

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

Ad Hoc Committee Advising the PhD Colloquium, reporting to Len Malczynski

Chair: Laura Black

Members: Ed Anderson, Larry Gottschamer, Erika Palmer

### 1. Main events and achievements of 2016

- Continued PhD Colloquium to:
  - Focus on works-in-process (rather than nearly finished research)
  - Focus student-plenary / discussants on often-shared challenges in PhD SD work
  - Better acknowledge and support doctoral students undertaking system dynamics with varying degrees of local institutional support
  - Increase constructive interactions between students and experienced SD-ists
- Surveyed Colloquium participants; 40+% of responders identified as self-taught in SD
- Repeated pilot of angel advisors, experienced SD-ists to interact personally with specific Colloquium participants during the PhD Colloquium Poster Session
  - PhD Colloquium Poster participants make short video shared with angel advisors; angel advisors review video and abstract in advance of meeting with students
  - Increased participation of PhD Colloquium Poster participants
  - Surveyed advisors after conference; low response rate, but
    - almost all mentioned video and abstract as helpful pre-briefing, allowing easy recognition at Colloquium poster session;
    - some mentioned value of meeting with student after poster session;
    - all indicate goodwill and wish to serve doctoral students well
- Scheduled 2016 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
- *Note related report from Student Chapter*: Established several peer-mentoring groups to increase interaction and support among graduate students during non-conference months

### 2. Main aims for 2017

- Continue increasing capacities of Colloquium to support students with varying degrees of local institutional support on their system dynamics works-in-process
- Alter format of PhD Colloquium, including World Café and Open Space style events, to increase interactions between senior system dynamicists and graduate students
- Incorporate learning and feedback into 2018 PhD Colloquium planning
- Explore enhanced coordination among Summer School, PhD Colloquium, conference

### 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 and in participating in other forums with graduate students such as World Café and Open Space conversations
- Continued support from the SD Society office in scheduling the PhD Colloquium Poster Session 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 financial support for snacks / drinks for Colloquium Poster Session visitors
- *Note related report from Student Chapter:* Financial support for electronic meeting subscription to support multiple peer mentoring groups