

# QoL Meeting Minutes

Chaired by John Rearick (rearick@fas.harvard.edu),  
and Melissa Grachan (grachan@fas.harvard.edu),  
in M-217

June 8th, 2005 at 12h

## 1 Memo on 2-4-6

A memo was distributed to all graduate students early this week with clear procedures for setting up their committees to be grand-fathered in. All G2+'s who will have to meet with a committee at some point in the next 3-4+ years should send Anneka their selections via email by June 30th.

Also, a question concerning the specifics of the MCCB program arose. The only difference with other CCB students is that the second year research proposal mandatorily has to be in their field of study.

## 2 Ticket Exchange

Everyone who had given tickets away for their master degrees was able to receive commencement tickets this year. With the faculty tickets next year, it should not be a problem to fulfill all requests either.

## 3 Fall Course Line-up

The Fall course offering has been finalized. Chem 15 is canceled and a Spring inorganic specialized class will be offered to the chemistry majors instead. Chem 20 and 30 will be offered by Gary Procter and Prof. Myers will thus be free to teach Chem 215. On the physical chemistry side, no changes were possible due to the shortage of faculty members.

## 4 Public Hearing

Even though no clear plans for the CCB courtyard in-fill has been made (cf. March 1st Minutes), due to the uncertainty about FAS funding, the department has decided to get zoning approval for the most elaborate scenario to be ready with city requirements when the decision will be made. The meeting will take place 7:30pm on Thursday, June 9, at senior center, 806 Mass Ave.

If the second floor of the in-fill is approved the space would be available for Prof. Liu's laboratory. The fact that he is also on the committee supervising the library is not considered a possible conflict of interest.

Another possibility for freeing up space will arise with the moving of part of Prof. Schreiber's facilities to the Broad Institute around June 2006. Any other expansion of CCB to Allston is tentative at this point and is at best considered on a five-year horizon. Faculty expansion would in term lead to a larger student body.

## **5 Bike Racks Update**

Tony related that the new bike racks have been installed in the CCB courtyard. He will also look into getting unused bikes removed.

## **6 RHR International**

The consulting firm is still drafting a survey. A final set of questions is expected in the coming 30 days or so. It would be conducted online from the company's own servers to allow for a better protection of the raw data. It was debated whether students should be asked to fill in their research group or not. For the firm, this would allow a better assessment of whom to meet in subsequent visits, in spite of the fear of identification that this might lead into. Students who met with the counselors were confident in their professionalism and considered their handling of these possibly sensitive results riskless. It was thus judged better for the question to be included.

Questions on how to foster a good response rate from the student body were brought up, but it was assumed that it should probably be part of the firm's expertise to address these potential problems.

## **7 Corporate Recruiting Program**

The season will begin again with the new academic year. About 35 companies, mainly in the synthetic-organic subfield come each year and this guarantees face time for CCB students. Any suggestions of company to Aneka is welcome. Ideally, 4-5 students showing interest is a requisite to justify a firm's representatives to come. Those students interested in participating in corporate recruiting should contact Aneka in the coming weeks and let her know. For physical chemistry, corporate invitations can be made jointly with DEAS to allow for a sufficient number of students.

In parallel, HWIC is organizing a plat visit at Novartis.

## 8 Student Recruiting Weekends

The incoming class of graduate students will count 31 students, out of which nine are women. About half are from physical chemistry. They enjoyed the poster sessions and it is then intended to cancel the September one and leave it to the visiting days from now on. No other suggestions came out of the post-visit surveys.

## 9 Changes to Graduate Program

In some circles, the CCB graduate program has a reputation of being not rigorous and sometimes tentative. Whether that is a fair statement or not is the role of QoL to sort out at this point. Instead, internally addressing this kind of issues is part of our mandate. However, outside judgements should be made based on accurate information. It was thus suggested that the recent improvements made to the graduate curriculum be made more widely known to the chemical community. Not only should this be presented on CCB website, but it would also be advisable to start issuing a newsletter for alumni and inform them of the latest developments. Additionally, it would also be possible to contact Chemical and Engineering News and get them to cover the steps CCB is making towards improving the graduate program.

## 10 QoL Change of Name

Though improving the quality of life in CCB is part of the mission of the organization, it might be time to come up with a different name for the student organization. HCCB GSC (CCB graduate student council) and CCB GSA (association) were suggested. Further vocables can still be submitted for consideration. QoL will make a decision on this item during the summer.

## 11 Happy Hour

The summer Friday afternoon events are now known as Happy Hour. There will be eleven of them this summer starting June 17 and ending August 26. The interdepartmental happy hours will start at 4pm and be in the Bauer/Fairchild courtyard. They are on June 17, July 22nd, and August 26th. Each week between will be held in the Naito Courtyard beginning at 5pm (note the time difference). The happy hour on June 24th will follow a student colloquium by Seth Herzon of the Myers group.

Melissa Grachan is in charge of coordinating the operation but volunteers are needed to help out with the setup and the organization. Also, new this year, there will be themed events throughout the summer.

It was suggested that in a future year the Happy Hour responsibility be in the hands of a given cohort. This option will be reviewed next Spring.

## **12 Co-chair/secretary Replacement**

Both John Rearick and Patrick Charbonneau are stepping out of their respective QoL executive positions. Robin Friedman has accepted to take over the secretarial position. A candidate for the co-chair position has already come forward. Anyone else interested should contact the current co-chairs in the coming month. The official replacement will take place at the next QoL meeting. Great job gentlemen!

## **13 2005-06 Seminar Speakers**

There is already one student-invited speaker confirmed for next year: Prof. Doug Rees. Also, Prof. Jack Baldwin from Oxford was suggested so far. Proposals should be made this summer and a final selection and initial contacts should be made before September.

Meeting adjourned at 13h15.  
Notes taken by Patrick Charbonneau (pcharbon@fas.harvard.edu)