

GPC Meeting Minutes

Chaired by Mike Fuerstman (fuerstm@fas) & Elizabeth Hulme (hulme@fas)

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New Officers Found and Needed

Luisa Gronenberg has volunteered to replace Robin Friedman as Secretary of the GPC. Chris Neumann, GPC Treasurer, and Mike Fuerstman, GPC Co-Chair will be leaving soon. As such, additional volunteers are needed to fill these posts soon.

G2 Oral Exam Practice Groups

This past year, HWIC offered all female G2s practice sessions for their second year proposal defense. The events were considered by the G2s to be quite helpful, so the practice sessions will be expanded to all G2s next year and be supported by the administration and the GPC. Luisa will head up the efforts, though she will need plenty of people to staff the mock panels. As these events were quite time consuming, the idea of paying Luisa and perhaps others for their efforts has been broached with the department. The department has offered to pay for refreshments for these events.

Post-doc Seminars

Mike received four responses to his email request for post-doc speakers. Sarah Reismann and Adam Wasserman have volunteered to be responsible for managing these talks; they will schedule the talks, advertise them, reserve the seminar rooms, and in general coordinate with the speakers.

Budget

The GPC year fiscal year has closed with us ending \$20 under our annual budget. While some events went over budget, the invitation of mainly local speakers kept related expenses low. After review of our expenses and making projections of next years expenditures, we are requesting a 4% increase in our budget.

The question of whether the department-wide buffets, which constitute 50% of our expenditures, are a good use of our money was raised. While there was general consensus that these events are popular and make people happy, some commented that the limited space offered by the Department Center makes socialization difficult. The suggestion was made that the Bauer center may offer more space. It was also suggested that rather than have 5 buffets that we only have 4 and use the remaining money to provide pizza or other refreshments after our graduate student and post-doc talks.

Seminars

The process of choosing invited speakers was initiated. Prof. Ben Davis, a carbohydrate chemist at Oxford, was suggested as a chemical biology/synthesis speaker. Prof. Doug Reese, from Caltech, will be speaking in late October.

Spam Filtering

We have recently noticed that some GPC emails are getting filtered out of recipients FAS mail boxes as spam. Mike will talk to FAS about getting the email addresses of specific members of the GPC onto a white list.

Rhino League Volleyball/TGIF Joint Event

This coming Friday (August 18th), there will be a Rhino League Volleyball All Stars game which will include some CCB participants. MCB proposed that we have a joint Friday social hour in the Bauer courtyard to coincide with this. There was general consensus to proceed with this event on the condition that we are not expected to provide any additional alcohol or snacks and that MCB will not rely on our alcohol to serve all who attend.

On a related note, Mike will inquire how the \$400 the GPC contributes to the Rhino League each year is spent.