



Office of the Dean

School of Social Ecology
Irvine, CA 92697-7050
Phone (949) 824-5918
FAX (949) 824-1845

May 15, 2017

TO: SOCIAL ECOLOGY CLIMATE COMMITTEE

Dear Colleagues,

As this year comes to a close, it is time to reflect upon Social Ecology (SE) Climate Committee's accomplishments, and also look ahead to our goals for the future. Below you will find an outline of completed, or in-progress, achievements made by the Climate Committee to date. We have also included our future goals.

Academic Year 2016-17

COMPLETED GOALS

- 1) Address financial/food insecurity for our students, especially during the period from orientation to issue of the first Fall paycheck
 - a. The SE Dean's Office will provide all incoming doctoral students with a \$2,000.00 *Summer Bridge Grant* in September of each year. The School will cover this cost in 2017; donor funds are sought for future support of the Summer Bridge Grant. If not, in the future, departments are encouraged to factor in summer funding (see In Progress (1)).
- 2) Address gap in funding between Competitive Edge/start of the quarter and the first TA stipend payment
 - a. Same as above: The SE Dean's Office will provide all incoming doctoral students with a \$2,000.00 *Summer Bridge Grant* in September of each year. The School will cover this cost in 2017; donor funds are sought for future support of the Summer Bridge Grant. If not, in the future, departments are encouraged to factor in summer funding (see In Progress (1)).
- 3) Provide free posters to students who present at the Poster Session and have winners in each department
 - a. Free poster printing was provided to participants for the Winter 2017 Poster Session, and winners from each department were awarded Starbucks gift cards. In June 2017, poster printing will no longer be available through SE Computing – we will need to decide if reimbursements are feasible for the 2018 Poster Session.
- 4) Host a graduate town hall for all doctoral students with the Dean and Associate Dean
 - a. Held on Friday, April 14, 2017.

- 5) Create statistics boot camp for incoming students
 - a. Scheduled for 9/5/17 through 9/8/17

IN PROGRESS GOALS

- 2) Encourage all departments to include summer funding in their offer letters to doctoral students
 - a. Faculty Advisors for each of our doctoral programs were strongly encouraged to provide four years of guaranteed summer funding for all new students (detailed in admissions financial offer letters). However, summer funding is ultimately at the discretion of the department, and a standard or requirement has not been established.
- 3) Encourage departments to hold town hall meetings
 - a. Departments have been encouraged, but this is an ongoing goal.
- 4) Ensure that the SE-Core mentorship program is established
- 5) Plan student support day
 - a. This student-led event was discussed at our April meeting and will be planned over the summer of 2017.
- 6) Provide the SE-Core program with office space (“PhD bullpen”)
 - a. Set to be renovated in summer 2017
- 7) Provide professional training for doctoral students (in statistics, grant writing, presentations, etc.)
 - a. UCI’s School of Engineering purchased a subscription for *Nature Masterclasses*. Nature Masterclasses provide training in scientific writing and publishing, online. These courses will be made available to our students.

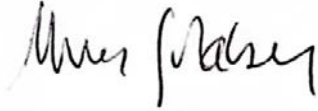
FUTURE GOALS

- 1) Set up a Climate Committee email to be managed by the chair of the committee (se.climate@uci.edu).
- 2) Create Climate Committee office hours (with the Dean? Associate Dean? The student reps?), where students can express their concerns.
- 3) Do a content analysis of syllabi, with the purpose placing value on diversity in the classroom (e.g. projects, papers/readings).
- 4) Develop a way for doctoral students to be better matched with faculty advisors?
- 5) Create a strategic plan for the Graduate Recruiter with regard to inclusive excellence
- 6) Discuss definitions of diversity in our School.
- 7) Provide all graduate students with communal lounge? Space.

We have made significant progress in the past two years and should be proud of our many accomplishments. Not many new committees can claim this much real progress. We are grateful to have each of you on the committee and look forward to hearing your ideas when we next meet.

If there are any goals that have been missed or anything we listed that needs amending, please send your updates to our Climate Committee Chair, John Dombrik (jddombri@uci.edu)

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wendy Goldberg". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Wendy Goldberg
Associate Dean for Academic Programs

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Craig Welti". The signature is highly stylized and cursive.

Jennifer Craig Welti
Director of Graduate Student Services