

Plant Biology Graduate Student Organization Meetings Fall 2018

Plant Biology GSO Meeting 12/19/18

Attending: Teresa Clark, Bruce Martin, Eleanore Ritter, Jeremy Pardo, Nolan Bornowski, Danielle Young, Adam Seroka, Brian St Aubin

Teresa: Presented Yair's idea for the first years to present at WAWC as a group. The two first years here are tentatively on board, but they'd need at least one other first year on board to do it.

How can we get people more involved in WAWC? → Some people want it actually after work, but if it started at 5:00 more people would be gone already (family obligations, etc). If you did shift it to 5:00, you'd probably get more students and fewer professors

Adam (DAC committee): The DAC is contemplating what to do with students who join labs who aren't PLB. Can we give them \$ in a different department (PSF \$). The PSF \$ mostly comes from higher up in the university, but each of the departments contribute something to it. The thought is if you're not in PLB, you're not doing PLB things (ex: Jeremy). Some people think that as long as half of your committee is plant bio and you do one plant bio rotation, that's fine. If you have a non-PLB PI, do they know the requirements of different departments?

Core identity of plant bio: should it be an umbrella program with no degree? Or should it be a degree-granting program? There are so many other degree options like EEBB, MPS, etc. How many courses should plant bio students be required to take? It's only 2 now, should it be even less? Jeremy and Alan are examples of people in horticulture labs who wanted to stay in the plant biology department- shows that plant bio as a department is its own unique entity.

What is the purpose of the comprehensive exam? Do we need to have 2, or could there be 1? At the moment it seems like we'll stick with 2. The other departments that have 2 generally have a written generally knowledge exam followed by the written dissertation proposal + defense.

Eleanore (long-range planning committee): most of the focus is on PLB 801 and how it will be changing. Suggestions from Marjorie, Diane, etc for how to change it. Get more people to participate, different faculty/students come in every week so it's not just one person's problem.

What is the goal of 801? Is it to introduce students to the different labs in PLB? Or is it to catch everyone up to speed on the basics of plant bio, which is a really broad discipline. Not that it achieves that goal now. Current goal: give incoming students a similar starting place/background in plant bio. Also, how would you assess the students to see if it achieves that goal? Maybe have the PI come in and do a lecture on the broad ideas that drive their lab's research (Ex: speciation, plant immunity, metabolism, etc) so it's not just them presenting what their lab does. Include paper discussions somewhere in this.

Brian (SAC): President search. A series of questions to get an idea of what people in the college were thinking. Ex: What are some of the challenges students are experiencing today? The university wants to switch to a block tuition type of system (pay for going to school full-time vs per-credit. Would allow you to take more classes without paying more, but if you're not taking a full load of courses it would be more expensive for you). Housing prices, there's new construction (will be very expensive). But we just need more housing. Qualities/expectations for the new president (articulate, transparent, etc). A committee will develop a very short list, those people will come in and do interviews. It's closed right now while people are applying. Maybe the president can live on campus. Focus on short and long-term success of students. Combat department silos-build communities. Ex: I want to be part of a community that... Need more inclusion of African American / LGBT communities.

Brian (curriculum committee): review departmental changes to classes as well as what classes are required for what degrees. How many credits will a class be? Who's available to take the class? Covers undergrad + grad classes. Zero from plant biology.

Danielle (social committee): not much of an update. I'm considering an escape room event (would have to gauge interest, people might have to pay for themselves. It's probably about \$20/person), another board game night, and a bowling night event in the spring semester.

Jeremy (grad committee): last meeting- who to invite for recruitment weekend. Recruitment weekend is Feb 1st (first weekend in February). There will be about 40-44 students (pretty big, that's the total # for all of the departments. Includes hort, psm, plb, the plant people from biochemistry). Not all are PLB. Plant bio put forth 12 people, but that's in addition to the PLB/MPS and PLB/PBGB applications. The plant people of BMS/MPS are not coming in that weekend. They thought the game night in MPS went well, but it was suggested that we find a venue not on campus, even if we have to pay for it. Then faculty could contribute to prohibited items. Maybe consider a large room in the Marriott hotel. Then the people who want to end the night there are already at the hotel and the ones who want to go out to EL bars can meet in the lobby. They want plant bio to take the lead on planning, but grad students from hort + psm want to be involved in planning too. Circulate an email after break about who wants to be involved in planning recruitment weekend.

