

PGSA Committee Meeting
29 October 2013

chair: Bob Niffenegger
treasurer: Jacques Pienaar
secretary: Antoine Martin

attendants:

Rich Brosius (PGSG senator)
Katie Davis
Andy Hesselbrock (community building)
Antoine Martin (secretary)
Bob Niffenegger (president)
Kelsie Niffenegger (teaching & professional development)
Jacques Pienaar (treasurer)
Kevin Ralphs
Harshad Sahasrabudhe (webmaster)
Valentyn Stadnytskyi (seminar series)

Minutes:

Meeting begins.

17:05 – Treasury (Jacques)

- We have done our part to obtain funds but still do not have them.
- Bob suggests that Rich take some of our committee to the next PGSG meeting to help request funds. (\$750 - \$1000?)

17:07 – Thanksgiving Potluck

- Jacques is willing to help organize this year's Thanksgiving potluck.
- Andy says we need to make an online list which shows who will bring what dish to potential attendants before they sign up.

17:10 – First-Year Student Lunches with Research Groups

- Sandy said there would be a lunch with only grad students after 11/11, so at least one senior grad student from each discipline should volunteer to attend.

17:12 – PGSG Events

- Rich brings up several upcoming PGSG events and suggests that some physics students participate.

17:18 – Purdue University Physics Apparel (Katie)

- Katie says we should figure out how many T-shirts and sweaters to order. Cost decreases if we order more or give the company more time to send us the order.
- Bob shows us the different designs on the computer; we discuss preferences.
- Christmas is the tentative time by which the shirts and sweaters should be here.

- We can sell the T-shirts and sweaters for \$15 and \$30, respectively, and make about \$5 of profit on each.
- We should collect and count orders from people and order from the company accordingly, buying a reasonable number of extras for people who decide they want shirts after the preordering deadline. The extras will be sold to the first customers who come to buy them. We can have a box in the main office for people to submit their orders.
- 17:32 – The committee votes, unanimously deciding to make and sell said T-shirts and sweaters with design 1.

17:35 – Grad Seminar Series (Valentyn)

- Kurt Jung will give a talk on 11/19, and Chetan Sood may give one on 12/3.
- We need a regular time to have grad seminars.
 - Room 242 is reserved all day every Wednesday for faculty meetings (which seems silly), so we should reserve it at some other time.
 - 16:00 (4 PM) is a reasonable time for grad seminars.
- Pizza may be an option for the remaining talk or two this semester.

17:41 – Website (Harshad)

- We should make the website more accessible and visible. For this, we can abandon the old website and start using BoilerLink.
- The website's purpose is to tell people about events.
- Harshad should email Pam Blakey or Carol Buuck, who can help to remove the link to the old website.

17:48 – Prelims

- Prelim committees should tell their respective students what they expect of them.
- The graduate student manual is so bad that it should be rewritten entirely.
- The purpose of the prelim should be to decide whether a student's proposed Ph.D. project is adequate. The committee tells the student to either revise or proceed with the project.
- Some professors mistake the prelim for a practice thesis. We should define prelims precisely, which may help to reduce such confusion.
- Requiring students' committees to meet yearly may help students move along.
- Students should be certified (pass the qualifier and core classes) within two years of starting the Ph.D. program, form a committee within six months of certification (after a semester of 699) and do their prelim within six more months (by the end of the second semester of 699). Masters students get one year.
- There should be a form that students submit two months ahead of the one-year prelim deadline if they feel they may need an extension.
- Bob will email us the proposed new prelim rule.

18:19 – Meeting ends.

74 minutes
