

Neuroscience Graduate Students' Association
Meeting Minutes Tuesday, **October 14th, 2011**

10:30am Good Earth Coffee House

Attendance: Caitlyn Hurd, Craig Sherstan, Ian Surdhar, Paul Boakye, Gomathi Ramakrishnan, Sam Baskarje, Sasha Alles, Nina Weishaupt, Sabine Schmelz, Anna Weirsmas, Bernice Sist, Curtis Benson.

Ian (President) called the meeting to order.

Approved meeting minutes for September 16, 2011.

NGSA/NSA Fundraising BBQ result – Despite some setbacks with competition on campus that day, we still managed to raise \$240, which goes into the NGSA account. Costco was accommodating and accepted our return of \$150 of food. Our thanks goes out to all of our volunteers who helped with setup, cooking, marketing (burger cheer squad!), shopping and food storage. The NSA was happy with our collaboration, and is looking forward to future joint-BBQs.

Seminar and free lunch! – News from Megan Airmet: Dr. Peter Nguyen is hosting a seminar on October 27th at noon which features Dr. Charles Hoeffler. Attending students are invited to a free pizza lunch at Avenue Pizza immediately following the talk. Food will be paid for under Dr. Nguyen if we order on the main bill, however alcoholic drinks will not be. No need to RSVP, simply attend the seminar. Scott, Sam, Gomathi, Craig, and Sabine will be attending for sure.

NGSA nomination for Dean of Medicine and Dentistry selection committee – Bernice was unanimously selected by the attending members of today's meeting.

Dodgeball – Unfortunately we have had poor attendance to the last few dodgeball games, and our team has had to forfeit a number of times. Bernice pointed out that Kam Dhami has sent reminders via Centre for Neuroscience emails. A general consensus was that a better effort will be made to attend the games for the remainder of the season.

Neuroscience Research Day – Dr. Adrian Owen will be visiting the same days as Dr. Michael Graziano (our NRD keyspeaker), and is speaking on the 25th of January (the day before NRD). This day we can use to give Dr. Graziano a tour of some of the facilities, and also give him a chance to see Dr. Owen speak. The evening of the 25th is tentatively the Graduate Student dinner. Bernice cautioned against over-scheduling this day.

As the date for NRD approaches (January 26th, 2012), we are ramping up our efforts to apply for funding and organize the day. Ian asked for volunteers to help with various tasks, and this is what resulted. Also, if anyone needs help with their task, they are encouraged to ask for it. We're all in this together!

- ∞ Curtis Benson (VP Treasurer) has approved a letter to the PIs asking them for donations to NRD based on the number of Neuroscience graduate students they are supervising. If the PIs choose to write a check, these will need to be picked up. Craig and Curtis volunteered to collect checks when we hear from PIs.
- ∞ A poster will need to be designed to advertise NRD. Nina Weishaupt (Communications) has volunteered.
- ∞ Scott (VP Secretary) will be in charge of keeping track of student abstract submissions, and of advertising them to the students. They will be due in early January.
- ∞ We will need to recruit one student speaker from each of the Universities of Calgary and Lethbridge. Nina has volunteered to contact those departments to see who would be interested.

- ∞ Curtis and Scott will work on the grant applications. Those that the NGSA is applying for include: ANNAE visiting student speaker fund, GSA award, FGSR, SfN, Walter MacKenzie Visiting Speaker Fund. Unfortunately Alberta Innovates no longer has funds towards this purpose.

An honourarium amount of \$300 was agreed upon for Dr. Graziano. Poster boards for the poster presentations are traditionally paid for by the Centre. Scott will count the number of students, and let the Centre know how many we will need.

Other news – There was interest in another NGSA social event, and bowling was suggested. We will suggest this idea to Andrea Shafer (our Social Coordinator).

Next Meeting – Friday, November 25th, 10:30 at the Good Earth Coffee House