

## GPC Meeting Minutes

Chaired by Mike Fuerstman (fuerstm@fas) & Melissa Grachan (grachan@fas)  
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### Safety Concerns

Efforts are underway to hire a full time department safety representative. Current administrative issues such as the salary and hierarchy of this position are being worked out.

At this point, larger groups in the department should have doubled the previous number of safety representatives. Adherence to this rule has not been uniform; this will be addressed by the faculty.

### G4 GAC Survey

Mike distributed a draft of the survey for comments. This survey is meant to gather information from graduate student on their fourth year GAC meeting, such as the ease of scheduling the meeting and whether it adequately addressed their research concerns. Once any revisions are taken into account, the survey will be run by the faculty for comments and subsequently distributed to all G4 students via the mailboxes. A \$25 incentive will be used to encourage participation.

A similar survey will be developed to gauge the faculty opinions on the fourth year meetings.

### Seminars

*Academic speakers:* Prof. John Wood from Yale, confirmed but date still undetermined  
Prof. Doug Rees from Caltech, confirmed but date still undetermined  
Prof. Graham Fleming from UC Berkeley, May 10

*Student colloquia:* No volunteers at this time

*Career speakers:* Ernie Chang formerly a postdoc at Biogen, tentatively early April  
Bradley Berkson, the Director of Program Analysis and Evaluation for the Pentagon, March 20  
Alton Brown of Good Eats, still under negotiation

### Volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed for the following positions/events:

- GPC Co-chair – direct liaison to administration, organize and run GPC meetings, various other duties
- Summer activities coordinator – organize and oversee weekly summer social events
- Graduate student ticket exchange – manage the exchange of graduation tickets between master's and Ph.D. recipients
- Prospective student events – plan Friday evening events for prospective student weekends, two people needed.
- Class dinners – choose restaurant and date, advertise to class and make a reservation, temporarily pay for the event. \$40 per student allotted

### Proposed post-doc colloquia program

Based on the student colloquia model, post-docs would volunteer to give their job talks. The intent would be for the post-doc to be able to practice their talk and receive feedback from others. The concern was raised that the interest in this program may be highly seasonal (peaking in August and September). Mike will email the post-doc list to gauge interest in this program.

### Prospective Student Visits

Prospective students will be visiting the department on March 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. In two weeks we will have a meeting to select hosts; volunteers will be needed from all research groups. Hosts' duties include initiating email correspondence with their student, potentially taking their student out for a meal on Thursday night or Saturday (\$40/person), and attending lunch with the prospective students the week that your student is not at Harvard.

As was done last year, there will be a poster session with representatives from all research groups and Friday night events (one dry, one at a bar). Cambridge Common was used last year, but the inability to make reservations prior to 10 pm and its distance from the department have led to the consideration of other locations for this year. John Harvard's and other Harvard Square establishments will be investigated. Volunteers are needed to plan these social events.

### Graduate Student Ticket Exchange

The deadline for applying for a master's degree is approaching (April 3<sup>rd</sup>). Chris Neumann will email students to remind them to apply for their masters if they want to participate in the ticket exchange program. He will also email professors about possibly obtaining their graduation tickets. As he will be out of the country at this year's graduation, a volunteer is needed to replace Chris.

The purpose of this program is to facilitate the transfer of tickets from current master's candidates to current Ph.D. candidates, potentially offering participants extra graduation tickets when they receive their Ph.D (Harvard only offers 2 tickets per person for the university-wide program).