

PGSA Committee Meeting
21 January 2015

chair: David Garand
vice president: Andy Hesselbrock
treasurer: Jacques Pienaar
secretary: Antoine Martin

attendants:

Peter Anderson
Mri Damodaran
Brian Fields (community building)
David Garand (president)
Andy Hesselbrock (vice president)
Antoine Martin (secretary)
Jacques Pienaar (treasurer)
Valentyn Stadnytskyi (grad seminar)
Brendan Sullivan (research progress & human resources)

Minutes:

17:03 – Meeting begins.

finances (Jacques)

- We have \$148 cash to spend as we please and plan to spend \$70 of it on the Chinese New Year. Last year, for comparison, we spent about \$200 on food for that event.
- We are told that we are getting the \$1291 from the October grant.
- Having applied for \$1040—the total estimated cost of our ideas—PGSA received \$750 but has managed to frugally spend only \$420 of it. How should the remaining \$330 be spent?

Grad Seminar Series (Valentyn)

- How do we convince students to speak for Grad Seminar?
 - Give prizes to the best speakers?
 - Have free lunch at the end of the semester for all of the speakers?

17:29 – Chinese New Year

- The Chinese New Year celebration will be on 2/19.
- Lingshan is largely in charge.
- Much of the Chinese New Year celebration money goes into buying dumplings.
 - Perhaps, some students might be willing to cook and bring other authentic Chinese dishes for the event if PGSA reimburses them.
- How can Chinese student participation be encouraged?

- Must the event be held in the grad lounge (Room 19) or can we reserve a room in the building across the street, where a kitchen might be available?

17:35 – other social events (Brian)

- Super Bowl party?
 - location: Where would be convenient?
 - student's home?
 - professor's home?
- 17:40 – ice skating
 - Should we once more wait for colder weather to discuss this again?

17:41 – Grad Seminar Series (again)

- current schedule:
 - 1/28: Valentyn
 - 2/12: whoever claims this date
 - 2/19-26: reserved for March Meeting (3/2-5) talks

17:51 – website

- Upon further consideration, we would like to create an online compilation of facts, ideas and thoughts by current and past students regarding the nature of research with their respective advisors. This is to help new students find the research groups best suited for them.

17:53 – Hirsch meetings

- The machine shop closes at 3:30 in the afternoon, but perhaps, a grad student representative or buddy system could allow grad students to stay later?
- Can mid-semester teaching evaluations be implemented to help professors improve their teaching before the following term, for the benefit of students?

18:06 – general meeting and elections

- PGSA's constitution calls for a general meeting in January but elections in March. Should we amend the constitution to bring these two events closer together?

18:09 – Meeting ends.

66 minutes
