

**GSA Minutes**  
**October 9, 2013**

1. Quorum reached (more than five in attendance)
2. Alex announces that GSA is now officially a registered student organization for the 2013-2014 academic year
3. Andrew Winters updates on faculty meeting
  - a) Undergraduate pamphlet -- Need pictures (ex. Student/professor interactions)
  - b) Professor Steve Ackerman named 2014 AMS Fellow
  - c) New Chancellor proposes commencement changes -- One giant ceremony for undergrads and grads in Camp Randall
  - d) AOS 401 Steamboat Springs course cancelled but Kyle Nelson working on bringing it back Spring 2015
  - e) Visit from Associated Dean
    - i. What do we have to do to promote our department for funding?
    - ii. Importance of research
4. Alexis Santos updates on Welcome Committee
  - a) Gearing up for Annual AMS Conference
  - b) Choosing who from GSA will go
5. Megan motions to begin forming committees
6. Andrew seconds the motion
7. All in favor of forming committees
8. GSA Committees include Social, Welcome, Curriculum, Department Seminar, Outreach
9. Keep old members, add new members
10. Minimum of 3 people needed in each committee
11. One "Point Person" to keep in contact with Alex before GSA meetings
12. Member selection for GSA Committees
  - a) **Social Committee** – Zak Handlos, Ross Dixon, Kyle Hosley, and Elena Willmot
  - b) **Welcome Committee** – Alexis Santos, Andrew Winters, Zak Handlos, Melissa Breeden, Amanda Gumber, Kyle Nelson, Erik Gould
  - c) **Curriculum Committee** – Kyle Griffin, Melissa Breeden, Ethan Nelson, Croix Christenson
  - d) **Department Seminar** – Ross Dixon, Amanda Gumber, Michelle Feltz
  - e) **Outreach Committee** – Andrew Winters, Zak Handlos, Erik Gould
13. Andrew Winters talks about Outreach Committee
  - a) Volunteers once a week
  - b) Work with middle school students on projects
14. Alex wants each committee to meet before next GSA meeting
15. Strategic Planning Committee
  - a) Internal Reflection
  - b) Two Retreats with Grant Petty, a couple professors, and a couple students
    - i. Evaluate the Department
    - ii. Current state of the Department

- iii. Changes to the Department for the future?
- c) Two main questions
  - i. **What do you see as the biggest unmet needs in the graduate program?**
    1. Course diversity in and across semesters -- More synoptic and mesoscale research topics that appeal to incoming graduate students
    2. Professional Development courses or seminar?
      - a. Proposal writing
      - b. How to publish papers
      - c. Research Ethics class
      - d. Extension of AOS 900
    3. Required Courses?
    4. Certain courses taught every number of years
    5. Re-evaluate Qualifying Exam
      - a. Expected courses
      - b. Timeline feasible to fulfill in 2 years for an M.S. Degree
    6. Inter-University Collaboration – Field Opportunities
    7. Inter-Department Collaboration
      - a. AOS and SSEC
      - b. Local listserv for everyone in AOSS Building
    8. Update AOSS Department website and forms
    9. More than 9 faculty members – sabbaticals all at same time?  
Threshold for number of sabbaticals?
    10. Expectations: 3 core, 2 lecture electives (8-12 electives rotated every 2-3 years), 1 seminar (special topics taught by graduate students)
    11. Recommended list of topics for courses in the future:
      - Cloud-Aerosol Interactions
      - Atmospheric Chemistry
      - Space Weather – Planetary Atmospheres
      - Ocean-Atmosphere Interactions
      - Ground-level instruments (In-situ)
      - CIMSS Satellite Technical Course
      - Rotating Tank
      - Arctic Weather
      - Advanced Remote Sensing/Radar (Advanced AOS 441)
      - Data Assimilation/Numerical Modeling
      - Climate
      - General Circulation
      - Boundary Layer/Micrometeorology
      - Bioclimatology
      - Mesoscale
      - Synoptic
      - Advanced Radiation

- Tropical Meteorology
- Advanced Cloud Physics

**ii. What do you see as the greatest future opportunities for the department to improve the quality and visibility of its teaching and/or research?**

1. Cross-listing with even “semi-related” courses
2. Interdisciplinary
3. High Profile Lectures (ex. Robock) – Advertise among similar departments
4. Outreach – Faculty involvement, full department participation
5. CCR, other Nelson opportunities

16. Alex asks if any new business

17. Alexis Santos motions to end the meeting – Meeting adjourned