

Minutes of GPC meeting, Thursday, September 6th, 2007
Chaired by Elizabeth Hulme (hulme@fas.harvard.edu)
and Gerard Hilinski (hilinski@fas.harvard.edu)

1) Several of the GPC board members were looking to be replaced for the coming semester. The following positions have now been filled:

- Head of Fieser Lectureship Committee: James Whitfield will replace Karen Ruff
- G2 Proposal Practice Organizer: Darren Lipomi will replace Luisa Gronenberg
- Postdoc Seminar Organizer: Ruslan Pryadun will replace Sarah Reisman
- Postdoc Contact Person: Barbaro Czako will replace Sarah Reisman
- GPC Secretary: Leslie Vogt will Replace Luisa Gronenberg

The following positions are still available:

- Two co-chair positions
- GPC treasurer

Addendum: Tom Baker was suggested as a possible new co-chair. After the meeting Lizzy Hulme contacted Tom and he agreed to take over as co-chair. The other co-chair position remains to be filled.

2) Fieser Graduate Student Lecture Series:

The last Fieser Lecture of the inaugural series was given at the end of August. The general opinion of the lecture series among the GPC, and among graduate students in general, seems to be very positive. We discussed possible changes for next year:

Matt Shair, the director of graduate studies, talked to GPC board members last week and mentioned that faculty attendance at the talks might be higher if the talks were spread out more throughout the year. He thought the number of talks (6 per year) was good, but that we should space them out so there is one talk every 2 months. The GPC decided make this change for next year's series and to alternate the Fieser talks with postdoc colloquia. This way there would be a GPC sponsored student or postdoc talk every 4 weeks.

Matt Shair also pointed out that Fridays at 4pm is not a very convenient time for most faculty members. Alternatives were discussed at the meeting, but it was decided that this is the most convenient time for students and that it does not overlap with other departmental seminars, so the Fieser talks will remain at 4pm on Fridays.

In the coming academic year, as last year, there will be 6 students selected to give talks. As last year nomination forms will be passed out to all students in the

department. The nomination forms will be slightly changed this year. Instead of asking every student to nominate one student from within their lab and one from a different lab we will now ask for three nominations from each student: One organic chemist, one physical chemist and one chemical biologist.

3) Student Invited Speakers:

Bekka Klausen has volunteered to invite Shannon Stahl (University of Wisconsin). The schedule for Pfizer lecture hall for the coming semester has not been set, but we decided that Bekka should extend an invitation to Shannon Stahl before we know what exact dates the lecture hall will be free.

We still need nominations for a chemical biology and a physical chemistry student invited speaker for the coming year.

4) GPC Group Contacts:

It would be useful if the GPC had a list of contact people in each research group. These people would not have to come to GPC meetings (even though we would, of course, prefer if at least one person from each group came to the meetings), but they would be our email contact person in case we need to pass on information to research groups or if we want to ask for feedback or volunteers. During today's meeting we made a list of one student from each group who has shown interest in the GPC and may be willing to act as a contact person. Lizzy Hulme will contact those people on the list who were not present at the meeting today and ask if they would be willing to fill this position.

5) Fellowship Panel:

Next Friday, September 14th, HWIC (Harvard Women in Chemistry) and the GPC will organize a panel for the incoming graduate students on how to apply for fellowships. Nathalie DeLeon is organizing the panel of current graduate students who have received national fellowships in the past. She is also putting together a list of current graduate students who have received fellowships and would be willing to read G1 student's applications.

6) Lunch with new Faculty:

The GPC is sponsoring lunch at the faculty club with Adam Cohen and Ted Betley, the new CCB faculty members. This lunch is open to all graduate students in their second year and above, as well as postdocs. The lunches will take place September 10th and 13th. Lizzy Hulme sent out an email to students and postdocs last week asking for people to sign up and all slots have been filled.