

QoL Meeting Minutes

Chaired by Greg Engel in Mb217

December 17, 2003 at 12h

1 Discussion Group with Pr. Knowles

QoL representatives talked with Pr. Jeremy Knowles to offer a discussion group about molecular biology seminal papers. A group of 10-15 students would meet regularly, 5-10 times, to discuss frontiers in chemical biology, challenges in research, and dilemmas in research strategies. Representation from all facets of the department from the chemical biology to the theoretical side is favored. Registration of upper year graduate students would permit a more fulfilling experience. A weighed first-come first-served policy will probably determine who is allowed to participate. Motivated and independent students are particularly desired.

Students should contact Greg Engel or Zev for more information. Advertisement should be coming from the G2-5 list once Pr. Knowles has agreed on the details of the communication.

These is hope that this experience be repeated in future years both by Pr. Knowles and by other faculty members of CCB.

2 QoL Chairmanship

Greg Engel's term as QoL chair is coming to an end. If anyone is interested by the position, they should contact him.

3 Defining the goals of the QoL

Pr. Friend, future department chair, has asked the QoL to come up with three items that the QoL would like to be addressed during her three-year tenure. After brain-storming and discussion over many issues, a list was agreed upon:

- Improving the advising system,
- Introduction of a departmental retreat,
- We were discussing recruiting, group joining, diversity in admissions. Diversity was the choice decided by those left at the meeting, but we will continue discussing this item next time.

Better data on diversity variables (gender and ethnicity) in chemistry are supposed to be presented to the QoL members in a subsequent meeting.

Pr. Friend is supposed to come discuss these issues with the QoL at a meeting in January.

4 Physical Chemistry Cumulative Exam System

It was judged that good discussions were given by the CCB professors about the P. Chem. talks this term. This allows a broadening of the learning experience of the Ph.D candidates and seem to fulfill the mission of the new cumulative exam system. More students should take advantage of this opportunity. Unfortunately, one professor had to cancel his presentation and apparently there are reported cases of faculty refusing to sit on a student's oral presentation committee. Evaluation of this new system will take place when more students have gone through it.

5 Varia

The faculty have yet to evaluate the "SWAT Team" proposals: OTFP, retreat and others. Other business have occupied their agenda since August. Dean McCavana has been contacted about this issue and a follow up is expected.

Students should envisage participating in more conferences. Funding is available through the Graduate Student Council.

Only one social event (excluding the BBQ) was held this Fall, but more are coming next term.

Participation of the QoL members is required to maintain the level of internal networking within the graduate students by organizing events. Help would be appreciated.

Meeting adjourned at 13h45. Notes taken by Patrick Charbonneau