

PGSA Committee Meeting  
28 August 2013

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

attendants:

Reza Afra  
Rich Brosius (PGSG senator)  
David Garand (research progress & HR)  
Andy Hesselbrock (community building)  
Antoine Martin (secretary)  
Bob Niffenegger (president)  
Kelsie Niffenegger (teaching & professional development)  
Jacques Pienaar (treasurer)  
Harshad Sahasrabudhe (webmaster)  
Valentyn Stadnytskyi (seminar series)  
Lingshan Xu

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Minutes:

Meeting begins.

17:07 – Workshops (Jacques)

- A new university rule requires that 7 hour-long workshops be attended by members or student organizations including ours by September 16<sup>th</sup> to avoid “freezing.”
- President and treasurer must each attend two: one specific to their respective positions and one other.
- Our faculty advisor must also attend one.
- If we fail to observe the September deadline, we have until the beginning of November to attend the workshops and get the club “unfrozen.”
- David has attended 1 workshop.
- Katie is attending 1 workshop.

17:13 – Grad Seminar Series (Valentyn)

- suggested speakers for fall 2013:
  - Brendan Sullivan – 2 days notice
  - Laura Boon
  - Katie Davis
  - Kurt Jung
  - (Angelo Varlotta)
  - (Greg Robison)

- (Chetan Sood)
- Ajith Rajapaksha (data permitting)
- **More volunteers are needed!**
- Last semester, some students gave talks after defending. Would the reverse order be a better idea?
- We must insist to convince students to give talks.
- suggestion: Nominate the best grad student speaker, to speak at the general colloquium.
- suggested date for first talk of the fall 2013 semester: 9/10

17:26 – Help Center

- If rumors about it being open on Sundays are true, we would like to discuss this with the department. Such scheduling may not be wise.

17:29 – K-12 Outreach Program (Kelsie)

- Kelsie is to take charge of this and send out emails.

17:33 – Diversity Committee

- Prof. Hirsch wants PGSA to have a diversity committee to collaborate with an existing such committee.
- PGSA's diversity committee would discuss issues first with Prof. Hirsch, then with the previously existing Diversity Committee.
- David and Harshad might get involved.

17:39 – Department Head Wish List

17:43 – PGSA Faculty Advisors

- We would like to have one more faculty advisor. suggestions:
  - Carlson
  - Lang
  - Molnar
  - Pushkar
  - Todd

17:49 – Social Events (Andy)

- Fall Outing (September): Andy suggests canoeing again.
- October suggestion: paintball
- **Social events in the near future will require volunteers.**

Rich must meet with PGSG to obtain funds.

- discussion on the attribution of money

17:56 – Schedule next meeting on 9/10 following grad seminar.

18:00 – Meeting ends.

53 minutes

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