

GPC Meeting Minutes

Chaired by Mike Fuerstman (fuerstm@fas) & Melissa Grachan (grachan@fas)
December 12, 2005

Holiday Party

The CCB Holiday Party will be held this Friday in the Department Center, starting at 4:30.

G4 Survey

In order to assess student opinions of the year four meetings of the new 2-4-6 advising system, Mike proposed the generation of a survey. This survey will be distributed in February after the majority of the G4 class have had their meetings. These surveys will be distributed and collected with methods designed to preserve anonymity, though there will have to be some tracking of who completes the survey in order to randomly reward one participant with an Amazon gift certificate.

HILS

CCB has recently become a member of the Harvard Integrated Life Sciences (HILS) Graduate Program, an integration of 12 graduate programs which oversees all Ph.D. education in the life sciences. More information on this organization, including a calendar of many events (including seminars, symposia, and lectures) occurring in the member departments, can be found at www.gsas.harvard.edu/hils.

One immediate implication is our ability to participate in the HILS Spring Event Proposal, where two submitted proposals for events (seminars, conferences, other formats) related to the life sciences will be approved and funded up to \$3000. The most restrictive conditions on these proposals are that they be written by students from at least two HILS programs, the need to solicit a faculty advisor, and the fact that these proposals must be submitted by this Friday. More information can be found at www.gsas.harvard.edu/hils/hils_spr_event_proposal.html.

Two ideas were suggested in our meeting. The first was for a panel or seminar to address the details of interdisciplinary research, such as how to establish collaborations and assign credit in diverse collaborations. The second was for a simple poster session soliciting contributions from CCB, MCB, and the Medical School students, perhaps including a prize for some of the best entries.

Post-doc Involvement

While this discussion was initially directed at determining the concerns of post-docs, the post-docs present at the meeting pointed out the more pressing concern that the majority of post-docs do not know what the GPC is. To address this concern, information about the GPC will be included in the information packet that new post-docs receive upon arrival and possibly distributed via the mailboxes to current post-docs. Once the GPC is known to post-docs, a survey will be distributed to answer our initial question.

Student Research Talks

GPC sponsored student research talks have precipitously declined in frequency. While the commitment to solicit graduate students was reaffirmed, post-docs will now also be encouraged to present their work. These post-doc presentations may serve as practice job talks and perhaps help to encourage graduate students to volunteer.

Student Invited Seminar Speakers

While Prof. Shibasaki is still being considered as a future organic speaker, he cannot attend this year. The alternative suggestions of Prof. John Wood from Yale and emeritus Prof. Albert Meyers from Colorado State will be pursued.

Class Dinners

The GPC would like to remind graduate students about the possibility of class dinners. Funding of \$40 per person is available for each class; all that is required is for a class member to organize the event. Post-doc dinners will not be funded by the GPC at this time.