

ROMS Faculty Meeting

April 20, 2022, at 3:30pm in Toy Lounge

3:30-4:00 - Informal conversation

4:00-4:30 - Whole-group discussion based on suggested topics:

1. Graduate recruitment strategies for next year

- Oliver: Stipend levels are a recruiting challenge. Personal outreach from individual faculty members to institutions/colleagues has been successful, especially with respect to international students.
- Dorothea: Highlight the abundant opportunities for summer funding/competitive service-free funding years in our program descriptions/advertising
- Ellen: Individual outreach to in-state institutions could also be helpful to capture students who want to stay in NC for personal reasons. Example of the “grad student for a day” program.
- Hassan: The U of Minnesota “grad student for a day” program is a new experiment. Will ask colleagues there how it worked. Could we afford it?
- Ellen: We would have to do a cheaper version, focusing on students who aren’t traveling far and/or without the large stipend.
- Alicia, Tacia: Prospective students would likely be honored/enthusiastic to participate even without a stipend
- Oliver: What if we host Consider Carolina or a version of it (using some of that budget) in the Fall for students considering applying?
- Hassan: Example of a “what to do with a Romance Studies PhD” lecture at Cornell as possible model for programming during a recruitment event

2. Course advertising/undergrad recruiting strategies for next year

- Elizabeth: What other strategies could we use to encourage students to take our courses? Videos to show in class?
- Amy: Oliver and Nefi have been working on videos, student testimonials
- Oliver: There has been a question about how to publish/distribute video content. The main website can’t handle videos. Our YouTube channel has 6 subscribers
- [NB: Our new website, to be launched very soon, features video content – mainly student testimonials]
- Valérie: We have a repository of electronic flyers, posters, and other materials from 2018.
- Dorothea: The LAC sections for Neuroscience have been successful. We should find other ways to engage students in other departments and bring them in.

3. Hiring plan and strategies for the next cycle

- Ellen: The position requests remaining on our list from last year are: modern/contemporary Hispanic Studies, Portuguese/Lusophone Studies, and medieval Iberian studies. Will get advice from Dean's Office about the expectations for this cycle (during the leadership transition in the College) and follow up with the relevant sections to tweak/revise the requests.