

QoL Meeting Minutes

Chaired by Patrick Charbonneau and
Greg Engel (gsengel@fas.harvard.edu) in Mb217

March 10, 2004 at 12h

1 Graduate Exchange Tickets

Brian Goess announced that the program should take place again this year for students who get an M.A. but don't attend to get their tickets and offer them to Ph.D. students. The official announcement should follow in about a month.

2 Visiting Week End Information

Students are invited to go out with the G0's on the Thursday night if they arrive in time for dinner. Budget: \$40/person. A ratio of one graduate student per G0 is expected.

On the Friday nights: 03/12 will take place at Cambridge Commons and 03/19 at Gillian's. Some attendance is expected. Verify with the organizer for the details.

A breakfast will be served this Friday morning in the department and students are welcome to attend and meet their student.

3 Meeting with Prof. Friend

The objectives of the QoL for her chairing of the department were presented to her on 03/03/04.

- OTFP: she was interested in the idea and will look into the logistics and the possible drawbacks with her colleagues.
- Retreat: the idea seemed interesting to her as well, but the worry of the absence of a cultural precedent in chemistry departments might be a problem to gather starting momentum. Further examination will be made and other ideas to increase faculty-students (and other types as well) interactions will be considered.
- Diversity: this was seen as a very important aspect and the interest of the students in this issue gave momentum to the idea of visiting small colleges where interest could be

Additionally, she was interested in having a better faculty student communication, by having a faculty member regularly (once or twice a term) sit on QoL meetings and the chair to visit once or twice a year. Also possible student representation to the faculty is considered.

Getting more student input on seminar speakers is also desired.

4 Physical Chemistry Cumes

The idea of making the seminars and seminar discussions a pass/fail course requirement was presented. The current system was apparently suspended for lack of attendance. More details to be announced about this.

5 Other

QoL Career Seminars to come:

- 04/20 Mrs. Cornelia Dean: science editor for the NY Times and KSG visiting scholar this year. Followed by departmental buffet.
- 05/20 Prof. Brian Stoltz: former Prof. Corey post-doctoral student now at Caltech. Also followed by buffet. <http://chemistry.caltech.edu/faculty/stoltz/>

Prof. Fersht sent his regards and appreciation for his visit last week.

Meeting adjourned at 12h40.

Notes taken by Patrick Charbonneau (pcharbon@fas.harvard.edu)