

# QoL Meeting Minutes

Chaired by John Rearick (rearick@fas.harvard.edu),  
and Melissa Grachan (grachan@fas.harvard.edu),  
in Cabot Division Room

April 14th, 2005 at 12h

## 1 Graduation Ticket Exchange–Commencement

Chris Neumann is in charge of the procedure this year. He will send a detailed email on this topic in the coming days. Graduation this year is June 9th and tickets will be available for pick up June 6th. The limit date to register for tickets this year will be May 11th.

Prof. Friend suggested that in the coming years faculty that are not attending the ceremony could pool in their tickets as well.

For next year, the front office has offered remind graduate students of the deadline for applying for their non-terminal master degree, so they could pool in their tickets more easily. Also, for this year, they will try to set a meeting point so that chemists could bond and get lunch together after the diploma distribution.

## 2 Management Psychology Consultant

RHR International has been interviewing students and faculty members in the last days to try to devise a survey that will be distributed department-wide. They should then be coming with recommendations and provide help to implement them. They work pro bono for the whole department as a non-profit organization and we are grateful for that.

An early recommendation coming out of the team is to hold a joint faculty-student forum for the incoming students on group joining and Prof. Friend agreed to the idea. Jointly with QoL she decided that early October would be an optimal timing, as it would coincide with the beginning of the open-houses and with the mid-point of the first rotation.

## 3 Library Update

A series of detailed options ranging from total transformation to no change to the current library were presented to FAS for evaluation. Nothing has transpired

of the decision so far. Cost and student space for working are two important factors guiding the reflection. Hopefully, a final plan will be agreed upon before the summer.

## **4 New Advising System**

Prof. Myers presented an almost final draft for a new advising system that would start taking into effect in the coming months. Faculty members agreed to the plan last Tuesday and only minor corrections have been suggested so far. It builds on the G2 oral examination procedure to form a year 2-4-6 mandatory multi-advisor system. It is inspired from previously devised plans and has built-in mechanisms for dealing with scheduling conflicts and alike. The proposal was detailed during the meeting.

An open forum for graduate students will be held in the coming weeks to explain the new system and possibly making minor adjustments if a need is expressed. A transition scheme was also devised.

The QoL unanimously congratulated Prof. Myers for his work.

## **5 Recruiting Week-End/Poster Session**

The visits were judged to go smoothly thanks to Courtney Yuen, Marie Spong, and Anneka's work. The newly introduced poster sessions were also successful. Following this, QoL has decided to forgo its Fall poster session during the welcoming week. Instead, it recommends that research groups have one during their individual open-houses.

## **6 Beverage Bashes**

Beverage bashes will take place again this year. Following last year's success, a series will be held jointly with MCB in the Bauer courtyard. Volunteers for setting up on Friday afternoons are welcome. Two teams will share the work.

## **7 Talk Coordinator**

QoL is also looking for a volunteer to coordinate QoL-invited talks next year! It represents a minimal amount of work, but is crucial to guarantee the success of the series.

## **8 Research Seminars**

Prof. Ian Fleming from Oxford University will be visiting CCB at the QoL's invitation on April 26 and 27. A couple more spots for discussion and lunch are

available. Students should register early as the empty spots will be offered to faculty members.

Prof. Suzanne Walker of CCB and Harvard Medical School will be with us on May 12th. Sign up sheets will be posted in the coming weeks.

## **9 Other Business**

QoL will try to invite a FAS representative to discuss impacts of the Life Science restructuring on student's lives (teaching, space, course offering, ...) for a coming QoL meeting.

Also, some mentioned that more bicycle racks around CCB would be useful. QoL will communicate with the front office on this issue.

Meeting adjourned at 13h15.

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