

GPC Meeting Minutes

Chaired by Mike Fuerstman (fuerstm@fas) & Melissa Grachan (grachan@fas) in M-217
September 21, 2005

Green Campus Initiative

Maura Leahy, coordinator of the Campus Energy Reduction Program at the Harvard Green Campus Initiative, is interested in encouraging energy conservation in the Dept. Currently the chemical labs are responsible for 10% of the greenhouse gases indirectly produced by Harvard. While she does have ideas on ways to reduce our energy consumption, such as having contests with prizes between labs, ensuring that hood sashes are closed when not in use, or installing proximity sensors on room lights, she is looking for volunteers to help her develop policies that will work with our department.

Posters

With the open house season upon us, the rules for posting in the department were reviewed. These rules both keep us within the fire code and help keep the department looking clean and professional.

1. Do not post on glass surfaces (both doors and windows) or walls
2. Please post only on doors and bulletin boards
3. Notices should be up for short-term purposes only. Please remove all posters promptly following your event

Waste Management and Safety Training

The faculty is forming a committee to revise and expand the existing waste management and safety training that incoming students and Post-docs receive. Some initial ideas are to modify the safety-training lectures to make them more engaging and complement them with a web-based information and testing system. The faculty is aware of the difficulty inherent in expanding a general safety course while keeping it applicable to all attendees: i.e. teaching laser safety to a theoretical chemist. The faculty is interested in involving students both in the formation and eventual implementation and maintenance of the program. Students should contact the GPC co-chairs or Prof. Myers directly with any suggestions or comments (myers@chemistry.harvard.edu).

Student Invited Seminar Speakers

Upcoming events:

- September 23, 3:00 pm, Pfizer Lecture Hall: Emanuele Ostuni from McKinsey
- October 5, 7:00 pm, Pfizer lecture hall: Joe Duffy and Karl Hansen, chemists from Merck, pizza served at 6:30 pm
- November 15, 4:15pm, Pfizer lecture hall: Josh Finkelstein, editor at Nature.
We are attempting to schedule a department buffet after his talk

Due to the difficulty of contacting them, we have been unable thus far to extend invitations to Ira Flatow, Alton Brown, and Craig Venter. Attempts to contact them are on-going. Dan Wolfe of Harris and Harris, a publically traded venture capital company, has agreed to speak next year about his career. Catherine Leimkuhler will investigate the

possibility of former industrial post-doc from Biogen-Iden and MCB PhD, Ernie Chang, visiting this spring.

Prof. Masakatsu Shibasaki of the U. of Tokyo, Japan and Prof. Erik Sorensen of Princeton were suggested as possible organic chemistry speakers. There has been some difficulty in selecting candidates that have not already been invited by the faculty or spoken at Harvard recently.

Budget

Tony Shaw has given this committee the option of being in charge of our own budget. While this would mean that we have a hard cap on the amount of money we can spend each year, we would be free to spend our money without front office approval. Also, we believe that successfully managing this responsibility will enhance the stature of the organization. In addition to obvious events such as the summer socials and student-invited speakers, the budget includes funds for many events only tangentially related to this group, such as department buffets and class dinners. Mike has worked up our projected expenses and found them to be a bit higher than the amount of money the department is offering, though he believes the discrepancy may be due to his overestimation of the cost of a number of items or the degree of participation in several of the events.

The committee voted in favor of taking responsibility for our budget; future requests for funds will be approved each month at our meetings. At the moment, the co-chairs have been asked not to share the details of our finances, though the finances will become transparent once formally under our control.

Chris Neumann has volunteered to take on the newly established position of Treasurer; as such, a new volunteer is needed to attend the GSC meetings.

Revisiting the Organization Name

Concerns have been voiced that the organization name we adopted last week, the CCB Advisory committee, is lacking as it fails to be descriptive of our organization and is very similar to some existing faculty run advisory committees. After reviewing some earlier suggestions, the new name of *CCB Graduate Student and Post-Doc Council* (GPC) was adopted.