

BioGSA Meeting

Date: 6 Aug 2020

Location: Zoom

| | | Discussion/Future Action |
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| Special business | | <p>Travel awards - Travel award criteria were reviewed, slight wording changes were made to already existing criteria. Participation in BioGSA-led Friday grad student seminars was added as a criteria (see 2020/2021 version of travel awards criteria for specifics). Hopefully, this will encourage participation in the seminars and it also provides another option for award qualification, given some of the other department events may not happen like normal. Travel award information will be sent out towards beginning of semester, after confirming with Jennifer Bradford whether travel awards are planned to be offered like normal (given unknown duration of university travel restrictions and departmental budget cuts).</p> <p>Tuesday dept. seminar (will be Oct. 27) - A timeline was established for sending out the call for abstracts and officer voting. Once abstracts are received, each officer will place 3 unweighted votes on anonymized abstracts (president will remove identifying information after verifying that all submitted abstracts are from qualified individuals). The two highest scoring abstracts will be selected to speak. If any speakers back out, the offer will move to the next highest voted abstract. Aug 10 - president will send out call for abstracts using previously written template and abstract template Aug 19 - abstract submission closes Aug 28 - officer votes due</p> <p>Friday grad sem - Changes to current structure: try moving time to 3-4 pm on Friday (instead of 4-5 pm). Results of professional development interest survey show that students would possibly attend, depending on subject matter of pro. dev. sessions.</p> |
| Reports | President/Vice President (Amy & Aldrin) | <p>Other general updates - BioGSA has been sending cookies from Tiff's Treats to defending students. We want to continue this for all remote defenses.</p> |

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| | Treasurer (Terrence) | n/a |
| | Fundraising Rep (Sara) | <p>Possibility to sell shirts and other merch via Marketplace (does take percentage of purchases but loss of some money there is preferable to no sales at all). If we sell via Marketplace, it might be better to limit items as it might not be possible to do pre-orders (i.e. limit t-shirt color options). It would probably be easiest to ship all orders (including local); Marketplace and shipping does open the possibility for selling to former students (could advertise in the dept. newsletter with Lieu's help).</p> <p>Questions to address before launching design contest -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is there any way to do pre-orders via Marketplace? Or pre-orders through another platform and items can only be purchased in the Marketplace if they have already been preordered? - What would shipping logistics be? |
| | GPC (Aditi) | n/a |
| | Faculty meeting Rep (Marko) | n/a |
| | GPSG senators (Kasuni, Jordan) | n/a |

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| | SPRC (Maureen, Valerie) | <p>Update - selections of abstracts in progress.</p> <p>Continuing issue - undergrad involvement in SPRC as presenters. BioGSA has emailed the SPRC committee stating that we are opposed to undergraduate presenters and that this issue has previously been brought to the attention of the faculty. This will require follow-up (esp. post-SPRC) if we want to continue pushing this issue as the current SPRC committee has been unreceptive to our objections and to similar objections mentioned by faculty on our behalf.</p> <p>Questions to follow up on -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How is the SPRC committee picked? (current committee structure has grad student reps outnumbered 2:1 by faculty) - Could undergrad presenters be limited to a specific number every year? Only the top undergrad abstracts selected instead of guaranteeing all submissions a spot? - If faculty involvement and judging is still a problem, could grad student/post doc judges be recruited to adjudicate the undergrad presentations, leaving faculty freer to focus on the grad student/post doc presentations? |
| | GRAC (Andrea) | n/a |
| | College of Science Committee Rep (Kristen) | n/a |
| | Diversity committee (Maureen, Jorden) | Update - diversity committee has agreed upon a departmental climate survey. Asha Rao and Jennifer Bradford are working on the required approvals to administer the survey. They are also requesting money from the CoS for gift card incentives for survey completion. |
| Old Business | | |
| New Business | | |
| Next Meeting | 10 Sept. 2020 | - What time of day should we hold future meetings? |