

PLB GSO Meeting 1.18.2017

Attending: Teresa, Christopher, Christina, Beth, Klara, Matt, Chad, Colleen, Shawna, Meredith

- Student Lecture Series
 - Clint needs help; duties include setting a time, emailing volunteers to present, getting snacks (you will be reimbursed), and sending email reminders
- DAC updates (Colleen)
 - Let Colleen/Teresa know if there are student concerns to bring up at faculty meeting
- Steering committee (Christina)
 - They've made their recommendations
 - Changing Monday seminar time? Either not Monday (to avoid Sunday flights) and/or a different time to allow for a social afterward
- GEU (Shawna)
 - Immigration issues—law professors available for meeting
 - Can we put this on the GSO website (Anna?)
 - Information session after 100 days
- Graduate Committee: recruitment weekend
 - 18 potential students interviewing Thu 2/2-Sun 2/5
 - Plant science recruitment planning meeting tomorrow Thu 2/19 in PLB240
 - Main student contribution is hanging out with recruits on Saturday (2/4) (last year they did a housing tour of Lansing)—email Christina if interested!
 - Potentially a hockey game & dinner
 - Christina will ask about getting potential student bios
- Faculty meetings (Teresa)
 - Exam deadlines have changed to 4th semester oral, 5th semester proposal
 - PLB consequence for not passing on time is inability to apply for summer travel funding
 - Ask for clarification on the consequences for missing the deadline, extenuating circumstances, etc.
- GII faculty search is ongoing—go to talks and lunches, and fill out candidate forms and deliver to the PLB office at the end of January (after final candidate Emily Joseph)
 - The next talk is Thu 1/26 9am
- SAC meeting today
- COGS (Teresa standing in for Joelyn)
 - Women's Advisory Committee to the VP is working directly on women's issues—women's forum/resource fair tentatively proposed for March—email ideas to Teresa
 - Opening resource access to males with families as well?
 - Issues on tap are mentoring, professional development, safety
- CDC (Teresa)
 - Racial Equity Subcommittee: panel of undergrads to discuss how classrooms can be improved as part of a workshop series for early faculty
 - Muslim Support Subcommittee: event to celebrate Muslim scientists this fall, a distinguished speaker and showcase that might rotate around campus

- Transgender Rights Subcommittee: getting access to LGBTQ center handbook; discussing access to public restrooms and updated map
- Outreach Coordinators (Beth & Klara)
 - Volunteer for events in email (Science Festival, Girls Math and Science Day)—email Beth or Klara if interested
 - GSO participation will be noted so we can put it online. Beth and Klara will contact people at events for information, pictures, etc.
 - Science Festival idea--laboratory tours for kids & families
- Graduate student initiatives
 - Writing groups
 - Anna has one going, Teresa is advertising one, Friesen lab has one (?)
 - Once a month seminar for faculty to come talk about writing issues
 - Different types and styles of writing, how to choose a journal, grants, job applications, cover letters, recommendation letters
 - Suggested Marjorie Weber (scientific publications, telling a good story, structuring and finishing a paper); Rob Last (cover letters in both academic and industry); Alan Prather (rec letters); Shin Han, Maren, and Lars (NSF grants, 10 minutes of advice + 30 minute panel)
 - KBS Academic Pathways Seminar
 - <http://www.kbs.msu.edu/education/graduate-program/>
 - Focus on mentoring this spring
 - Can teleconference in

PLB GSO Meeting 2/15/2017

Attending: Teresa, Caitlyn, Adam, Chad, Christopher, Meredith, Christina, Beth, Brian, Shawna, Sam

- Recruitment meeting (Christina)
 - Buddy system was helpful
 - Suggestion to stage people at certain locations to direct people (less helpful for asking questions of grad students though)
 - Good feedback from tours
 - Room and scheduling mistakes
 - Recruits not fans of Friday morning presentations—need more guidelines/a template and clarify what the presentation is for/how casual it should be
 - Negative response to hockey game
 - Alternatives: house party (transportation, game room), bowling/laser tag, dinner reservations (Beggar's?)
 - PSMB—how will this work next year? Applying through BMB or PSF (similar to EEBB's nested program)
 - Poster session more like EEBB
 - Organizing earlier (Dec)
 - PSF recipients being required to help that weekend
- Wednesday After Work
 - Small vs. large group discussions

