

PGSA Meeting Minutes

10/17/12

Upcoming events:

10/26 Pumpkin Drop: 12:30 outside Strosacker

Help is needed to slice and plate pumpkin pie on the morning of the pumpkin drop. Meet at 10:30 in the Miller room if you can help. Bring a knife/pie server if you can, and carts from your lab to transport the pie. Tawinan will serve as the unofficial event photographer, to take pictures for the PGSA and GSS websites.

11/16 International Themed Potluck/Game night: 7:00 pm in Rockefeller

PGSA provide plates, silverware, and non-alcoholic beverages for a potluck dinner and game night in Rockefeller. One of the goals of this event is to encourage socializing between the domestic and international student communities in an informal setting. A sign-up sheet will be provided closer to the event, and Lisa will request permission to hold it in Rockefeller.

11/30 GSS event: Adam Ruben's "Your Stupid Stupid Decision to go to Grad School"

Location and details TBA

January/February: GSS sponsored grad student happy hour/fundraiser event

\$200 from GSS will be used to buy food for an interdepartmental grad student social. We will get a percentage of the profits.

Miscellaneous dates: IM sports

Lisa will send out an email with approaching deadlines to gauge interest. We will at least try to have a volleyball team in the open/free league.

Other business:

Budget: We have spent most of the money allocated for our fall budget. Some of the miscellaneous funds will be used for the international potluck.

Cleveland Info Packet: An outline has been made for the Cleveland info packet to distribute to incoming first years. It would be helpful to have more volunteers working on that project. Sections will be written soon.

GSS updates: The GSS is working on a survey to send to all graduate students about transportation, parking, safety, and IT issues.

Faculty Liaison updates: Grad student concerns about the relevancy of checklist were brought to Corbin. He will think about how to address them. Since these are relatively minor concerns, there is probably no need to follow up with them.

First year issues: Students expressed concerns about the way questions are handled in one of the first year classes. Some students feel the professor can derogatory and offensive when questions are asked during class. The faculty liaison and first year rep will decide what course of action to take

Recruitment: A dedicated recruitment meeting will be held in the next few weeks for those interested in helping. This year we are trying to “breathe new life” into the recruitment experience. Anyone interested in helping should contact Kati Pech.

New Department Policies:

Oral exam guidelines: Last year the PGSA worked with Corbin Covault to get an official document with oral exam guidelines written. These guidelines were distributed prior to this PGSA meeting, and were generally met with positive response. The guidelines specify that students should take their oral exam earlier in their career than has been traditionally done so that students can benefit from the feedback from the exam committee. A question arose about the secondary and adjunct faculty fit into the exam committee. Johanna will get a clarification from Corbin on this issue.

New policy on late registration and tuition late fees:

“If the student takes more credits than was listed on their mini-checklist (and did not inform Corbin and Betty) they will be responsible for the late fees (and possibly the tuition). The mini-checklist was instituted so that the department and research grants would not overpay tuition, and so we have a financial stake in making sure they register for the right number of course credits.”

Additionally, if a student registers late for classes, that student is responsible for paying any late fees that are incurred.

Reminder to pay your student activities fee: You are charged \$13 each semester for the grad student activities fee, and it is applied to your bill on SIS. The department does not cover this fee (some grants like the GAANN cannot be used to pay for it) so it is your responsibility to make sure it is paid. If you do not pay it, you will incur late fees, and after many semesters, those will add up. We will try to get a reminder about this fee and late registration fees sent out when the next checklist goes out.

Repository of grad student forms and information: Corbin has been working with Pete to create a repository of useful forms and information for graduate students. This is where the new oral exam guidelines will be housed, along with the oral exam form, and information relevant to course registration. The link will be sent out when the site is ready.