

Rough Committees Outline: (**Bold** = needs immediate attention)

- Committee on Diversity:
  - Charge: Investigating potential methods of maintaining or increasing diversity, as it is defined in Title IX of the United States Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. §§ 1681–1688), within the Department that could be at the behest of the graduate students and advocating proactively to implement such methods. This committee is expected to maintain contact with the Departmental Committee on Diversity.
  - Potentially led by anyone on the Departmental Diversity Committee, or anyone who steps forward with sufficient interest and qualification. No chair as of 7-19-2017.
  - The charge basically sums up the goals. These people can operate independently from the rest of the organization, keeping the PGSA on track and helping to make the department better through collecting information, analyzing problems, and providing a private and confidential venue for complaints or concerns to be voiced. They will define their activities themselves once fully formed.
- Committee on Engagement:
  - Charge: Facilitating interactions between upperclasspersons and underclasspersons through various planned social events and advocating proactively on behalf of all members who are graduate students of the Department. This committee is also responsible for monitoring, to the best of its ability, and assisting underclasspersons in the process of matriculating to upperclassperson standing in the Department. The Underclassperson Member-at-Large shall be a member ex-officio to this committee.
  - Led by **Bertus, Nikko**, and **Steven Sagona**, or in general by Departmental Quality of Life committee members. Chaired by multiple members to prevent overworking and allow focus on specific tasks.
  - This is the serious business committee devoted to making life easier for all grad students and helping everyone achieve their desired goals.
  - Responsible for organizing and overseeing (though not necessarily responsible for executing) specific activities:
    - Mentoring (Helping the faculty and/or grad students)
    - Monitoring and recording (with permission) where grad students are (in life, offices, academically, psychologically, etc.) and why
    - Career oriented workshops (for undergrads, grads, and postdocs getting into the next steps in academia)
    - **Comp study and general course and grad school information web pages - Nikko would like to start a wiki for general information**
    - **Summer welcoming of new students and giving rides to stores and from airports**
    - Coordinated study time surrounding the existing teatime
- Committee on Fostering Intradepartmental Interaction:
  - Charge: Facilitating interactions between members and staff and faculty of the Department through a collection of organized activities, including the daily tea/coffee time. This committee should also attempt to assist any other collection of members or non-members who attempt to accomplish a similar goal.
  - Led by **Dallas DeMartini, Drew Jamieson**, a GSO senator, or really anyone at all, with preferably more than one person as chair.
  - Responsible for organizing and overseeing (though not necessarily responsible for executing) specific activities:
    - ***Teatime***
    - Friday Summer Socials (organize one on behalf of the Simons Center?)
    - **Interfacing directly with the Departmental Quality of Life Committee**

- Getting and maintaining a grad lounge, ping pong table, foosball table, boardgames, etc. and looking for ways to use our monetary allocations for everyone's benefit - Kevin would like to write a letter requesting a lounge (not just the departmental lounge on C floor)
    - **Taking advantage of, helping, and interfacing with the GSO and our GSO senators (<http://sbgso.org/>)**
    - Puppy therapy
    - Movie club/social nights - organize particular weekly or monthly activities like ping pong, foosball, board games, watching a movie, or going out somewhere - if any one activity gets to be too much work then it can spin off into a more specific sub/committee
- Committee on Friday Afternoon Seminars:
  - Charge: Organizing and executing the Friday Afternoon Seminar series wherein faculty speak to first- and second- year students about ongoing research in the Department as a mechanism of pairing students to potential advisors and to educate students about research outside of their areas of interest. The entirety of this committee, bar the chair, must be first-year students unless circumstances prevent first-year students from partaking.
  - Led by **Myles Silfies** and some interested first years, currently by Deval Mehta and Myles Silfies and Brian Kaufmann (and Julio, Cameron, and Kevin if needed). Co-chaired by the previous year's leader and a first year once they get here.
  - Responsibilities are self explanatory and should be codified and given to the historian to be recorded (in the event of a failure to adequately hand off responsibility), and the previous year's committee members are responsible for advertising and explaining FAS at the official orientation and training the next year's leaders.
- Committee on GRAD TALKS on Research Allowing Discussions To Advance Learning, Knowledge, and Skills (G.R.A.D. T.A.L.K.S.)
  - Charge: Organizing and executing regular meetings of GRAD TALKS, wherein students convey to each other various topics, ranging from their own research to journal articles that pertain to their interests, in a casual setting.
  - Led by **Niveditha Ramasubramanian** and anyone else who wants to help her.
  - Responsible for organizing and overseeing (though not necessarily responsible for executing) specific activities:
    - Reserving an appropriate conference room
    - Getting speakers to volunteer to present
    - Advertising these events
    - Publishing the abstracts and slides on the GRADTALKS website (<http://grad.physics.sunysb.edu/PGSA/gradtalks/>)
    - Maybe trying to get food sometimes (using either the PGSA allocated money or some from the department)
- Committee on Masters Student Engagement and Activities:
  - Charge: Advocating proactively on behalf of all members who are Master's students of the Department. This committee is also responsible for monitoring, to the best of its ability, and assisting Master's students in the process of gaining adequate resources to succeed to a standard they deem attainable.
  - Led by **Niveditha Ramasubramanian** at this time, but generally by the Underclassperson Member-at-Large or by someone who is or was in the masters program.
  - This committee basically serves as the engagement committee (and diversity committee) but specifically geared towards the masters students, and so should work directly with the engagement committee on the career development and success monitoring efforts as appropriate. They will define their activities themselves once fully formed. It would be nice for them to be honest with prospective students and help students to succeed as much as they want.

Minutes:

- Kevin and Deval phoned in, and about 15 executive board members and others came and went.
- We talked about the above, decided on some committee chairs, and fleshed out the immediate tasks.
- We decided to hold an initial Engagement Committee meeting, in the style of the comps meeting from last year, to brainstorm and drum up support for immediate activities there.
- We ratified the new constitution with amendments and the past-president position.