

GSO Meeting on 9/10/2020

Presiding: Wei-Lee

Present: Wei-Lee, Carly, Aidan, Apurva, Daniel Gribble, Daniel Hayes, David, Gaurav, JT, Kurt, Paulina, Sydney, Vik, Bev, Prof. Morgan

Absent:

Symposium

Wrap-up:

- Presentation editing still going on.
- Certificates will be placed in mailboxes.
- Sent gift to Dr. Sharma.
- 16 total responses on Symposium survey. 4 industrial representatives responded.
- Survey results:
 - \$50 was a reasonable price
 - Industrial reps want to see the list of talks beforehand (too catalysis heavy this time).
 - Networking between students and reps could be improved.
 - Overall feedback was very good.

Regular updates

Co Curricular - Sydney:

- Future Faculty and Future Post Doc seminars: online or in-person?
 - Post Doc in Oct and Faculty in Nov/Dec
 - ~30 is the usual attendance, in-person may be possible.
 - However, in-person may be difficult for students in computational groups.
 - WebEx is a good choice for a platform to conduct it.
 - First choice for Post Doc seminar: Siddarth Krishna

First Year reps- Paulina and Daniel H:

- Q and A panels - total of 9 students came to the panel.
- First year picnic - SAO approved the event, still waiting for BOSO's final word, prepared emails and forms, and ready in case we get approval - September 12th
 - All attendees need to download free attendance app (Corq)
- Postcards for international students. Can we access their home address information?
- Set up group study program for those interested
- Planned few more events (will submit to BoilerLink soon to start the process)
 - Sept 21st - Insomnia Cookies before Math Exam 1
 - Received BOSO's approval!
 - October 16th - International Snacks and Game Night (Friday after Thermo Exam)
 - November 23rd- Thanksgiving picnic/snacks/games/trivia
 - Zoom Mixer (break out session)
 - Working for more online events for international students

Outreach- Apurva:

- Murdock is difficult this year with COVID. Look for other volunteering opportunities.

- SURJ is an option.
- A lot of the lessons we have were developed for hands on interaction. These will not be feasible while adhering to the 6 ft distancing guidelines. Individual kits for each student can be made for a few lessons (eg. bug traps, space booklets, color chromatography with water, kaleidoscopes, kidney beans).
- The second problem with this strategy is that the job of the outreach chair is to give opportunities to grad students to volunteer and help the community, using these kits, I would be doing everything and I'm not sure how to get other grad students involved.

Safety- David:

- A few CheSS webinars to be conducted soon.

Social - Kurt:

- Union Rack and Roll has many restrictions, 1 person per alley and per pool table.
- Will conduct Jeopardy style event soon.

Sustainability- Daniel G:

- Mugs have arrived, need to distribute them now.

PGSG- Vik:

- Motion discussed in PGSG meeting on 9/2: Should extra costs like Health and Wellness fees (~\$200) have an opt-out choice.
 - Arguments for not providing the option:
 - The ChemE dept provides extra stipend to cover these costs so essentially students are not paying out of pocket. Providing opt-out would mean the dept would lower that portion of the stipend.
 - Modularizing costs too much can be an issue: for example, PUSH costs are mandatory even if students don't use the services but they are clearly necessary.
 - Arguments for providing the option:
 - The amount could be substantial to people and saving that would mean a lot to them.
 - Poll conducted in meeting to gauge opinions:
 - Result in favor of not providing an opt-out.

President- Wei-Lee:

- Sent out monthly email.
- Jessica would like to start Diversity and Culture Club in the department.

Staff advisor- Bev:

- GRE waived for Fall 2021 admissions (it would be optional).

Faculty advisor- Prof. Morgan:

- Qualifer delayed to Jan 11.
- Retakes 2-3 months later.
- Most likely virtual.