

BioGrads Meeting Minutes

Friday, Jan 15th, 2010

Chair (Martin):

-nothing to report

Secretary (Anneli):

-we will have to find a new meeting time that will work better for everyone
-will attempt to return to the original Friday (3:30-4:30pm) time if no other time works

Sports Rep (Ann):

-squash ladder is up and running
-BEWICS starts today

RTP Rep (Julie):

-it will soon be time to officially notify Faculty members who are up for renewal
-draft of these notification letters will shortly be sent off to the dean

Academic Rep (Mark and Josh):

-working to promote some of the services offered by the Center for Teaching and Learning
-one such service is a certificate program related to teaching

- there are 4 certificates aimed to provide TAs with a foundation in teaching
- this is something tangible that graduate students can take away at the end of their degree and can be a great addition to a teaching portfolio
- most of the criteria involved in these certificates are already an integral part of regular TA duties
- part of this certificate program is done through teaching workshops and seminars, while another part includes take home exercises

-in order to encourage/facilitate participation in the program, we would like to foster a group of people who are working through some of these criteria together since some of the work is more productively done in groups
-first step will be to send out an e-mail to the grad list to get an idea of the number of interested grad students and announce the registration for workshops which begin on Jan 20th.
-another goal will be to promote this program to increase membership for next year by inviting a representative from the CTL to give an information session

Social Reps (Tara and Cat):

-QUBS weekend is coming up (Jan 23rd-24th)

- reminder e-mail went out today and the deadline for RSVP is on Monday (Jan 18th)
- decided we won't cancel regardless of the number of people, but we will have to bring our own breakfast if we are less than 15 people
- looking into rental costs for equipment at Trailhead and will advertise these to those coming to QUBS
- might tell people to bring skates if they can clear an area of ice on Lake Opinicon (this will depend on the weather)

- planning to bring some games (e.g. bananagrams, trivial pursuit)
- Silja from the Young lab is planning to run a bake sale to raise funds for Haiti
 - will start organizing this next week
 - plan to have the bake sale the following week

SGPS Reps (Chad and Chris)

- at the last SGPS meeting there was a debate on housing authority
 - a resolution was passed allowing the SGPS to start looking into setting up a corporation to buy houses
 - looking to invest in affordable, quality housing
- Dean of Graduate Studies and the Finance & Services VP are proposing a 100\$ optional pay-in donation to help cover the cost of debt related to the new Queen's Center
 - this would be included as part of graduate students fees, but students could opt-out
 - this donation plan would max out at 4.5 million dollars
 - the university currently has a 128 million dollar outstanding debt owing to the construction of the new Queen's Center
 - they currently have no funding available to help cover the cost of this debt and they would like to avoid any major spending cuts
 - the overall position of the SGPS is against the 100\$ donation proposal
- the period where different groups can propose fees is coming up
 - this is an opportunity for student associations to propose having a fee included in student tuition to help cover the cost of operating activities
 - any department can put forward an optional fee for student groups that would be applied only to students of that department
 - students would of course be able to opt-out of these fees
 - we might want to think about proposing a small fee (~5\$) for biograds to help cover the cost of social activities – this could influence the types of activities we would offer or cut down on the cost of existing ones

Faculty Rep (Rhiannon):

- not present

QUBS rep (Cory):

- not present

GC Rep (Scott):

- not present