

**PLB GSO meeting
February 2, 2015**

Attending: Emily, Carina, Christina, Brian, Colleen, Lisa, Sam

Carina will cover for Emily at the faculty meeting this month, since Emily is traveling.

Teresa – Graduate Committee

"At a previous GSO meeting, I relayed a soon-to-be new policy for dissertations, where students would need to include a layman's abstract in addition to the normal abstract. The layman's abstract would allow the general public to understand what the dissertation is about. The GSO responded that we'd like to have a webpage or something dedicated to hosting these abstracts so the public could actually read them without having to pull up individual dissertations. I brought this message back to the graduate committee and their response was that a webpage like that would likely not be maintained. The impression I got was that if we wanted to have something like that, we'd need to be in charge of setting it up and maintaining it."

Brian – COGS

- GAC conference is this month, on Feb. 27. It is all day long on a Friday. A speaker is going to talk about work-life balance and aim it for PhDs. There will be free chair massages, and posters and research talks.

-A new site for Spartan Village housing has been chosen across from the Breslin Center on Harrison Road. New apartments will be constructed, some for graduate student housing. Blueprints will be reviewed by COGS and they want graduate student input.

-April 25 is Taste of East Lansing festival. They want performers or bands to sign up.

-There are now funds (grants) for homeownership with certain income levels in Lansing and East Lansing. Brian thinks it is not like a loan you have to pay back, but he will look into it more.

-Looking for reps for MSU Tobacco-free taskforce.

Colleen – DAC

-no DAC meeting in January. However, the committee has breakfast with the chair candidates.

Sam- SAC

-“Computation Science, Math and Engineering” will be a new department by August if the Board of Trustees approves by April. It will part of CNS. They currently have five involved faculty (already at MSU) for its first year. 7 faculty searches will start by next fall. Shin-Han is involved in the new department but we aren't sure of his role. The department will take on existing classes. For the first year, it will be an

undergraduate minor and a graduate certificate. The second year they will start an undergrad major. They would like a master's and PhD program.

-From recruiting weekends, they found out that it is more useful for recruits to meet with each other in larger groups than if they don't get to meet other recruits.

-Limit of 100 university fellowships this year. They offered 60 recruiting fellowships and Plant Bio got 16 of those. 10 of the 60 are for underrepresented groups.

-Academic competitiveness funds is a \$15 million/yr program for science, engineering and health science. This is to increase faculty hires and fund proposals. 25 proposals university-wide have been submitted. Some groups of faculty within Plant Biology have submitted proposals.

-Math requirements for undergrads are changing

Christina - T-shirts

-We made about \$200-300 on t-shirts. She has enough interest to have a second order, because the extras sold out right away. They will just cost more than the original order because we will meet a smaller order limit. Also, Underground Printing has a photo contest for people wearing their shirts, and you get \$100 off your next order. We should take picture of us wearing our shirts at our next events and submit it to them.