

DeGroote Doctoral Students Association – DDSA Meeting Minutes

January 13th, 2022, 5 pm, zoom meeting

Attendees: Si Liu, Mahdi Abouei, Xinyu Wang, Fateme Akbari, Fatma Elbabour, Kimia Ansari

Note Taker: Kimia Ansari

Topic: First 2022 Winter DDSA Meeting

1. Holding online social night in late January
2. Holding two lunch and learns this semester
3. Planning for research day
4. Planning for future students' working seminar.
5. Progress on the Ph.D. survey coordinated with the Ph.D. program office.
6. Discussing the issues about the New Ph.D. program website (<https://phd.degroote.mcmaster.ca/>) that the bios of current Ph.D. students are removed, and there is no placement data anymore.
7. Proposing possible establishment of DDSA best teaching award for each area.

Action Items

- 1- Due to Covid restrictions, the first social night will be held online. A survey link can be distributed to students to collect their suggestions about this event (Fateme Akbari)
- 2- The first Lunch and Learn in the winter term will be held online. A person from MacPherson Institute is going to be invited. In the second Lunch and Learn, a guest speaker may be invited from another country, such as the US or China, to discuss the overseas academic job market. (Fatma Elbabour)
- 3- A research day will be held for all graduates and senior undergraduates at the DSB to present their research in the form of both posters and presentations. A

proposal about the details of holding research day will be written. (Fatma Elbabour)

- 4- For students working seminars, it was suggested to provide students with a more general list of readings or ask faculty members to suggest a beneficial book that may help students do their research. (Xinyu Wang)
- 5- A meeting will be held with IQAP representatives to determine how to consider DSB's Ph.D. students' concerns in the initiatives being developed by the university. (Si Liu, Mahdi Abouei)
- 6- Asking Ph.D. office to bring back the list of Ph.D. students' profiles to the DSB website. (Si Liu, Mahdi Abouei)
- 7- Because now only one person in each year receives the best Ph.D. Student Instructor Award; it was suggested that DDSA can offer the DDSA's best teaching award for each area separately. Therefore, students may find it more encouraging, improving their resumes. A proposal will be written to discuss the details of this award (Si Liu).