

AGSIP Full Committee Meeting – December 1st, 2015

Attendance: Kalee, Jackie H, Sara, Geoff, Maddie, Stephanie, Laura, Cindy, Chloe H, Vanessa, Nicole, Josh

Regrets: Irene, Chloe S, Anja, Layla

General Updates:

1. Overall, semester went smoothly so far!
2. As a department, we are brainstorming ways to be more collaborative across areas
 - Friday afternoon talks might be more regular or required for Profs and students (maybe mandatory for PhD and invite MSc, still under discussion)
 - discussed how we're all so busy so it's hard to get people to go to things that aren't required, but at the same time it's nice know what's going on in the department and be inclusive
 - might get area representative be in charge of getting people excited for the talk if it is from their area
 - consider doing a Pro-Seminar for the whole department → would provide breadth of knowledge for students (but some concern about time constraints)
 - we could send out a survey to see if other students are interested in this idea, provide data to present to the department
 - talks could focus on professional development, faculty research, student research, guest lectures (similar to a pro-seminar class)

Social Committee Updates: (Laura, Stephanie, Robyn, Vanessa)

1. Social events this semester have been a success!
 - However, likely will not host events at the Grad Club again because the rooms are very isolated and it's hard to mingle even when there are actually a lot of people there
 - other possible places include basement of the Mansion, Sir John A., Kingston Brew Pub
2. Holiday After Party for Grad Students
 - after the departmental party this Friday
 - meet at Kalee and Vanessa's house at 10pm
 - sangria will be served
3. Future Events in the works
 - AGSIP goes volunteering → working to organize a volunteering day where we go to an animal shelter/soup kitchen, etc.
 - End of the year party → would like to organize a wine tasting excursion to Prince Edward County
 - Team Building Fund we could apply for next year through SGPS/AMS to do a fun activity with AGSIP members

Email Updates:

Layla → clinical brown bags going really well so far! An upcoming brown bag in the winter (on compassion fatigue) will be open to all students. Clinic advisory meetings going smoothly and minute meetings have been sent out to students following approval.

Anja → no updates from ethics, but people should start thinking about if they want to be the ethics rep for next year as it does require some training. As webmaster, please send things her way for posting! It also helps if people are engaged with the Facebook page as this helps to promote events to students who may not be as familiar with AGSIP.

Area Representative Updates:

Cindy → We need a new 4th floor professor because there are not enough course offerings for people who focus on animal research.

Nicole → Pushing recruitment for the developmental program.

Maddie, Nicole, and Cindy → all reporting difficulties trying to figure out if/when their departmental meetings (social, developmental, BBCS) are occurring

- Kalee will bring this up at the large department meeting so professors are aware that there is a student representative for their area and can invite them to future meetings

Maddie → as grad committee rep, sent out a survey to figure out why so many MSc students defended late this year (more than usual were late)

- lots of scheduling issues once students are ready to move forward
- need to contact committee before summer to plan in advance → Hans is planning to send out a reminder email at the end of the winter semester or a meeting to go over expectations

Josh → CNS tried to form a committee like AGSIP but was unsuccessful, Friday Fights and seminar series going well. There will be a new professor starting in January (in psychology and DBMS)

Sara → attends SGPS meetings and posts minutes; one SGPS member is trying to make the athletics and recreation fee optional, although the ARC is not on board with this (either we all contribute or no one gets the deal). This idea keeps getting rejected though so likely not an issue!

Kalee → would like to discuss and brainstorm ideas for a better review mechanism for supervisors

- could maybe incorporate undergrad volunteers for small labs to make reviews more anonymous or make graduate head more available for these issues
- get department to help us figure it out at upcoming meetings