**Date: April 1 2016**

**Attendence:** Mike Ting, Howard Teresinski, Leslie Holmes, Amanda Tracey, Dylan Sora, Irena Peychev

**BGSC election results:**

**Congratulations to the following members in their new positions!**

Howard Tersinksi: new RTP rep

Anna Tigano: new staff and faculty rep

John Serafini: new QUBS rep

Drew Sauve: new Co-Chair

Wenxi Feng: new Treasurer

Sarah Yakimowski is a former Queens graduate and is currently a post-doc in the Eckert lab. She came to the meeting to discuss bringing back the 'Grad Research Day' for next year. Having a grad research day is important because grad students do the bulk of research in any department and it's fantastic to showcase our work and professional/social development. Two years ago, we had a grad research day and it was fairly successful but recently, the event was cancelled due to lack of student enthusiasm.

Sarah wants to help build an annual event and help organize it in any way.

**Discussion/Ideas**

Ideas for Queens Research Day (set up like a mini-conference):

 - would be nice to have it at QUBS but there may be issues with logistics. Would be easier to host it in atrium

 - Perhaps invite 1 EEB and 1 molecular speaker for plenary talks

 - Grad committee will conjure up a list of potential candidates for plenary speakers

 - Might be a good idea to bring in someone for career talks (eg. industry leader)

 - ~1-2 representatives per lab (based on lab size) would give 10-12min talks about what they are doing/what their lab is working on

 - We would also have students present posters

 - Round table discussion for any topic that grad students may want more information on

 - Schedule time in between for coffee, snacks and a lunch

 -to cut costs, we may organize a mixer rather than a banquet

 -BBQ lunch at the grad club would be a nice option

As it stands, there are two time periods that work well to have this Grad Research Day

 1) September 2016 - good way to welcome new grad students

 2) April 2017 - good motivation for Sept. 2016 grad students to work towards presenting something at the event

We will get out an online survey to gauge interest from the biograds. Sarah will come up with an estimate of costs and will potentially call reps from companies (eg. NEB, Sigma, FroggaBIO) and ask for sponsorship. We will need to get a budget to present to the department head for whenever we decide to have this event.

**BOTTOM LINE**: we need to push the faculty hard that this is an event the biology grad students want to have, and to get the supervisors to push their students to go.

**Mike Ting (Chair)**

1. Stephanie Kim won best TA award voted by biology DSC (congrats!)

**Irena Peychev (Sports Coordinator)**

1. Finished sport season. Irena is finishing her position as sports coordinator at the end of April. For anyone that wants to take over sports coordinator, they will need to sign up for teams starting this summer. Most people are interested in volleyball so it would be a good idea for someone to sign up a volleyball team.

**Howard Teresinski (Graduate committee rep)**

1. Will try and merge academic and grad committee reps since some of the duties have become redundant

**Howard Teresinski, Irena Peychev (Academic coordinators)**

1. Don't forget to have your committee meetings!
2. Will meet with Sarah Yakimowski to further plan grad research day

**Amanda Tracey (QUBS rep)**

1. Doing interviews for new senior manager at QUBS on the 14th and 18th of April. 4 people are being interviewed

**Leslie Holmes (Social Coordinator)**

1. no update

**Shakira Azan (Treasurer)**

1. (absent)

**Dylan Sora (Union Rep)**

1. PSAC - will begin bargaining in the fall and it's highly recommended that biology has some sort of voice there to talk about TA salary rates.

**Sarah Hasnain (Faculty Rep)**

1. (absent)

**James Sinclair (interim RTP Rep)**

1. (absent)