

Neuroscience Graduate Students' Association
Meeting Minutes Tuesday, **February 3rd, 2012**

10:30am Good Earth Coffee House

Attendance: Ian Surdhar, Scott Travis, Sam Joshva, Curtis Bensen, Kam Dhama, Caitlyn Hurd, Nina Weishaupt, Camille Olechowski, Bernice Sist

Ian (President) called the meeting to order.

Approved meeting minutes for Jan 18th.

Seminars - Andrea is meeting with Dr. Peter Smith on Tuesday to discuss the NGSA and neuroscience seminars. Anyone with suggestions for speakers should talk to Andrea with their ideas. Curtis says that AMS will have 1500.00 for an MS-related researcher.

NGSA website - Nina has revamped the NGSA website, it looks great, especially the news section.

NRD – Ian and Scott sat down with the Graduate Committee (including Dr. Collins, Dr. Todd, and Megan Airmet) on January 31st to discuss NRD. Curtis worked hard on a very comprehensive budget to present to them, and they were very impressed. In general, they were also pleased with how the day went. Positives included the high attendance for the student presentations, poster session, and keynote speaker; the well-made advertisements; the positive feedback from guest presenters outside the department; the cost of the event; the fact it was all in one location the entire day; and the overall impressions of Dr. Graziano. There were conflicts with some Neuro classes on the 26th (a Thursday) due to the fact we had to secure a date early on to book Dr. Graziano. Bernard Snell was held our Keynote Speaker crowd, but was a little too spacious for the student presentations. A good recommendation that we received is to hold these presentations in either Classroom D or F next year, since they are just across the hall from Bernard Snell. Despite buying twice as much food as last year, we ran out about 30 minutes into lunch this year due to the higher attendance. This will be noted for next year's group.

But overall a good day, and special thanks goes out to everyone who pitched in to make it possible. Dr. Graziano's talk will be available on the NGSA website as soon as Sam Joshva has cleaned up and rendered the audio. A password will be required, which neuroscience students will be able to get from the NGSA.

Med/Grad industry talks - On February 13th, the NSA is hosting Med/Grad industry talks in the main Katz Theatre. They have requested volunteers from us to speak about our experiences in grad school and what drove us to choose this career route. Nina Weishaupt and Ian Surdhar have volunteered to create a short powerpoint presentation for the event.

Laser tag - the NSA is getting people together for laser tag on February 28th! A reminder will be sent out closer to the event. Anyone interested can email Kian Parseyan at kparseya@ualberta.ca.

Volleyball! - **Kam** is getting together a volleyball team for the league, and has 6 ppl interested so far. The games take place at the pavilion, and starts at the end of February. The games are on Tuesdays and start between 7pm and 10pm depending on the schedule. Send Kam your ID# if you are interested.

Next Meeting – something new! **Next meeting is at Avenue Pizza on March 2nd, 2012, at 4pm.**