Assessment Review Report

International Migration Studies (IMS) MA Program

Since the IMS program is only in its second year and has yet to have its governance structure formally approved (it is currently under review), we do not yet have systems in place for advising, mentoring, or assessment. I am also in my first year as the program’s director, and do not yet have a deputy or committees of faculty and student representatives to help out with such matters. The purpose of this report is to describe what we have in place for advising and mentoring at the moment, and outline what we plan to implement going forward once our governance structure is approved and established.

2019-20

Upon assuming the role of director, I became the adviser and mentor for all IMS students in need of such a person. These cases include any student who has yet to find a faculty adviser for their capstone project. I maintain regular email and in-person communication with all students, and encourage them to visit me in my office and make appointments to discuss their status, concerns, or any issues they’re having in the program. Many have done so, and even more have asked me questions through email or over the phone. Most of their concerns are of course selection, transferring credits from other institutions, finding an adviser that matches their research interests, and opportunities for research and work in their area of interest.

My email communications with students include a variety of resources and support services at the GC, as well as a plethora of opportunities for professional development: conferences and events, job ads, and funding sources. I also monitor student progress through my interactions with them as well as through their professors.

Going Forward

Here are some ideas we plan on implementing once our governance structure is approved:

- Formation of an executive committee of faculty and students that will be tasked with creating advising and mentoring protocols and assessing their results
- Create an advising system in which incoming students and anyone in need of an adviser get assigned to a member of the program faculty for academic advising
- Create a mentoring system in which incoming students and anyone in need of a mentor get assigned to a peer within the program for mentorship
- In creating these advising and mentoring systems, the executive committee will also create guidelines of best practices for advising and mentoring, which will include expectations of advisers and mentors and a list of supportive resources that are available for students