

## Faculty Meeting

April 7, 2025

DSL 499 2:30p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

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Present: Peter Beerli, Hristo Chipilski, Nick Dexter, Gordon Erlebacher, Chen Huang, Alan Lemmon, Anke Meyer-Baese, Tomek Plewa, Bryan Quaife, Sachin Shanbhag, Kevin Speer, Xiaoqiang Wang, Olmo Zavala Romero

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1. The department has money to fund TAs and RAs for summer 2025
2. The department can fund four new RAs in fall 2025. There are no new TA positions for fall 2025
3. There was a discussion on how to administer the prelim exams. Currently, the preliminary written exam is a take-home exam. Most faculty agreed that the format for the written portion should change to an in-class (closed-book) exam and a take-home exam. The potential use of AI is a reality, so the in-class exam is a mechanism that would hinder the use of AI. There was a consensus that the oral exam should be more rigorous. This year's (May 2025) written portion will follow the old scheme, and the oral portion will be more rigorous. Student entering our department in Fall 2025 will be informed that the preliminary exam in Summer 2026 will be different from the current one; Peter and some faculty will work on a proposal of for the written exam over the summer; faculty will discuss and vote on the preliminary exam changes at the first faculty meeting in Fall 2025.