

Plant Biology Graduate Student Organization
Meeting Minutes
Fall Semester 2013

September 4th, 2013

Students Present: Lisa, Jeff, Sam, Dani, Anna, Chad, Dan, Colleen, Jonathan, Klara, Kristen, Tiffany, Ellie, Paul, Dave, Colin (skyping from KBS)

Update on current positions and discussion of responsibilities:

President – Kristen Nolting

Treasurer- Emily Dittmar

Secretary – Dani Fegan

Webmaster –Lisa Stelzner

Retreat – previously Dave Minor (We need to find out if there is going to be a graduate student retreat this year.)

Social Committee – Anna Groves

KBS Liaison – Colin Kremer

SAC (Student Advisory Committee for CNS) – previously Jeff Simpson, now Ellie Siler

GEU - Tiffany Liu

COGS – previously Kent Kovac (now on Executive Board), being replaced by Paul Helling

Diversity Committee—Dan Brickley

Department Advisory Council — TBD

Graduate Committee- Chad Zirbel

Curriculum Committee- Jonathan Markey

Seminar Committee- Kristen Nolting (interest from Paul Helling for future)

Soda – previously Dan Brickley, replaced by Jonathan Markey

T-shirts –previously Dan Brickley, replaced by Sam Perez

Retreat Committee Idea: Jon proposed a teaching workshop, potentially inviting somebody from the BioSci faculty. It was suggested that if we do this, we should invite a variety of speakers, potentially from off-campus and with a variety of teaching styles.

Announcements:

Social Committee (Anna Groves) – Tailgate, bar crawl, and chili cook-off are the planned events. Plans to have chili cook-off during the Fall. Funding has already been applied for! Tailgating could possibly be on September 14th. Chili cook-off tentatively on October 18th. Bar crawl tentatively November 16th. Tentatively planning one event per month.

GEU (Tiffany Liu) – Quarterly payment option for dependents on Aetna health insurance is now available. International TAs are only supposed to work twenty hours a week. Lansing Labor Council meeting tonight at 7 pm. Cosponsoring a trivia night with COGS September 24th at Dublin Square.

Tiffany will email the grad list more detailed notes.

Diversity Committee (Dan Brickley) – If anybody ever experiences any issues that inhibits you as a graduate student, feel free to get a hold of Dan and he can discuss it at the committee. He also has a lot of information on resources for a wide variety of resources in the area. The Diversity Committee is sponsoring a seminar speaker every year (would like to focus on LGBT issues during first year). Pass along any candidate nominations to Dan.

Plant Biology Graduate Student Organization

Monthly Meeting

November 11th, 2013

Students present: Lisa, Tiffany, Jeff, Dave, Dani, Paul, Anna, Ellie, Carina, Sam

Updates:

Social Committee (Anna): All of reimbursement forms for COGS have been filled out for chili cook-off. At last minute, had to purchase more chili cups (~\$50) – can this be reimbursed by GSO? Anna will discuss with treasurer and president. The annual bar crawl is on Saturday, November 16th. She is currently trying to choose a start time and select locations. An email will be sent out by Wednesday, November 13th.

Retreat Committee: We're unsure if somebody planned on asking if there was funding for this. We need to talk to the GSO president about this in the next few weeks.

Webmaster (Lisa): Alan (Plant Bio secretary) has volunteered to update Current PLB Students page on the department website and is currently looking for updated pictures and research descriptions.

SAC (Ellie) – No news relevant to graduate students. However, they are seeking ideas for ways to better test people on their understanding of science.

COGS (Paul) – Nothing relevant to graduate students.

T-shirts (Sam) – Email will be coming out this week regarding t-shirt design competition. Send any ideas you have to Sam. In the past, we have submitted designs with one color and send them in black and white to printing company. Dan has information regarding t-shirt printing from previous year. Dave also has information on place where aprons were printed.

GEU (Tiffany) – Overlap in TAs between spring and summer semesters was big issue (TAs didn't get paid for a week of work). GEU held a rally. Names and amounts of money not paid were read at podium. Member of Board of Trustees got in touch with GEU and is willing to work with them. There is a general

membership meeting this Wednesday, November 13th at 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. A lunch voucher will be provided for attendance at this meeting.

Other announcements:

Plant Biology Faculty Search – There will be another search for a Plant Biology faculty hire. Make sure to be in attendance at meetings and give any feedback to Susan (our representative).

GLBRC Biochemistry/Plant Biology Faculty Search – The job ad is coming out in the very near future.

Plant Biology

Graduate Student Organization

December 9th, 2013

Members Present: Chad, Lisa, Kristen, Dani, Emily, Colleen, Teresa

Discussion with Dr. Alan Prather, graduate program director.

- The Plant Biology five year evaluation currently going on. It has actually been seven years. Discussion with Dr. Klomparens, the graduate school dean. Completion and time to degree are the only statistics our department is currently lagging in. Completion defined as if a student has completed in eight years or not. Current time to degree is 6.7 years which is tied for the highest in the college.
 - Underrepresented groups actually have a longer time to completion. Dr. Klomparens has been interested in promoting underrepresented groups. AGEP has started some sort of group that meets once a month. Everybody discusses progress at these meetings and there is usually a presentation or discussion of something related to professional development, etc... Dr. Klomparens suggested something similar to us. Dr. Prather suggested that we could use our GSO meeting time for this.
 - PLB GSO discussed a few potential ideas for these meetings.
 - Look at the list we put together last year for ways to promote faculty-student discussion in Plant Biology. Send this to Alan
- The department needs to develop some recruitment materials for prospective graduate students. Alan would like our ideas. One idea is to put together a slide of information for faculty to include at the end of presentations for students that might be interested in applying to graduate school. Dr. Prather heard our ideas for this. If we have any other ideas, feel free to contact Alan.
- Comment from GSO: If we could have more time to look over faculty search materials before we are required to submit feedback, that would be beneficial.

Other Updates

Faculty Committee (Kristen) – Nothing to report.

Treasurer (Emily) – We currently have close to \$1,300, which should be good for paying up front for the T-shirts.

T-shirt Committee (representative not present) – Designs were due on the 6th, but group hasn't received options to vote, yet.

Graduate Committee (Chad) – The department is changing the guidelines for the written proposal. They will be setting more restrictions to clarify rules in the handbook. Also, they will make a committee meeting mandatory every year, but any sort of comprehensive exam, proposal presentation, etc... will count as a meeting. Additionally, the department is thinking about having one committee member aside from your advisor write up a one page summary of every committee meeting, which will be sent to the rest of the committee and student.

Faculty Search (Dani) – Dr. Ohlrogge is preparing for a future faculty search and was seeking a graduate student rep. GSO discussed current option for a student representative.

GSO-related (Kristen) – Looking for someone to act as co-president next semester in order to ease the transition. Email will be sent out to see who is interested. Also, need to finalize who will be on seminar committee.