

BioGSA Meeting Minutes

Date: March 9, 2023

Location: Butler 103

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		Discussion/Future Action
Special Business		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Interdepartmental soccer game, Sunday March 19 -the Society for Undergraduate Biology Students (SUBS) has reached out asking to meet with BioGSA. Riley will coordinate a meeting. -The call for applications for next year's BioGSA will be sent out in April. The then newly elected members for the 2023-2024 year will join us in the May BioGSA meeting.
Reports	President/Vice President (Sara & Ebi)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The spring social will be axe-throwing and will take place in April. BioGSA will provide snacks, but not full meals. -BioGSA is sending out applications for the department travel awards. Due to minimal funds from the department we are decreasing the amount per award. If we get more applicants than the department can cover, BioGSA will add some of our funds to the department funds to increase travel awardees. -Departments can ask the new College for funds. Sam will look more into how to do this for biology. -We would like to send out a survey about BioGSA to ensure that we are representing the grad student body to the best of our abilities.
	Treasurer (Haley)	-no updates
	Fundraising Rep (Joseph)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -(absent) -International Food Festival was a success. -Merch is in and available for pick-up -BioGSA is adding a second fundraising position for next year due to the workload.
	Graduate Programs Committee (GPC) Rep (Riley)	- In response to a student comment from Fall of 2022 (submitted to faculty representative Marilyn and rerouted to GPC representative Riley), the committee discussed adding a new course specific to microbiology for Ph.D. students. One such course is already in discussion for Masters students, and this is being added to that item. The course would fill a role similar to that of Cell Biology for eukaryotes. The proposal has not been approved, and logistics and specifics have not yet been decided, but the proposal was viewed favorably by the committee. If added, the course would be an additional course for microbiology Ph.D.s beyond the requirements of

	<p>Biology Ph.D.s (whether this would be required or optional has not been decided).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The communication course will likely be reintroduced in the next couple of years. - The numerical scores given after committee meetings may change. - The committee meets again on 29 March to continue discussions.
<p>Faculty Meeting Rep (Merilyn)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -At the next faculty meeting, Merilyn will ask for more faculty involvement at BioGSA-hosted events like International Food Festival. -There's been a lot of discussion amongst faculty about first-year rotations and who should be required to do them vs who shouldn't and which labs. So far, a consensus has not been reached. -There have been no new faculty hires this year. The department has submitted a transformative hire, but has not heard back. -Did not receive any questions/concerns from students to bring to faculty at the next meeting.
<p>Graduate & Professional School Government (GPSG) Senators (Sam & Nolan)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Matt Breuer has applied to be a GPSG senator next year to represent four departments in the college. However, it is possible that this new rule (senators per college instead of senators per department) may not go into place next year after all. Sam has worked with the GPSG president to write an emergency bill that would instead go into place. -There are currently two people (out of all graduate and professional students at A&M) running for GPSG president. One has contacted us and asked for time to speak to bio grad students. -GPSG is currently working on raising the minimum university stipend to \$2,200. This will not affect us.
<p>Student & Post-doc Research Conference (SPRC) Reps (Prakruthi & Javier)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Planning to send out a post-conference survey. -Presentation feedback still needs to be sent out to participants.
<p>Graduate Recruiting & Admissions Committee (GRAC) Rep (Nop)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -As of this meeting, 52 PhD offer letters have been sent out with the expectation of 50% acceptance. -Approximately 60% of these offers were for Microbiology PhD. The committee plans to meet earlier next year to discuss ways to prevent this skewing. -There will unfortunately not be a dinner for mentors this year. -Due to the growing size of incoming cohorts, BioGSA may add another GRAC position next year, increasing us to two representatives. Nop will talk to the rest of the committee about this.
<p>Diversity Committee Reps (Jordan & Maureen)</p>	<p>-no updates</p>

Old Business		-International Food Festival was a success! Ideas for next year include applying for diversity funding from the university and collecting recipes to create an international food festival cookbook.
New Business		-Applications for next year's BioGSA committee will be sent out soon. -Travel award applications are open in March
Next Meeting	April 13, 2023. 12pm. BTLR 103	-Discuss travel award applications and determine the awardees. -Make sure positions descriptions are up to date for the 2023-2024 BioGSA application process.