

Plant Biology Graduate Student Organization Meetings Fall 2019

**Most recent meeting at top*

Plant Biology GSO meeting 8/27/19

Attending: Sarah Lee, Christina, Alan, Eleanore, Adam, Shawna, Rebecca, Luke, Bruce, Colter, Emily, Serina, Kala, Mckenna, Emily Jennings, Daniel,

Introduction of GSO

Happy Hour this Friday!

Yair wants some older students to come in and talk about PLB 801. Talk about comps or whatever.

Elections:

President (Emily Jennings): The president leads GSO meetings, schedules meeting times for each semester and checks in with officers and committee members to report on meetings they attended. The president also attends PLB faculty meetings and reports on what is discussed at the GSO meetings and sends occasional emails to graduate students asking for input from faculty.

Treasurer (Bethany): Manages money for all GSO activities.

Secretary/Webmaster (Sarah Lee): Responsibilities include recording attendance, taking brief notes on topics discussed at GSO meetings, and upkeep on the GSO website. Minutes are typed up and e-mailed to all the of the PLB grad students (and are posted on the GSO website).

Social Committee (Alan, Daniel, Nolan, Mckena): Organizes the annual PLB Chili Cook-off and other plant biology graduate student events. Previous events have included: bar crawls, tailgates, wildflower walks, and gatherings at local bars and parks.

Additional GSO Positions

T-shirts (Emily): PLB designs and prints t-shirts for the department once every year. This committee member organizes design submissions, votes for the favored design, orders for shirts, and coordinates with the t-shirt supplier.

Soda & Snacks (Serena): Keeps the grad lounge soda stocked (soda can be purchased for \$0.50/can) and buys the snacks for our monthly GSO meeting (\$\$ from COGS)

KBS liaison (Ravi): Graduate students stationed at the Kellogg Biological Station (KBS) who set up streaming of GSO meetings by Skype and relay suggestions and updates from Plant Biology students at KBS.

Outreach Coordinator (Rebecca, Julian): In order to further the PLB GSO's outreach mission, the Outreach Coordinator(s) organize public outreach events as well as facilitate PLB participation in broader campus outreach events. Responsibilities include distributing outreach opportunities to PLB GSO members, organizing events to be hosted by the GSO, and interfacing with the PLB Communications Coordinator to publicly advertise such efforts.

Student Postdoc Lecture Series (Eleanore and Bruce): Recruits presenters, organizes the schedule and programming for the Student Post-Doc Lecture Series, and sends out email reminders to the PLB graduate students. Also buys snacks and refreshments that we provide, gratis. The SPLS is an informal seminar series where grad students and post-docs in Plant Biology present on their research or any interesting 'hot' topics. In the past students have presented from related Plant Science programs present as well.

University Committees:

Student Advisory Committee (Eleanore Ritter): The College of Natural Sciences Student Advisory Council (SAC) is an organization whose purpose is to advise the Dean on issues concerning undergraduate and graduate students within the college and to promote the interests of these students. This position entails going to one meeting a month (Wednesday evenings) with the heads of the College of Natural Sciences and a grad representative from each science department, where you discuss new changes to the sciences at MSU and other information for you to pass on to your department. <https://natsci.msu.edu/students/current-students/organizations/student-advisory-council-sac/>

Council on Diversity & Community (vacant): The College of Natural Science Council on Diversity and Community (CDC) is charged with advising CNS on issues relevant to creating a supportive and diverse community. CDC activities include identifying tools and resources for handling work-life balance and creating environments where diversity in background and lifestyle are believed to be an asset in advancing the success of the college. The Council meets once monthly and is an excellent opportunity for individuals to help shape the community they work in and that of the university. <https://natsci.msu.edu/faculty-staff/committees/cdc-mission-bylaws>

Graduate Employees Union (Alan Yocca): The Graduate Employee Union (GEU) gives graduate students the support to work to the best of their abilities, holds the university accountable for its actions, and ensures that graduate employees will be treated like professionals. Responsibilities of the position are to provide access to resources if anyone has grievances about work, feels that the university is not fulfilling our union contract, or generally has questions about acceptable/appropriate work practices. There are bi-weekly stewards meetings

with the GEU but you are not expected to attend every one. This position is best for a graduate student who has TAed before. <http://geuatmsu.org/>

Council of Graduate Students (Sarah Lee): The Council of Graduate Students (COGS) is the authorized student government for all graduate/professional students at Michigan State University. The full council meets once a month to discuss issues related to graduate/professional students. COGS organizes campus wide events for graduate/professional students and also funds student events and research. Meetings are on the first or second Wednesday of each month from 6:30-8:30pm. <https://cogs.msu.edu/>

Department Committees:

Department Advisory Council (Adam Seroka): The Department Advisory Council (DAC) member attends meetings once a month to discuss departmental happenings and provide feedback to the chair. The DAC member brings grad student concerns to the DAC and also reports to the GSO on DAC meetings.

Graduate Committee (Jeremy Pardo, Luke Gregory): Reviews applications to the PLB grad program and helps determine who gets admitted. Meets 1-3 times a year to decide on offers. From December-February this position involves reading a lot of applications (on D2L). This committee member also discusses changes made to the Graduate Student Handbook.

Seminar Committee (Scott Warner): Organizes the student nominations and votes for the student invited speaker for Monday seminars in PLB. Also organizes the graduate student and postdoc lunch with the speakers. Meets twice a year with the committee.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (tabled for next month): A new standing committee planned to be created to replace the current ad hoc DEI committee. The faculty will vote to officially initiate this committee (and provide a description) at the first faculty meeting in September. Temporary description: The DEI member attends meetings [once a month?] to discuss issues and ideas regarding how we as a department can foster a culture where every member of PLB feels valued and inspired to achieve individual and common goals.

WAWC (Bruce Martin): Social hour for faculty to come and talk. Popcorn. Get beverages to and from the room. Shawna.

Final notes

Happy hour this Friday

Tailgate scheduled 9/7

Chili cookoff tentatively 11/15

9/20 board game night