

BioGSA Meeting

Date: 10 Sept 2020

Location: Zoom

		Discussion/Future Action
Special business	Jennifer -	Game night - BioGSA will host online game night for new students (probably early Oct?). Possible ideas for games: Scattergories, Jackbox games, Kahoot.
Reports	President/Vice President (Amy & Aldrin)	n/a
	Treasurer (Terrence)	n/a
	Fundraising Rep (Sara)	Tshirt sales - Will continue looking into logistics of using Marketplace to sell shirts. Previous years' orders might help inform what quantities and sizes to purchase. Plan to use previously submitted design for fall sale; possibly hold design contest in the spring for a second round of sales.

<p>GPC (Aditi)</p>	<p>Proposed course changes - (summary): Addition of new courses to required course load of PhD (both bio and microbio) and MS (thesis and non-thesis) (PhD would now require 5, 3hr courses; students could choose as many electives as necessary.) Reduction of rotations to 5 weeks so that first semester students will complete 3 rotations. Key points of discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Newly proposed courses (that are not currently offered) are of interest to students in those areas of study. - Increased number of required courses will take longer to complete (although the required courses would be taken in 1st and 2nd year, additional electives requested by the student's committee could more likely leave students taking courses while preparing for prelims). - Increased number of required courses might not be appealing to students who enter the program on a shorter degree plan because they already hold a MS. - The new courses do not necessarily cover the material many students took as electives. - Three rotations would be beneficial to students who need more than two rotations to pick a lab but transitioning between labs was stressful and this would increase those difficult period. Time in the lab is already limited because of classes and teaching during the first year, fewer weeks would further cut down on already limited lab time. <p>These concerns/questions have been sent to Dr. Lockless (head of GPC) and will be discussed, along with faculty feedback, at faculty meeting 11 Sept. 2020.</p> </p>
<p>Faculty meeting Rep (Marko)</p>	<p>Received two student concerns in response to inquiry email – Marko will respond to them and direct students to offices that might be able to help (more direct solutions than what bringing them up in faculty meeting would be able to achieve).</p>
<p>GPSG senators (Kasuni, Jorden)</p>	<p>GPSG had a couple emergency meetings prior to the originally scheduled first meeting related to the GAWS letter. GPSG voted to endorse the GAWS letter.</p>
<p>SPRC (Maureen, Valerie)</p>	<p>In response to grad. student concerns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Undergrad presenters have a specific set of judges - Grad students will be adjudicated by a different set of judges. - Judges will fill out a score sheet online and be asked to give written feedback. Feedback will be sent to grad students following SPRC. - Post docs will also have separate adjudicators. </p>

	GRAC (Andrea)	n/a
	College of Science Committee Rep (Kristen)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GAT/GAR/GAL fees are now being covered by departments (new requirement now in effect). - Food pantry/"pocket pantry": CoS is creating a pocket pantry for grad students since stipends are often too high to allow grad students to qualify for local food banks (in addition to complications like local closures due to COVID). Fundraising will start soon (instead of food donations as was originally planned in the spring) to provide monetary support for the pantry. Donators will be asked to list the department they are donating on behalf of. BioGSA has agreed to match Bio. Dept. donations up to \$750. BioGSA will contribute additional funds if the Bio Dept is 1st or 2nd overall in donations (\$500 or \$250, respectively; possible total donation of \$1250 from BioGSA account). - Dr. Zoran wants to know if 5th+ year students are being forced out via withholding of tuition/fee payment. - Due to confusion about whether grad students are being classified as students or staff/faculty in COVID counts, council reps are being asked to help inform Dr. Zoran directly if they know of grad students getting sick in their departments. <p>(Information about either of the above should be passed on to Kristen to communicate to Dr. Zoran's office)</p>
Old Business		
New Business		
Next Meeting	Oct. 8, 2020	