Climate Committee Meeting Minutes
October 24, 2018

The committee met from 10:00 – 11:00am in Malloy 215. Present: Sara Bernstein, Paddy Blanchette, Haley Dutmer, Jamee Elder, Curtis Franks, Sebastian Murgueitio Ramirez, Mike Rea, Jeff Speaks.

1. Climate Survey Data & Summaries: Our main agenda item was to discuss the data from the 2018 Climate Survey, to reach agreement about how best to summarize those data for the department, and to determine when the 2017 and 2018 data summaries will be read to and discussed with faculty and graduate students. We accomplished each of these tasks and agreed that the data summaries would be read to the faculty at one of the department meetings before the end of fall semester, and that a meeting would be set up within the first two weeks of the spring 2019 semester to read and discuss the data summaries with interested graduate students.

2. Graduate Student Mentoring: We continued to discuss possible solutions to mentoring concerns that were voiced in some of the responses to the 2017 and 2018 surveys. Among the solutions we discussed was to have Curtis contact the graduate student representatives to suggest that they solicit and collect up any mentoring concerns within their respective cohorts and bring them to Curtis so that he can suggest ways of having them addressed. We also discussed having Jeff and Curtis meet with each cohort once each semester to give them a chance to ask questions and get advice on whatever program requirements they are currently working to fulfill. Jeff and Curtis agreed that they would work to implement both of these solutions, or suitable variants.

3. We discussed some potential changes to the climate survey—specifically, adding questions about perceived bias or discrimination based on disability.

4. We had a brief follow-up discussion on the suggestion (from our September meeting) to create a website with helpful syllabus resources (e.g., links to the "Up Directory", and syllabus resources on the APA Committee on the Status of Women website).