

## QoL Meeting Minutes

Chaired by Mike Fuerstman (fuerstm@fas) & Melissa Grachan (grachan@fas) in M-217  
August 16, 2005

### Construction

As has been already communicated to the community via email, the library will remain in its current state for the foreseeable future. The courtyard infill will still be constructed. This new space for the Park group will only be a single floor, though the infill will be built to allow for additional floors to be added in the future.

### Posters

It was reiterated to the committee that posting notices on glass and windows is prohibited. Anneka is unsure whether posting on the wooden or metal parts of doors (as was done to advertise this QoL meeting) is allowable. She is currently in contact with the department safety representative.

### Post Doc Presence

Two post-docs joined our meeting today and contributed to the issues that the group considered. The post-docs do not feel like they have any voice in the department and believe that it would be mutually beneficial for post-docs and for the committee if post-doc involvement were officially sanctioned. This mirrors the general consensus found by graduate students through conversations with other post-docs. Prof. Myers spoke to Prof. Knowles about the inclusion of Post Docs and received a positive response.

Anneka confirmed that there is no comprehensive post-doc email list, though with some advocacy one could be established. Some post-docs are asked to join a list when they first come, though automatically enrolling post-docs and giving them the ability to opt out of the list may work better to ensure that the e-mail list reaches the largest number of post-docs.

A motion to amend the QoL Mission Statement to include post-docs passed. A new version of the Mission Statement will be presented for approval at the next meeting.

### Organization Name Change

Prof. Myers expressed his opinion that our new organization name should reflect our new mission to represent post docs. The posts docs present at the meeting did not feel that the words "student" and "graduate" represented them. Prof. Friend suggested that we include the words "advisory" and perhaps "research" in our new name. Further discussion lead to the suggestion of the names "CCB Advisory Council" and "Chemistry Research Advisory Council."

A final vote, which included our choices generated during the July meeting, approved the name "CCB Advisory Council". This name will be passed by the faculty for review at their next meeting.

## Representation

Prof. Friend inquired about how our members were selected, as she feels that it is important for all research groups to be represented and that the system of voluntary attendance we currently employ might not support this goal. Mike responded that increasing research group participation and pulling in some younger students is a focus this year, though our official policy has always been to have at least one representative from every research group. Past efforts to increase attendance have yielded only temporary results. Prof. Friend will bring up this issue to the faculty and suggest making the position of QoL representative into a mandatory position for each research group, analogous to the job of group safety officer. QoL members stressed the importance of maintaining the voluntary nature of the committee, as volunteers are more likely to care and contribute.

In line with our new mission statement, there was general consensus to try to get both a graduate and post graduate representative from each research group to attend each meeting.

## Student Invited Seminar Speakers

### *Academic Speakers:*

Doug Rees, who will be hosted by Marie Spong, is already lined up as our chem bio speaker, though no date has been set. Mitchio Okumura from Caltech and Graham Fleming from UC Berkeley were suggested as physical chemistry speakers. Suggestions for an organic chemistry speaker included Dennis Hall from U. of Alberta, C.J. Li from McGill U, Patrick Walsh from UPenn, Jim Leighton from Columbia and John Hartwig of Yale. The existing suggestion of Jack Baldwin was also considered.

We are still soliciting further suggestions for speakers in the areas of synthesis and physical chemistry.

### *Career Speakers:*

Two local speakers, Emanuele Ostuni of McKinsey and Josh Finkelstein, an editor at Nature, will be pursued by John Rearick and Daina Graybosch respectively. Polina Kehayova is still working to get in contact with Craig Venter of the human genome project. Melissa will work to contact Ira Flatow, the host of NPR Science Friday. Mary Rozenman has had no luck attempting to contact the chef she talked about contacting last meeting; instead she will try to contact Elton Brown from "Good Eats", a show on the Food Network. We will investigate more options next meeting as necessary.

## Orientation

The QoL G1 Panel is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. The following members volunteered to participate in the panel: Stephan Weinman (Park, G2), Yi-wen Huang (Anderson, G5), Jason St. Claire (Anderson, G6), Marie Spong (Verdine, G5).

Representatives will also be needed for a panel containing faculty and QoL members on how to choose an advisor. Maureen Rezendes, the department's mental health point of contact, will also attend. This meeting will likely occur in early October.

It was noted that there will be no poster session during orientation, due to the presence of a poster session during the prospective visits.