prove helpful.

ASSOC DEAN HERCHEL: That’s a great point. How do we get to the mentors whose students are reporting bad experiences? I don’t think trainings would get to those mentors. Perhaps department-specific mentorship trainings.
PROF HAMMER: If there are bad experiences happening, repeatedly, something should be done.

ASSOC DEAN HERCHEL: If something was reported to a dean, something would be done, but they don’t always come that way. A&S is coming up with a system for this data collection.

DEAN COOK: If you need data, please contact us.

Admissions update

We can get you that. As we turn to November, we turn to admissions season, and we will have more information soon.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Respectfully Submitted,

Erin Sullivan
Secretary of the Faculty for Arts, Sciences & Engineering