There's a basketball game that Saturday, plan around that.

Jeremy (plant bio survival guide): finished compiling the section on comprehensive exams, started a list of grants/fellowships that are available. Format of committee meetings (should the advisor be asked to leave the room at one point?)

Other topics for survival guide: writing your thesis, dissertation defense. Most people leave shortly after doing that, hard to get advice. Maybe a flow chart of decisions (are you in PLB? Yes/No, etc). We can also add resources to the ones Jeremy has compiled.

Plant Biology GSO meeting 11/21/2018

**Most recent meeting at top*

Attending: Teresa, Jeremy, Nolan, Bruce, Eleanore, Sarah, Danielle, Jason

Recap Chili Cookoff: Not as many attending the chili cookoff as we would have liked, but still went well. In the future should start advertising 3 weeks before the event. MPS doesn't want us to have the chili cookoff there because of food issues. Trying to find other options apart from BPS to have future chili cookoffs.

T-shirts: Still up to buy. Have them ready by the chili cookoff. Maybe try something other than T-shirts.

Long range planning: Want more diversity in the department. Talk of doing a joint first year student office. Diane wants to talk to the people that we TA for as a reevaluation. Wants to make sure that everything that is part of the grad program is useful. 804 will be changed to incorporate Tami's professional development course for the impacts program.

801 should be improved through more organization and a better focus on understanding what we need to know from each field of plant biology. Point of plant biology class was to learn about the fields that you don't do. Seems to have lost that objective. Need to create some incentive for professors to teach the class. Seems professors have lost interest in the class. Maybe replace it with a discussion group, help build cohort.

Updates from

Social Committee: Board game night trying to make a budget to have pizza, soda, homemade food. \$50. **PLB 168 just the social committee Nov 30th 6:00.**

Danielle will take over for me taking notes on Dec 19 to replace Sarah. youngd34@msu.edu

Christopher Warneke: warnekec@msu.edu

Jeremy: comprehensive exam advice book. How to prepare for the exam, not many responses. Seems like you need to ask your committee what kind of questions you need to be prepared for, set up one on one meetings with them to see what they will ask you on comps.

Send any resources for mental health to **Jeremy**, putting together a resource list.

Plant Biology GSO meeting 10/17/2018

**Most recent meeting at top*

Attending: Teresa, Alan, Michael, Sarah, Nolan, Adam, Joelyn, Alex (Guest), Emily Scott, Brian (New members welcome!)

Meetings: Always the **3rd Wednesday** of every month **10:00AM-11:00AM** in the graduate student lounge **PLB 240**. Graduate Students can get a key from Jan in rm 138. Snacks available here, come and eat them!

Alex has come as our guest and will talk about graduate student needs. Graduate student within integrated biology, Leadership Development Fellow. Here to optimize graduate student success.

What does graduate student success look like?

- Completion rates (only includes PhD graduates in less than 8 years).
- How long it takes to graduate
- Are student's successful in their lives after graduating.

How should we help graduate students be successful?

- PI should help graduate students after they graduate and keep track of them.
- Make them feel like they belong to more of a community.
- Make social activities: Happy hour, WAWC.
- Have mentors throughout graduate experiences.

Input on the PLB 801/PLB 804 introduction class. What is student input on these introduction classes? Suppose to provide an environment for first years to get to know one another.

Michael and Bruce are still working on the T-shirts. They are coming along nicely and they will send them out for a vote on color soon. Will here more about T-shirts on Friday.

Chili cookoff coming soon!!! Sign up please, we need volunteers! Links below. If you would like to make a chili and be entered to win magnificent prizes, please fill out the following form:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScDb6fz8J2PamJXe7re53bWkvVGbobyZILKBl2s7odE6OIN8w/viewform?usp=sf link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScDb6fz8J2PamJXe7re53bWkvVGbobyZILKBl2s7odE6OIN8w/viewform?usp=sf_link)

ASAP. This is so we can order you a t-shirt of the proper size. You may sign up later, but you are not guaranteed to get an appropriately-sized t-shirt. More information for chili chefs is provided on the form.

We also need volunteers to help set up, hang flyers, and especially label cups! Please consider signing up to volunteer on this.
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/120lh3NXD7KGqN0dACPtIJoXDChVPixPTut2QDwypfcw/edit?usp=sharing>

Update from Brian **Student Advisory Committee** if you have something that you want PLB to know tell Brian. (see all contacts under officer tab) SAC is considering doing a 5 year bachelor/master degree.

