

Climate Committee Meeting Minutes
April 9, 2018

We met from 2pm – 3pm. Present: Michael Rea (Chair), Paddy Blanchette, Sara Bernstein, Paul Weithman, Alex Jech, Ashton Green, Geoff Hall, and Celina Durgin. Absent: Curtis Franks

1. Undergraduate Majors

- Our undergraduate majors report a desire for more opportunities to connect with and get to know one another, and local faculty. Alex Jech is working with them to generate ideas, but one idea discussed in our committee is to host a few “pre-colloquium” talks next year when local faculty are the colloquium speakers.

2. Climate Survey

- Mike and Paddy will continue work on the summary of the 2017 survey data, with the aim of producing a short document that can be read aloud and discussed at separate meetings of graduate students and faculty in Fall 2018. The goal is to produce a draft for circulation to the committee by April 24, 2018.
- We will begin the 2018 survey by April 17.
- Before conducting the survey, we will try to revise the questions pertaining to “collaborative research” for greater clarity.

3. Grad Recruitment and the Climate Committee

- We briefly discussed what role (if any) the climate committee should have during graduate recruitment week, and what suggestions (if any) we should make to help maintain a professional atmosphere during that week. We tabled this discussion until the committee’s next meeting.

4. Gender diversity on syllabi and oral exam lists

- We agreed that there should be some discussion about how to encourage greater gender diversity on these lists. It was suggested that we might circulate a note to faculty and graduate students sometime in early August as people are preparing syllabi, but otherwise we tabled this discussion until the committee’s next meeting.