

Neuroscience Graduate Students' Association  
Meeting Minutes Tuesday, **September 16, 2011**

9:00am Good Earth Coffee House

Attendance: Ian Surdhar (President), Scott Travis (VP Secretary), Andrea Shafer (Social Coordinator), Caitlyn Hurd (GSA Rep), Shakib Rahman, Lauren Alston, Paul Sabina, Gomathi Ramakrishnan

Ian (President) called the meeting to order.

Approved meeting minutes for August 16, 2011.

**NGSA/NSA Fundraising BBQ –**

Covered for volunteers. Ian, Andrea, and Curtis will pick up the BBQ and set up at 9am. Ian will bring a posterboard for the prices. Scott and Caitlyn will bring brownies.

**Neuroscience Research Day –** January 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Michael Graziano will come on the 25<sup>th</sup> for lab tours. Ian needs one or two more labs to sign up for tours. Kathryn Todd is busy on Thursday unfortunately, so might miss some of NRD. We could switch days, however the Bernard Snell is only available for the full day on the 26<sup>th</sup>. This is the only lecture hall of capacity required that is available. The idea was brought up by Andrea to have the day in multiple locations on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Ian said the drawback of that is perhaps less attendees from clinical sciences. Scott and others have looked into other venues, and will continue to do so however we have set a deadline of October 15<sup>th</sup>. Bernard Snell is booked for the 26<sup>th</sup> of January, so we at least have a backup.

Hotel rooms will be around \$120 a night. Do we get the premier suite or the superior suite?

*Addendum (Scott, September 21, 2011): At Campus Towers, Superior 1 bed is 133, Premium 1 bed is 154. Although I told him it was a campus event (Faculty of Med/Dent, Students, AHS, AIHS, etc.) and asked if there was a deal he could give us, he was insistent that there was not. A Queen or a Double guest room at Lister Conference Centre is \$119.*

**Money Talks –** Andrea has investigated the stipend reductions by the Centre this year. She has discovered that at least for PhD students, this is not allowed. She met with Dave Collins and discussed her findings with her meeting with Tamara Korassa and Heather Hogg, Director of Operations (Labour Relations, GSA). A TAP-B contract (research towards a thesis that is also for the lab's benefit) all departments in the University must meet \$22,680 a year. TAP-A (research towards a dissertation) is negotiable. Master's students rolling into a PhD might have to stay at the same amount.

New students have to pay Thesis 109 for spring/summer? Announced by Caitlyn Hurd, our GSA rep. She will ask if this is for all students or just new students.

**Funding Update –** Scott has found an additional grant that we can apply for closer to the date of the NRD, called the Walter MacKenzie Visiting Speaker Fund worth \$2000. We must apply to this one on either the 1<sup>st</sup> of November or December. This is in addition to the student travel awards (ANNAE) which will cover the student speakers from Lethbridge and Calgary; the Centre for Neuroscience awards; GSA, and FGSR lecture awards; AIHS; and SfN. The deadlines are approaching quickly, at the next meeting we will discuss these applications.

**Next Meeting –** Friday October 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am at the Good Earth Coffee House.