

Minutes of GPC meeting, Tuesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007  
Chaired by Elizabeth Hulme ([hulme@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:hulme@fas.harvard.edu)) and Gerard Hilinski  
([hilinski@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:hilinski@fas.harvard.edu))

1) Professor Matthew Shair introduced himself as the new director of graduate studies.

2) Rotation system update:

Tony Shaw and Matthew Shair gave an update on the change to the rotation system. The faculty have approved the following changes:

Three eight-week rotations will replace the three four-week rotations, but students will have the option of joining labs after their second rotation. In other words, the third rotation is encouraged, but not required.

During orientation week Matthew Shair will give a talk to students about the purpose of rotations, what to expect and how to go about picking labs to rotate in. He will also have an informal discussion, maybe a lunch meeting, with the first year students about this topic sometime in the first few weeks of school.

Several GPC members said that it is important that faculty members be transparent about whether they would prefer students to join their lab as early as possible or whether they encourage a third rotation. Everybody agreed that it was best if students are well informed about how different faculty members view rotations.

3) Student invited speakers:

Colin Nuckolls from Columbia University has been invited as a student invited speaker for the spring. He will be speaking on May 4<sup>th</sup>. His host is Darren Lipomi, a G2 from the Whitesides group.

The GPC decided to invite Ehud Gazit from Tel Aviv University. He will be in town in June, so this presented a good opportunity to have him come and speak. He is the former advisor of Meital Reches, a postdoc in the Whitesides group, and she will contact him.

4) G2 Proposal practices:

Luisa Gronenberg gave an update on the organization of the proposal practices for G2 students. 7 students had signed up. They will send her their proposal topics in the next two weeks and Luisa and a group of volunteers will begin to assign mock committee members after this.

5) Recap of G0 visiting weekends:

There were no major issues to be discussed about the prospective student visiting weekends.

Rebecca Klausen and Sarah Reisman mentioned that they thought all members of the department should be invited to the poster session during the G0 visit. Other GPC members pointed out that the event would be too crowded and that it is not meant for all members of the department to discuss their research, but instead to inform the visiting students of ongoing research in the department. However, most people agreed that a poster session at a different time of the year would be a great way for members of the department to find out about research in other labs. Such a poster session might be set up in the summer in conjunction with one of the Friday happy hours.

6) Other:

Karen Ruff asked for volunteers to help with the setup of the summer happy hours. There were no volunteers.

Sarah Reisman announced that the next postdoc seminar will be given by Lisbet Kvaerno from the Evan's group. She will talk of April 13<sup>th</sup>.