

GSA Monthly Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2020

Meeting was conducted on September 16, 2020 beginning at 3:30 over Zoom, in accordance with university guidelines during the Covid-19 pandemic. 22 Graduate Students were present. Prof. Elizabeth Maroon and Eric Schueffner were also present for participation in the diversity, equity, and inclusion discussion.

1. Overview of GSA objectives and structure.
2. Introductions and Ice Breaker
 - New graduate students introduced themselves during September 9th seminar, and so were not asked to give an introduction.
 - Floor was opened for multi-year graduate students to introduce themselves.
 - Ice Breaker was pushed to the end of the meeting, and ultimately abandoned, in consideration of time.
3. Committee Updates
 - President (Bailey): following discussions over increasing support for incoming students, signup for new/returning grad student mentoring will be sent around.
 - Outreach (Alicia): overview of potential outreach opportunities
 - Girls and Boys Club of Dane County:
 - Informal interviews
 - Group (3-5) video chat with high school students
 - Summer career exploration
 - MATC:
 - Speaker series (like our seminar series)
 - STEM Academy
 - Summer career discovery camp- experiment design, curriculum development, etc.
 - An elementary school in rural Wisconsin: 1 hour virtual lesson about 'understanding your tv meteorologist'. Already in planning stages.
 - Treasurer (Brienne): Working on department merchandise and attempting to make contact with undergraduate AMS about department merchandise. Also, a new department administrator was hired.
 - Welcome: No updates. Virtual welcome activities were held prior to beginning of the semester.
 - Seminar (Jerrold):
 - No Seminar on Sept. 23rd.
 - Speaker needed for October 7th.
 - December 9th will be an AMS/AGU flash talk. Opportunity to practice giving your AMS or AGU talk.
 - Social (Miguel): Looking to setting up small in person social groups, virtual beer call, and other social activities. Hopeful that hikes, softball game/picnic, and other in-person social activities will be possible during the spring semester.
 - Faculty Liaisons:

- Requested 2 grad student representatives for department Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee.
 - For building access information, see latest email from Dr. Tripoli (Greg).
4. Continuing discussion on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)
- Bailey gave overview of letter we sent to the department this summer.
 - Some of the points of discussion:
 - The faculty have heard us and taking DEI seriously.
 - Some events: a first Friday or coffee social.
 - Have a recurring set time. Eventually will become part of people's schedules.
 - Designate a facilitator for the event.
 - Rotate who is responsible for social events.
 - Communication with faculty and staff about social events. Encouraging their attendance. Ideas presented: calendar invites, being strategic in communication, considering when events are held, making use of the department slack.
 - Graduate student communication. Steph suggested a graduate student slack with channels for outreach, social, etc, and/or creation of additional channels in the department slack.

Open Items:

- Discuss more concrete actions for increasing diversity through recruitment.
- Representatives for DEI committee.