

PGSA Committee Meeting
23 January 2014

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

attendants:

David Garand
Andy Hesselbrock (community building)
Antoine Martin (secretary)
Bob Niffenegger (president)
Kelsie Niffenegger (teaching & professional development)
Harshad Sahasrabudhe (webmaster)
Valentyn Stadnytskyi (grad seminar)

Minutes:

17:07 – Meeting begins.

17:07 – Grad Lounge Improvements

- There is a new locking cabinet in Room 19.
- PGSA should ask for floor reparations in the room with the tables downstairs: In the corner of that room is a hazardously large hole which has been temporarily blocked off with two strategically positioned perpendicular bookcases.
- Can we get television (perhaps cable) in the grad lounge?

17:11 – Grad Seminar (Valentyn)

- Most but not all of the students Valentyn contacted are willing to talk this semester.
- Laura Boon suggested having a pre-APS March Meeting practice session. This can take place in February, and grad students can give short talks at the approximate rate of three-to-six per hour. Around twenty students can perform their practice talks during this event. Knowing that we have Room 242 booked every Wednesday at noon this semester, where should this take place?
- Mark Palenik wants to talk on 2/12.
- There is no grad seminar next week after all.
- Ajith Rajapaksha may give a talk this semester.

17:26 – Faculty Candidate Searches

- High energy candidate Vincenzo Chiochia visited this week.
- We need questions to ask candidates, namely regarding advising and teaching.
- A few grad students should be assigned to question candidates in their respective areas:

- AMO: Bob
- biophysics: Katie / Valentyn
- high energy (next two candidates): David
- Does anyone with a say in which candidates get hired care much about grad students' opinions on the matter? If so, interested grad students can perhaps discuss which candidates they would like to see hired and submit their recommendations to those with the power to decide.

17:36 – General PGSA Meeting

- The general PGSA meeting will not take place this month after all but on 2/19.
- PGSA should have elections soon. The constitution dictates that these should take place during the first week of March, but as this will coincide with the APS March Meeting this year, we propose holding elections instead on the first Wednesday of March that does not coincide with March Meeting.

17:44 – Social Events (Andy)

- Renting the rink would be a costly and foolish misuse of PGSA funds, but ice skating is otherwise still possible if we simply choose a time when crowds should be thin.
- Chinese New Year will take place next week; we will celebrate it on Friday, 1/31. Andy will ask Ajith how he got the event to happen in 2013. There is a list of those who contributed last time. Faculty donated \$195 last year.

17:54 – Meeting with Faculty (David)

- Some of us should meet with Prof. Hirsch, who wants to discuss, at least, advanced specialty courses and the search for a department head.
- Some of us should also meet with Prof. Haugan.

18:10 – casual conversation about rearranging and redecorating the grad lounge

18:20 – Website (Harshad)

- username for the website: gradphys
- Harshad talks about how to add pictures to and edit the website.

18:32 – Meeting ends.

85 minutes
