

## QoL Meeting Minutes

Chaired by John Rearick (rearick@fas) and Melissa Grachan (grachan@fas) in M-217  
July 21, 2005

### Construction

The construction plans involving the courtyard infill and library have yet to be finalized. At this point, two issues have been decided: there will definitely be a ground level infill to be used by the Park Group and the front half of the library will not be touched. There are three options which are being considered at this point. First, the construction could end with the additions described above. In the remaining options, a 1<sup>st</sup> floor level would be added to the infill and the back half of the library would be converted into connected laboratory space. This space could either be left as an empty shell, or be furnished as an organic lab with the tentative finish date of next summer.

### RHR International

The consulting firm is still drafting a survey. In response to concerns about confidentiality, this survey will be administered off of servers controlled by RHR. Further more, if there are 5 or less respondents for any group, specific data will not be tied to that group (e.g. 80% of respondents from group X agreed with Y).

### TGIF

There is a general consensus that the Friday gatherings are going well and that the themed events have been popular. The presence of more expensive, limited offerings at the themed TGIF's makes it critical to monitor their distribution. One member of the planning team must watch the food to ensure that people only take their fair share and that it is limited to CCB affiliates. In order to keep the gatherings comfortable and laid back, it was decided not to check for CCB affiliation at the courtyard entrances.

The idea of moving all of our TGIF events to the Bauer courtyard was proposed. While this area would provide better light and perhaps use of the nearby tables, CGR already uses the general area for their Friday events and it is unclear whether they would appreciate our intrusion or even whether they have reserved the courtyard. This option will be investigated further.

### Student Invited Seminar Speakers

One research speaker, Doug Rees of Caltech, is already lined up. Previously, Jack Baldwin was suggested as a research speaker. A number of new career speaker suggestions were made. The local options include an Industrial Post Doc at Novartis and an editor at Nature. Emanuele Ostuni, a past member of the Whitesides group who now works at McKinsey has offered to give a career seminar for free. More long shot and off beat suggestions were Ira Flatow, the host of NPR Science Friday, Craig Venter of the Human Genome Project, and a fusion chef from Europe who spends 3 months each year doing food research. There may also be a chef in Boston with a similar research interest.

There is a need for more academic talk suggestions, especially in the fields of synthetic and physical chemistry.

### Organization Name Change

Both due to suggestion from the faculty and observed confusion from outsiders, the idea of changing the name of this organization from the QoL Committee was addressed. The name QoL implies that the quality of graduate student life here is lacking, and it is unclear whether this name, while historically appropriate, is still representative. A number of name suggestions, including retaining the title QoL were discussed and voted on, with the “CCB Graduate Council” and “Chemistry Community Council” as the most popular choices. The decision between these two names will be made next meeting.

### Post Doc Presence

The lack of Post Doc participation in our organization was discussed. There has been no recent attempt to inform them of our meetings, though there was general agreement that the experience Post Docs have could contribute to our discussions about graduate life. In addition, they would be able to have input in our choice of seminar speakers and social events. As there is no existing Post Doc email list, posters and word of mouth seem to be the available options for informing them of our meetings.

### New Leadership: Mike Fuerstman

John Rearick stepped down as QoL Co-chair after one year of service. Mike Fuerstman volunteered and was accepted as the new Co-chair. John suggested that the duties of each of the two chairs should be codified. Specifically, he felt there should be a “Social” Co-chair in charge of recruiting, TGIF, Orientation, and similar events and an “Academic” (for lack of a better word) Co-chair who would coordinate seminars, course offerings, and other similar issues.