

Neuroscience Graduate Students' Association

Meeting Minutes for May 13th, 2011

9:00 a.m. Good earth Coffeehouse

Attendance: Kam Dhami, Curtis Benson, Caitlin Hurd, Scott Travis, Sam Joshva, Nina Weishaupt, Travis Musgrave, Ian Surdhar, Diane Turner, Bernice Sist

Bernice (VP Secretary) called the meeting into order and introductions of each person at the meeting were made as there were many new faces at this meeting.

Official nominations for Presidency of the NGSA were made:

1. Scott Travis and Andrea Shafer (co-presidency)
 - a. Their combined skill set will be a valuable asset to the NGSA
 - b. Scott has been involved in organizing the Brenda Milner lecture series at University of Lethbridge
 - c. Both have experience sitting on committees and recruiting speakers as well as contacts at the University of Illinois (Chicago).
2. Ian Surdhar
 - a. Resides in the same lab as Graeme Armstrong – past-President and would have him as a resource for information and advice when planning and running the NGSA

Member Reports

President – Graeme Armstrong was not in attendance and no messages were left from him.

VP-Secretary – Bernice Sist - updated everybody regarding the student group registration application – all the fields have been completed, once the executives are finalized the final forms regarding liability can be signed and handed into the office for review and approval. Student group registration is now done online through BearDen and applications are accepted each month for approval the next month so there are no longer set deadlines.

VP-Treasurer – Curtis Benson – no updates from Curtis –just waiting on transfer for signing authority

VP-Sports – Kam Dhami – Slo-pitch starts this coming week, will need a minimum of 7 players and max of 14 players. Kam mentioned some of the key rules but they will be further explained before the game. Kam has sent out a link to games schedules and rules. NGSA will cover half of all costs and the rest will be covered by the students who signed up. No amounts have been calculated yet.

VP-Communications – Nina Weishaupt – the website has been restructured and Nina is asking for any suggestions for additions to the website. Some of the links were giving her trouble but they should be fixed now. Nina is asking for any pictures – lab related, group pictures, sports etc. Nina has also written blurbs describing what the NGSA is about and also regarding Neuroscience Research Day

NGSA GSA Representative – Caitlin Hurd – Last GSA meeting was in mid-April and they voted on a proposal to increase the cost of the Medical and dental Plan offered to graduate students. No results are available as of yet.

SFN Chapter Representative – Bernice Sist/Camille Olechowski – announcement of travel awards to this year's SFN in Washington DC. All details will be announced through Megan in the next Centre for Neuroscience Newsletter. There are also awards for Post-doctoral Fellows that might be attending so Bernice has asked everybody to spread the word. If the travel award is awarded to a student the SFN chapter nominates then the Chapter itself is also awards some money as well.

NGSA hosted seminar series – there are still many slots open and planning for future slots should begin. Travis and Diane suggested we get someone to speak about professional development and we may be able to find someone to hire from resources on campus. Will discuss at a later date any details.

Everybody is encouraged to bring some suggestions for Keynote speakers for the next Neuroscience Research day at the next meeting which is scheduled for Friday June 3rd, 2011 at 9 am at the Good Earth Coffeehouse.