

PGSA Committee Meeting
16 January 2014

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

attendants:

Kate Davis

David Garand

Andy Hesselbrock (community building)

Antoine Martin (secretary)

Bob Niffenegger (president)

Kelsie Niffenegger (teaching & professional development)

Harshad Sahasrabudhe (webmaster)

Minutes:

17:04 – meeting begins, “roll call”

17:05 – Minutes

- Committee “approves” minutes.
- Antoine should consult Harshad about uploading minute reports to the website.

17:06 – Purdue University Physics Apparel (Kate)

- Shirt sale was successful; we made money.
- Due to mistakes and various circumstances, there are a few leftover shirts.
- We can place another order for shirts when people order more from us.
- The gray T-shirts were not very well-liked. Black ones might be more popular.

17:13 – Grad Seminar

- The committee considers changing the time to Wednesdays at noon and providing low-cost pizza, to be sold tentatively at \$1 per slice. Money would go into a jar put out during seminars. Bob will order five pizzas for the first seminar and adjust that number for each subsequent seminar based on pizza consumption rates.
- As of now, the grad seminar schedule, subject to change, is as follows:
 - 1/29: Cyrus Vandrevala
 - 2/12: Valentyn Stadnytskyi
 - 2/26: Peter Anderson
 - 3/12: Mark Palenik
 - 3/26: Tasneem Mohsinally
 - 4/9: Kate Davis
- Can these seminars take place in a room other than Physics 242?

- Can there be an extra seminar at a different time of the week this semester?

17:20 – New Faculty Candidate Searches

- There are candidates for faculty positions this semester in AMO, biophysics and high energy. Biophysics candidate David Schwab gave today's colloquium.
- At least one grad student in each of these three areas should be in charge of finding out about the candidate in that area. We suggest nominating Valentyn for biophysics.
- For each of the three areas, interested grad students should collectively come up with a list of questions to ask the candidate. Those in charge of each area can then ask the candidate the questions and share the candidates' answers with the interested students.

17:28 – Meetings with Current Faculty

- Did PGSA ever obtain a secondary faculty adviser?
- Some of us should meet with Prof. Hirsch, perhaps on Monday 1/20, to discuss candidate searches, at least. David will schedule a meeting with him.
- Some of us should schedule a meeting with Prof. Lang to discuss prelim issues, at least.
- We should also meet with Prof. Haugan.

17:33 – Volunteers for PGSA Work

- PGSA is short-handed and needs people for specific jobs.
- We should contact other grad students personally to ask them for help.
- We should encourage the committee members who missed the last few meetings to start attending again.
- Certain jobs may call for more than just the individual committee members specifically appointed for them. We should recruit help from both within and outside the committee.

17:36 – Social Events (Andy)

- Andy has ideas for social events this semester:
 - roller skating laser tag
 - bowling
 - PMU may be awkward and small but clean and nice.
 - A “real” bowling alley might be shady unless enough physics grad students attend that we make up the majority of the bowlers during our event.
 - Purdue basketball game
 - ice skating
 - Should we rent the rink (Is that even within our financial means)?
 - Should we go at night, probably?
 - Should we order pizza?
- Andy should perhaps recruit someone to help him organize social events.

17:44 – Brainstorming Expenditures

- PGSA has \$750.
- Should we spend some funds on improving the grad lounge?
 - clock
 - hot tap water
 - locking cabinets / storage closet / utility closet
 - decorative items
 - table tennis balls & paddles (Balls can be stashed in a locking cabinet and be dispensed occasionally, one or two at a time, as needed.)
- Before buying anything, we should send the others ideas.
- To save money, we may also take interesting item donations for the grad lounge.

18:06 – Website (Harshad)

- Harshad should show and tell us more about the website.

18:07 – General PGSA Meeting

- We need a general PGSA meeting now (i.e., non-committee members should attend) so that we can get people informed and involved and we can make our plans happen.

18:14 – Upcoming PGSA Meetings

- The next committee meeting will be in exactly a week (1/23 at 17:00 in Rm. 19).
- The general PGSA meeting should take place in two weeks (1/30).

18:23 – Meeting ends.

79 minutes
