Meeting Minutes - Dec 10, 2021

Conversation with SEAS leadership
First up: MS academics, Aditya
Dean Kachani:
-rigidity of degree programs is highly correlated to unhappiness of MS students (via quality of life survey)
-30 units MS program is rigid
-too much freedom of classes causes anxiety for students because they want direction
-too much work to balance life and academic, they just want people to tell them what to do
-people a few years ago felt it was too flexible
-CEEM is not considered to be rigid
-if you feel a program is too rigid: conversation with the department chair/departmental group including help in conversation with DR's and president and vice president and EGSC
-if that doesn't work, bring it to me
-do both, have conversations at the same time
-write a document for each department saying the interests of students and share to the particular department chair and with EGSC and with the Deans
-cannot make curricular changes that only 3 people think is important or will say is important now and not later
-look at the drop list one week after the drop date, most of the popular classes have 20% capacity or more
-software that does a point bidding system for classes
-if there are specific courses, machine learning/deep learning/AI where the demand is not met, we have larger courses, more sections, courses during the summer, hybrid versions
-can specific departments contextualize their courses for this context for civil engineering etc how IEOR has done
-students can take those courses within their department without the constraints of finding a seat in a class outside of their department and in another department
-bidding system, find a software that does that (find a university that has a software that does that already)
-how to offer more of these sought after courses
-how can we contextualize these popular courses to the specific departments
-sure that seats will clear in spring the way they cleared in the fall
-ranking system does not work, only in homogeneous populations, bidding system is the most efficient
-everything broken about columbia is the universities fault not SEAS
-since business school is moving to Manhattanville, pressure on classroom sizes should go down + Fall 2021 was the worst semester for classroom sizes
-bidding system will be efficient

Registration priorities, question from Nihar
Dr. Mak reply:
-home departments are in charge of registration and should be able to control registration availability
-don’t just look at times, rules in courses will give you a priority depending on your seniority
-talk to the department about having some sense of priority as a graduate
-Department specific registration is necessary because the departments have differing contexts for registration because of dual enrollment etc.
Dean Kachani:
-if you really want a class, ask the department and course instructor and argue why you deserve to be in a certain course
-if it's a lot of students that can’t get into a class, tell the department together and they can relocate the class to a bigger classroom and increase the capacity of a course in some way. Can be done for 20, 30, 40 students

Syllabus is not available before registering for a class

Lack of Academic Advisors, Aditya:
Dean Kachani: practice best recommendations and practices to send to the Dean over the next 2 months
-can facilitate a way to talk about it with different departments

PhD
半导体 meeting is already a lot, have an advisor that after your first year you can meet with them once a semester and if you need it more you can meet more often (after the thesis proposal) let’s call it mentor, not a secondary advisor
-after 3 years they can have more frequent meetings
-there's a lot of PhD students, too many for that many meetings

Safety
-a lot of work is being done to address changes and will be announced in the next few weeks
-increasing via service and the parameter of via, investing in ways that doesn’t upset the community
-especially a priority considering that the business school is going to Manhattanville

Student Life, Alex:
-libraries, etc
-learning spaces across the hallways, removed because of public health, could put them back ASAP
-Carleton commons should not be repurposed as often
-inequality between each department and shared study spaces

Strike conversation
Dean Kachani asked EGSC what they think about the proposal and mentioned that the number of SEAS students on strike is very small compared to the humanities schools

Meeting adjourned