**Combined Docsem October 1, 2021**

Small group notes:

**Two prompts:**

1. How will we provide mutual support, connection, and keep hope and energy up this year?
2. What are 1-3 key program improvements to focus on this year that are doable AND mutual/dynamic involving faculty and students?

*Thanks to Maureen, Claire, Frank, Wyatt, and Angela for compiling and/or sending notes for your groups:*

**Group 1:**

1. **How will we provide mutual support, connection, and keep hope and energy up this year?**

* Celebrate milestones with cohort
* Sharing professional and personal highs/lows with colleagues and faculty
* Surround ourselves with people who 1. Make us feel good and/or 2. React in similar ways we do

1. **What are 1-3 key program improvements to focus on this year that are doable AND mutual/dynamic involving faculty and students?**

* More communication regarding program milestones
* Clear guidelines or at least acknowledgement on how our data/forms for milestones are stored/how we need to store them on our own
* For End of year evaluation meeting with advisors to include going over all of our paperwork to ensure we are up to date
* There should be one place (maybe SALA website) where historical student knowledge can accumulate
* Options for clinical GEs (strategic alliances)
* First combined docsem be social only. No stressful info and potentially have food
* More positive or realistic discussions around milestones by faculty and students (no jokes, no exaggerating the stress, no minimizing)
* Cohort docsems once per term

**Group 2:**

1. **How will we provide mutual support, connection, and keep hope and energy up this year?**
   1. Provide social opportunities for students to connect, within COVID-19 compliant guidelines.
   2. Provide opportunities to connect remotely
   3. Provide regular opportunities for first years to connect with their third-year mentors
   4. Celebrating program milestones during doc sem (e.g., folks who got their masters, passed comps, matched at internship, etc.)
   5. Outdoor doc sems if it is nice outside, perhaps pot-luck style with food and beverage
2. **What are 1-3 key program improvements to focus on this year that are doable AND mutual/dynamic involving faculty and students?**
   1. Consistency with regards to expectations and communication. Perhaps use a doc sem to go over the order of program milestones (SAP, comps, masters, dissertation, etc.)
   2. Have program information in one central location (the CPSY website is really helpful so perhaps just ensuring all of the most up-to-date materials are uploaded there)
   3. Consistency with regards to expectations between Faculty/advisors.

**Group 3:** Thanks for priming the program-wide conversations today. I think a lot of good stuff came up and I hope that some of the suggestions are actionable. I’m pasting my notes from the discussion below.

Students in my group reported that they feel informally supported, particularly by their cohorts, but noted that they feel distanced from the faculty. Some students feel that they do not have a sense of what conversations with faculty were like prior to the move to remote learning and note that they would like a better sense of what the “rules of engagement” are for interacting with the faculty. To this end, students brainstormed the following:

* Developing some sort of event to figuratively open the door to meet faculty and gain an understand of both the professional and personal qualities of the faculty members so that they can make an informed decision regarding which faculty members they can look to for personal and professional support.
  + Pre-recorded videos were suggested wherein faculty are free to discuss their personal interests, research interests, current projects, opportunities for collaboration, and ways in which they are willing to provide mentorship. Faculty would be free to discuss the topics that are most relevant/important to them, both to reduce burden and to allow flexibility in what faculty would to share with students.  Although the faculty members currently have bios on the COE website, they are targeted towards prospective students and the general public, whereas these videos would be targeted towards current students.
* Students also discussed whether we could make the relationship with faculty more bidirectional. More specifically, we wondered how we can support the CPSY faculty as colleagues. We are generally aware of their heavy workload and some of us hesitate to needlessly burden faculty as a result.

Other topics that were discussed that relate to programmatic improvements include:

* Some students feel that they are not receiving information from their advisors relating to program milestones in an equitable manner.
  + We discussed the information that is available in the student handbook and proposed a “short list” of program milestones that contains recommended completion dates and required completion dates that exists outside of the handbook. The handbook could then be used to provide detailed information about each program requirement.
  + Students were hoping to gain clarity regarding what information advising faculty should provide. More specifically, is there an expectation for faculty to be knowledgeable of program requirements or does the lion’s share of responsibility fall on the students. If so, an explicit statement of this would be beneficial.

Beyond this, our group discussed ways that students can better support each other, create community, and share important information. Apologies for getting this to you late. There were a few time-sensitive tasks that came up, and I hope I was able to accurately convey our thoughts. If you have any questions or would like to talk further, please let me know! I don’t know if I will be a totally accurate reporter, but I remember the gist of what was discussed.

**Group 4:** This is what we talked about:

-send more memes (maybe have Ellen help)

-scheduled open time for writing/support

-more faculty attendance at docsem

-food for docsem (university catering?)

-professional development in docsem (e.g. guest lecture, difficult discussions, workshops)

-holiday banquet with silly awards?

**Group 5:**

* Reduce weekly activities/busy work, be flexible with due dates
* Covid-19 is not over. Don’t ease up on flexibility
* Encourage students to reach out to one another
  + (faculty-sponsored student event to meet/socialize
* Discussion/seminar on mental illness as grad student/clinician
  + Faculty present on clinicians/grad students’ struggle with mental illness, e.g., Marina in SALA
* Faculty well-informed on Handbook and program requirements (comps, etc.). Aspects of Behavior comp not the responsibility of students alone.
* Events or discussion about requirements of each year. To know what to expect/anticipate.