- Shin Han is requesting help from grad students with snacks/popcorn
- Funds? Faculty keeping a money pot going (donations) or charging a small fee for refreshments or asking faculty to donate per event
- Need a new donation box
- Monthly
- Getting popcorn machine
- Seminars
 - PRL PLB Split
 - PRL keeping Monday 4pm slot. New options Mon 11am, Wed 10:45am
 - Wed 12-1pm: SPLS and EEBC Colloquium every other week—this might conflict with graduate lunch every week, and PRL has pizza lunch on Wednesdays
 - 2 Monday seminars might be too much—preference for Wednesday 10:45pm
 - We would lose the after-seminar social event if it's in the morning—possibly no way around this with rooms. Could we still do this later in the day? Trade-off between lunch and social hour
 - Is the Wednesday slot immediately followed by the grad student lunch?
 - Check with BPS—1410, 1415 and 1425 are run through the physiology and physics departments and may be open at a better time
 - What about Wednesday 4pm?
 - Idea is to have a mix of internal and external speakers
 - Eva's invitation for Roger Wise
 - Potentially interest in PLB
 - Plant Pathology, PSM, or Horticulture might be better for co-hosting
 - Get Danny to email other departments as well to advertise
 - Would need to be Thursday morning
 - Someone needs to sign-in sheet from seminars—Beth? Or have someone look for it and put it in Teresa's mailbox
- Teaching workshop for underrepresented minorities on inclusive classrooms is upcoming
- GII Search
 - High participation from grad students on candidate feedback
- Mentoring, career opportunities, safety concerns id'd by female students; Women's Advisory Committee working on an event in March to address this. Free, and child care will be provided. Goal is to provide a list of needs and follow through for the vice president. GWIS might be able to volunteer discussion facilitators (Beth).
- Darwin Day was this past weekend. Should we have our own booth in the future, or just keep general volunteers from our department? Stronger representation for plants in the booths would be better.
- Student and Postdoc Lecture Series
 - Wednesday, 12-1pm
 - Link is being sent around to sign up for 20 or 45 minute talks
 - Faculty not explicitly invited but it's open to them
 - Not a currently formalized requirement to give a talk a year, but will fill this requirement
 - 1 faculty workshop per semester—have someone who can do a time management workshop soon
- SAC

- Currently state contribution to MSU funding is 15%, which is a decrease from 2007.
- There are currently 27 (10%) faculty position openings in CNS, mostly to be hired in the GII search.
- Made 61 offers of recruiting fellowships to grad students this year. 11 went to PLB recruits.
- Dean Kirkpatrick stepping down, a national search for replacement is starting. There is a grad student involved on this committee already. Hiring new assistant dean.
- Molecular Plant Sciences has been approved by CNS Curriculum Committee. Going to university and state level for approval.
- 8 year time limit for PhD. 1 extension (1-2 years) will be approved per graduate student, with benchmarks and a timeline provided.

PLB GSO Meeting 15 March 2017

Attending: Teresa, Brian, Isaac, Christopher, Caitlyn, Colleen, Meredith, Christina

- Social Events
 - Bar Crawl is Friday, March 17th. Caitlyn will email the schedule today.
 - WWAK on 1st Wednesday of every month
 - Invite people! They don't need to be in PLB.
 - Push for donations. We may need some change available.
 - IOU's—a box? Ask for get an exception from an individual person who will hold you accountable? Or not at all so people have to bring money? Have a one month limit—if you have an IOU from the month before, you can't do so again? Do we want to use square cash or Pay Pal sent to 1 person?
- Plant Resilience Institute (PRI) Faculty Search
 - Mostly focused on crops, improving crop resilience
 - Caitlyn is the grad student rep on the search committee. She is encouraging grad students to get involved in this process. The hiring committee is listening to opinions/feedback from students.
 - There will be lunches for grad students/postdocs. Please attend these.
 - The first candidate is coming soon and will be hosted by Forestry (The 21st at 9am in PLB 168). There are 4-5 candidates that PLB is hosting or co-hosting. The first PLB candidate (Alison Bennett) will be here next week also, towards the end of the week. The grad student lunch will be on the 23rd at noon. This talk will be on the 24th. There will be an email about the lunch and the talks. Please sign up to attend this lunch. We would look bad if people don't sign up, and we will need to see how we interact with the candidate and how they interact with students.
 - People like the idea of a spreadsheet for the grad student lunches. This will depend on who is doing the organizing.
- PLB is considering doing a fall retreat (one day, on campus). The planning committee is currently in flux.
- DAC (Colleen)
 - Space remodels
 - Budget cuts
 - Criteria for faculty annual evaluations

- Diversity Council (Teresa)
 - Wednesday 3/29 is a Muslim film screening in S Kedzie—ask Teresa for details
 - Racial Equity Subcommittee is working with undergraduates to creating videos on improving experiences at MSU
 - Panel for instructors was held, where undergraduates of different minority groups discussed what would improve classroom. Follow up panel is being planned to discuss potential solutions.
- Grad Committee (Christina)
 - Emily Josephs and Chad Neiderhuth were approved for hire, waiting for offers to be sent
 - This was a very successful recruiting year in terms of numbers—we are still waiting on who is coming to MSU in fall 2017
- Women’s Advisory Council (Teresa for Joelyn)
 - Mentoring, career preparation, and safety were identified as a major issues for female students in a survey
 - Upcoming forum with sessions on each issue. Scheduled for Wed 3/29/17. We will need volunteers!
- SPLS (Christina)
 - Turnout this semester is good, but there are still open slots—sign up/encourage other grad students and post docs to present!
 - WWAK 1st Wednesdays, SPLS 2nd and 4th Wednesdays
- May need a new curriculum committee rep or at least a fill-in