

Neuroscience Graduate Students' Association

Meeting Minutes Tuesday, **August 16, 2011**

9:00am Good Earth Coffee House

Attendance: Ian Surdhar, Scott Travis, Curtis Bensen, Kam Dhami, Andrea Shafer, Caitlyn Hurd, Camille Olechowski, Bonwen Black (NSA President)

Ian (President) called the meeting to order.

Approved meeting minutes for July 22, 2011.

NGSA/NSA Fundraising BBQ – Still on for September 21, 2011. Both BBQs booked, one for the NGSA, one for the NSA. Ian is going to confirm that Shakib has gotten the AHS approval. Discussed the setup, and the locations of BBQs. CAB/SUB alleyway is good, and the north end of the Quad up by CCIS. Will need freezers for the burgers, anyone with access to a freezer? Will go shopping at Costco on the 20th: Andrea, Ian, Bronwen and Curtis. They'll buy burgers, buns, cheese, condiments, and drinks. Last year \$116.00 was spent on burgers (sold out by the end of the day, while competing with another organization). So we will anticipate 2x as much (with both BBQs) plus a bit extra. Ian will send out a volunteer sign-up sheet closer to the date. Caitlyn and Scott volunteered to make brownies and sell them at a profit. Will get reimbursed for ingredients afterwards.

Welcome BBQ – Decided to hold it the same week as the fundraising BBQ, to get rid of the extra food. It was said that Kathryn Todd usually puts on the BBQ, Kam will ask her about it. As Megan has already asked students for the titles of their research projects to post on the Centre website, it is no longer necessary to ask her to solicit students for a brief two-sentence blurb about their projects for the NGSA website.

Seminars – Andrea sent an email to Megan Airmet to solicit students to give talks. It should be sent out this week. Will send it to PIs as well, might help with recruitment. If molecular/cellular speakers are wanted, students in those fields are invited to recommend them.

Social – Andrea wants to start a monthly Friday get-together. This was met with enthusiasm. Avenue pizza (with NGSA-paid pizza) or baseball game was proposed. Ian has some gloves, but if we are lacking equipment we can always rent from the Butterdome.

Slo-Pitch – the season is over. Students who participated who haven't already given Kam their \$5 per season are asked to do so. Kam was reimbursed \$155.00 from the NGSA account for its part.

NRD – Ian reported that Michael Graziano has agreed to talk at the NRD! He has expressed his availability from January 16-27. The Centre for Neuroscience has no objections with those dates. In the past we had held the day during a Wednesday/Thursday, with Wednesday being a day for tours and meetings, and Thursday being NRD and the keynote. So with that in mind, Ian will ask Dr. Graziano if he will prefer January 18-19 or 25-26. Scott will check into the rates at Campus Towers.

Funding – Bernice is in charge of the SfN chapter grant. There is a GSA lecture grant whose funding and application begins no earlier than December 1. Curtis will handle that grant. A letter will need to be drafted to the PIs to solicit funds based on the number of students in their lab. Scott will ask Yushan how much Karl Deisseroth received as an honorarium. There is also a Walter MacKenzie visiting speaker fund that Scott will look into.

Next Meeting – back to Friday! September 16th, 9am, Good Earth Coffee House.