

QoL Meeting Minutes

Chaired by John Rearick (rearick@fas.harvard.edu) and
Patrick Charbonneau (pcharbon@fas.harvard.edu) in Mb217

September 10, 2004 at 12h

1 Student Survey

A final version of the survey was presented. After some technical problems, the survey should finally be made available online in a couple weeks.

2 Seminar Speakers

The choice of speakers for the student-invited research series was finalized with the following changes.

- Research seminar (chemical biology): Douglas C. Rees (Caltech)– Marie Spong in charge
- Career Seminar: Rosh Holt (Congressman) – postponed to a future year

3 QoL Representation

Some research groups have not been represented at recent QoL meetings. We will contact these group's administrators to try to correct this situation. Also, QoL meetings will now be announced on the students@chemistry mailing list to announce it to all graduate students and post-doc in the department.

4 Prof. Friend's Visit

The new chair of CCB came to discuss issues of student interest. The QoL priorities were brought forward and got a generally favorable reception. The documents relating to OTFP advising system discussed last year will be submitted to Prof. Friend for further study.

The idea of a department retreat will be considered in the years to come. This could allow to revise the entire G1 welcoming week.

On the issue of outreach to under-represented minorities, CCB could work on a model similar to that of DEAS. To go along with expressed student interest,

the sketch of a plan was discussed. Interested students should try to talk to each other and with the QoL co-chairs, and then schedule a meeting with the CCB chair and Robert Graham.

In the mid-term, there will probably be a review of the group-joining process, as the department becomes more blended with other science programs. Meanwhile, the system should remain in effect and issues should be brought to the attention of Tony Shaw in full confidentiality.

The issue of better communication with the faculty, notably in terms of feedback on student input, was discussed. The chair promised to look into this in the future. She also reiterated her intention to get a proper presentation of students' suggestions to the faculty.

Meeting adjourned at 13h10.
Notes taken by Patrick Charbonneau (pcharbon@fas.harvard.edu)