

## **Report for Winter Policy Council Meeting**

Ad Hoc Committee for the PhD Colloquium

Reporting to Étienne Rouwette

Chair: Laura Black

Members: Ed Anderson, Larry Gottschamer, Jill Kuhlberg, Len Malczynski, Erika Palmer

### 1. Main events and achievements of 2015

- Re-structured PhD Colloquium to:
  - Focus on works-in-process (rather than nearly finished research)
  - Focus student-plenary / discussants on commonly shared challenges in PhD SD work
  - Better support doctoral students undertaking system dynamics with varying degrees of local institutional support
  - Increase constructive interactions between Colloquium students and experienced SD-ists
- Established concept of angel advisors, experienced SD-ists to interact personally with specific Colloquium participants during the PhD Colloquium Poster Session
- Scheduled 2015 PhD Colloquium Poster Session to take place between the end of the Policy Council Meeting and the start of the Welcome Reception on the Sunday of the conference with plans to provide snacks and drinks
- Executed pilot of angel advisor participation in PhD Colloquium Poster Session at 2015 conference

### 2. Main aims for 2016

- Increase capacities of Colloquium to support students with varying degrees of local institutional support on their system dynamics works-in-process
- Repeat pilot of angel advisor interactions, including
  - Recruiting angel advisors for Colloquium Poster Session
  - Asking each Colloquium Poster Session participant to create and post 1-minute video on what they're researching and what they most want help with two weeks before the Conference
  - Matching each angel advisor with two to three Colloquium Poster Session participants
  - Asking angel advisors to prepare by reading their Colloquium Poster Session advisees' abstracts and watching their online video posts
  - Providing snacks and drinks to visitors to the Colloquium poster session
  - Observing interactions during Colloquium plenaries, oral presentations, and poster session
- Collect written feedback from Colloquium participants, angel advisors, and discussants
- Incorporate learning and feedback into 2017 PhD Colloquium planning

### 3. Support, cooperation and resources needed as well as potential obstacles/issues

- Support from experienced SD-ists, many of whom are Policy Council members, in serving as angel advisors
- Continued support from the SD Society office in scheduling the PhD Colloquium at a time between the Policy Council Meeting's conclusion and the Welcome Reception's beginning, and in a place that allows easy access for Policy Council members
- Modicum of financial support for snacks and drinks for Colloquium Poster Session visitors