The post office on campus is closing soon. This is a concern for many people on campus who use this often and can't go to an office outside of MSU. If you do not like this, please let any organizations that you are part of that you disagree with this decision.

Department Advisory Council (DAC): Adam Seroka: If you have an issue with the Plant Department you can also talk to Adam. DAC is talking about long term planning. Want to help define what PLB is. Want PLB to become more integrated and diverse. At least meeting talked about having post docs more involved.

**Most recent meeting at top*

Plant Biology GSO meeting 9/19/2018

Attending: Teresa, Michael, Bruce, Eleanore, Rebecca, Alan, Jeremy, Isaac, Sarah, Nolan, Scott, Joelyn, Jason (New members welcome!)

Meetings: Always the **3rd Wednesday** of every month **10:00AM-11:00AM** in the graduate student lounge **PLB 240**. Graduate Students can get a key from Jan in rm 138. Snacks available here, come and eat them.

Financial review members should have access to the financial records. Though they will not be able to edit. Will be sent the link to the drive.

If anyone wants to reimbursed for something they buy for GSO they need to bring an itemized receipt to Joelyn.

Plant bio tailgate is coming up **September 29th, 12:00** In **PLB parking lot**. Breakfast Pseudo potluck. Bring your own alcohol and any foods you would like to add. Pancakes and some breakfast meat will be provided.

T-shirt **STILL NEED A T-SHIRT DESIGN** for GSO. Please submit T-shirt designs to Michael will send out an email about design for the branches of the tree.

Also need a T-shirt design for the cooks of the chili cook off.

Camping trip weekend of October 5th 1 night Saturday night, around KBS 1 or 1 ½ hr away.

Join GEU! It's a bargaining year.

Plant Biology Graduate Student Organization Meetings Fall 2018

**Most recent meeting at top*

Plant Biology GSO meeting 8/29/2018

Attending: Teresa, Michael, Bruce, Eleanore, Adam, Rebecca, Brian, Alan, Jeremy, Isaac, Shawna, Judy, Sarah, Nolan (New members welcome!)

Meetings: Always the **3rd Wednesday** of every month **10:00AM-11:00AM** in the graduate student lounge **PLB 240**. Graduate Students can get a key from Jan in rm 138. Snacks available here come and eat them.

Contact Info Executive Members:

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Nolan	bornowsk@msu.edu	

Purpose of Meeting: Go over positions within GSO. Nominate and vote, give an overview of what GSO is all about.

Facebook Page "MSU plant science grad student social group" Is present but requires that you are granted access. Contact Teresa if you are interested in joining.

WAWC: Wednesday After Work Club. Informal gathering to talk about science. Someone nominates a speaker, they show two slides, and they introduce a topic. Could be anything from mental health to digital evolution. Help needed: small things like making popcorn, cleaning up, and helping the speaker set up. Contact Shawna if you are interested in this.

Board Game Night: Flyers should be in the hall. 1st Wednesday every month 7:00 MPS atrium.

Prepare for upcoming events: Chili cookoff. Tentative date: **November 2nd**. Every Fall. Christina is a good person to ask questions in the club. More details to be determined.

There are seminars Friday. More details to come. Trying to integrate the different fields of biology.

T-Shirt Design Needed: Calling all creative people! Please send any ideas that you have for a new T-shirt design to Michael Foisy. This will be the T-shirt that all of the GSO members wear and sell to the public to fund us.

Officers:

- President - Teresa Clark (Fall 2018 only) and Christina Azodi (Spring 2019 only)
- Treasurer - Joelyn de Lima
- Secretary/Webmaster - Sarah Lee
- Social Committee - Christopher Warneke, Danielle Young, Alan Yocca

Representatives:

- SAC Representative - Brian St. Aubin
- CDC Representative - Jason Olsen
- GEU Representative - Alan Yocca
- DAC Representative - Adam Seroka
- PLB Graduate Committee Representatives - Jeremy Pardo, Emily Jennings
- PLB Seminar Committee Representative -- Scott Warner

Other Positions:

- Outreach Committee - Alan Yocca, Rebecca Shay
- T-shirt Coordinator - Michael Foisy
- SLS Committee - Isaac Osei-Bonsu, Eleanore Ritter
- Grad Lounge Soda & GSO Meeting Snacks Coordinator - Bruce Martin