

BioGSA Meeting Minutes

Date: March 10, 2022

Location: Butler 103

		Discussion/Future Action
Special Business		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Discussed potential changes to BioGSA for next year, including subcommittees and the possible absence of GPSG senator positions. -Grad student lounge in BSBW: is there anything people would like in the lounge that BioGSA can provide?
Reports	President/Vice President (Sara N.M. & Valerie)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Sara and Val met previous to the meeting to discuss possible changes to BioGSA structure next year. One change that will be made is subcommittees for roles that require a lot of time and work at one point during the year: SPRC, GRAC, fundraising. -We will have a spring social on April 23 at Bee Creek Park. Details are being figured out. -Made a shared google drive for BioGSA, people were asked to upload important files there for easier access. -Discussed possible ways to spend money to benefit graduate students. If you have any ideas, please let us know. -Reminder to everyone to fill out the climate survey sent out by Jennifer. -The call for volunteers for next year's BioGSA committee will be sent out in the next few weeks.
	Treasurer (Sara A.M.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Payment forms have been filled out for shirts and sweatshirts, we are just waiting on the money to officially transfer.
	Fundraising Rep (Morgan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Most merch has been distributed. -The spring fundraiser will be an international bake sale. Planned for April 7th. The structure will be similar to the fall bake sale we had. -The new website our online store has been moved to is still having a couple issues. Until those are fixed, merch can be purchased with cash from Morgan directly.
	Graduate Programs Committee (GPC) Rep (Aditi)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -One student asked for course exemptions, they were approved and asked to take electives. -Changes for next year: change communication from emails to in-person meetings
	Faculty Meeting Rep (Marko)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -At last week's meeting about the faculty candidates, they were all ranked and one dropped out. -Good feedback was received from the candidates about the interview process.

		-See attached document for full notes from the March 11 th faculty meeting.
	Graduate & Professional School Government (GPSG) Senators (Jorden, Aishwarya)	-Due to the merging of colleges taking place next year, a bill has been proposed to change how GPSG senators are elected and how many. The bill proposes that each college will elect three to six senators with at least one Ph.D student, one Master's student, and one professional student. The GPSG senators would no longer be department-based, and departmental travel awards will no longer be dependent upon GPSG senators. If this bill passes, BioGSA will no longer need the two GPSG senator positions. The next meeting is April 5 th where they will discuss this more. A final decision on this bill will likely be made by the following meeting. -A couple bills have been passed about mental health, increasing ethnic variability of senators, and providing awareness training for PI's.
	Student & Post-doc Research Conference (SPRC) Reps (Maureen, Prakruthi)	-No updates. -SPRC may be moved to the spring next year, but there has been no official decision made regarding that.
	Graduate Recruiting & Admissions Committee (GRAC) Rep (Jenna)	-There will a "thank you" dinner planned for the mentors who helped with recruiting. -So far, 47 acceptance letters have been sent out, 15 people have accepted, 1 has declined.
	College of Science Dean's Grad Student Council Rep (Kristen)	-Due to lack of activity by the Dean's council, we are going to ask for them to return the money that the biology department donated for the pocket pantry. -It's unlikely that this position will be required for next year's BioGSA.
Old Business		
New Business		
Next Meeting	April 14 th , 11:30-12:30, BTLR 103	-will discuss travel awards and next year's BioGSA committee -Spring social will take place April 23 rd