

PGSA 1st General Meeting

5/4/2017

Main Topic: Presentation of PGSA to the graduate community; main purpose, short and long term objectives and ongoing projects (see slides).

Summary of relevant comments:

- Deval: Bad Joke about Star Wars and May 4th.
- Suggestion: To improve graduate school introduction sessions for incoming students, talk with a different person (ask Alyssa who) to give some of the lectures/presentations instead of Jac.
- Common confusion: People still get confused about the difference between external affairs and outreach.
- Suggestion: Given Jac's encouragement to post relevant information about courses (final exams, homeworks, etc.) there is the suggestion to create a forum-like webpage or github where students can submit and discuss solutions for the old exams and homeworks. (This data base of exams, hw and notes should be linked to the PGSA webpage).
- Comment: There are ongoing discussions between the faculty about the graduate lounge, we should ask Tom W. about the status of such talks.
- C-floor renovation: It was brought to attention that soon the C-floor will be renovated to accommodate a new institute of nuclear physics. This could be an opportunity to promote the graduate lounge, however we should be careful since the whole floor is intended to be devoted to the new nuclear physics effort and the funds for such renovations are not part of the the general Physics Department budget but to be used only for nuclear physics purposes.
- Outreach idea: There are currently two outreach initiatives in which members of the department take part, one involves special topics courses for undergraduates and the second one high school outreach, PGSA could get involved in both (ask Alyssa for details).
- Grad Lounge idea: It would be convenient to combine the graduate lounge with a graduate students library, creating then a space for work, discussion and studying.
- Bertus: Mentors shall be killed after the second year (insert another Star Wars bad joke here).

- Campus services: PGSA should do an effort to let students know about the different services provided in campus (Alyssa has compiled a list of such services).
- Summer Social Events: As usual the different research groups in the Department will host social events in Simons gardens, however not all available dates will be covered, PGSA could take care of those (if money is available).
- Follow up of previous idea: The director of the Simons center has offered to pay for one such social event. We should approach him to take care of the details.
- Funding idea: Ask Jim Simons to support PGSA.
- Elections: Elections have been called for to select the new members of PGSA, members have been instructed to submitted applications via email to sbupgsa@gmail.com or any current executive board members.
- Additional remark: The Humanities Department is under threat of possible funding cuts, several events are being organized in their support and the community of Physics is encouraged to participate in them.

List of Attendance:

1. Dallas DeMartini
2. Sonali Gera
3. Drew Jamieson
4. Migo Bautista
5. Tyler Kutz
6. Fernando Araiza
7. Julio Virrueta
8. Kevin Wood
9. Cameron Clarke
10. Sam Homiller
11. Yanzhu Chen
12. Kyle Lee
13. Deval Mehta
14. Taichi Inaki
15. Mehdi Namazi
16. Spencer Horton
17. Bertus Jordaan
18. Connor Behan
19. Alyssa Montalbano

20. Youngshin Kim
21. Yuqi Li
22. Steve Sagona
23. Xuanhua Wang
24. Di Wang
25. Dongwon Han
26. Norton Lee
27. Nikko Pometa
28. Pietro Iapozzuto
29. Niveditha Ramasubramanian
30. Myles Silfies
31. Mael Flament
32. Chris Ianzano
33. Charles Shugert
34. Eva Reymik
35. Farid Salazar
36. Zoya Valari

Came but didn't sign their names on the sheet:

37. Yue Wang
38. Xiaoyang Liu
39. Yifan Fang
40. Anya Gura