**Genetics Graduate Student Association (GGSA)**

**General Meeting Agenda**

**23 January 2019, 6 PM in Reynolds 160**

1. Officer Updates
   1. President
      1. Updates on program
      2. DNA Day
         1. Let Kristin know if you want to volunteer
         2. First meeting w/ communication students is Jan X – 4:10 – 5:00
      3. Student Research Week
      4. Texas Genetics Society Conference – April 4-6th. Usually program will cover costs
   2. VP
      1. Recruitment symposium
         1. Professors are judging all abstracts and will decide who gives talks. Will be decided this Friday. 12min talk -3min for questions. 4 talks.
   3. Treasurer
   4. Secretary
      1. Sign sign-in sheet!
      2. Meeting dates for semester:
         1. None in February (recruitment)
         2. March 6
         3. April 3
         4. None in May (picnic instead)
   5. Recruitment Officer
      1. Recruitment update
         1. 2 weeks from tomorrow! Assigned last minute mentors and drivers/passengers.
         2. Chair is Dr. Zach Adelman
         3. Changes from last year recruitment:
            1. Mix/mingle before lunch on Friday ~11AM
            2. If driving vans to lunch, needs to be left in lot 68 (so no lunch for you ☹)
            3. Dinner at faculty member houses on Thursday night
            4. Different hotel. At new TAMU hotel (off Wellborn). Dinner on Friday Night at hotel (6 GGSA allowed) no faculty. Then fun night with grad students
            5. Matt will email the times of the activities. Respond to him with what activities you want to do. There are limited spots for GGSA students. It will be a first come/first serve deal.
            6. Tentative night out idea: northgate (Meet up @ backyard)
            7. Don’t forget to email your mentees. Between now and next week, preferably.
   6. GPSC
      1. Updates from meeting
         1. Grad Camp director applications are open
         2. Student Research Week Registration is open
         3. Travel awards open
         4. eCampus is expiring. The new system (LMS) can be tried out – see Sarah for the dates
         5. Govt shutdown affecting grad students
         6. “Consensual Relations”: difference in power not okay, but marriage okay (?)
         7. Grad students will have a separate commencement ceremony (within the next year)
2. Standing Committee updates
   1. Website
      1. Send ANYthing you’ve done. Papers, small conferences, presentations! Scholarships or any travel awards you’ve done. Recruits look at the website, so we need to look like we’re active graduate students.
   2. Social
      1. Next social hour
         1. Super Bowl Watch Party – February 3rd at Kevin’s House. BYOB. Potluck!
         2. Spring Picnic @ Lake Bryan
3. Other Business items (open to anyone)
   1. David Threadgill and Zach Adelman talk about recruitment expectations/program issues
      1. Participate in recruitment! Be honest and genuine about our program. (Don’t air dirty laundry, but also don’t just pretend everything is perfect if it’s not.) Talk to recruits! Our input is considered when looking over recruits. Take note of recruits who shine and of ones who may not be ready for a PhD program. Who joins our program adds (or subtracts) value to our own degrees. Participation in recruitment is required for travel award eligibility.
      2. Training grant will cover 5 students (if accepted)
      3. International prospective students have a disadvantage to domestic prospective students. But hopefully, with the training grant, money will be freed up to market/recruit to international students.
      4. Career course (BICH689 Scientific workforce) to start this fall. Will include monthly career talks (options, prep, etc.) This spring G2 seminar has 2 alternative career talks. Internship opportunities are in the works to be expanded (perhaps an internship course?).
      5. Program is working on implementing resources for alternative careers (ie. Finding a career mentor using former students)
         1. Can also use association of former students site to find former Aggies in ideal jobs
      6. High mastering out rate is a concern and will be addressed by David Threadgill as new head of the program. Be very honest in the yearly survey. Genetics can’t fix problems they don’t know about. Part of the issue is when students go to their home department and info doesn’t make it back to Genetics. David Threadgill is trying to get access to this info but be sure to go to David or Carol with any issues you may have. (You can email David anonymously, if you prefer.)
      7. Committee meetings will be more frequent for super seniors (>4-5yr) students. If you’re in a lab that is trying to hold you (ie. Your advisor won’t let you graduate), first: meet with committee members and try to get them to advocate for you. (First years: consider committee members, wisely. You want people who will be able to contribute, evaluate and add to your work, and will be able to stand up for you if needed.) Committee members can be added, if necessary. Nothing says you can’t have 5 (or 6) committee members. Second: Tell David (or Carol) about your situation!
      8. If you have any questions/concerns/complaints, you are highly encouraged to talk to David about them!
   2. Merchandise here!
      1. Pick it up and/or Pay Tim!