

Psychology Graduate Student Council
Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2020

Opening: 2:10pm, HSD A264, opened by Liz Williams

Present: Liz, Chrissy, Connor, Tom, Tiko, Lauren, Ana, Alex, Breanna, Jaime, Helia, Nathan

Approval of Agenda
Approval of Minutes

Business from Previous Meeting:

1. Psyc Grad Committee Proposal (approx. 30 min) – VOTE on proposal
 - a. Motion: Chrissy
 - b. Second: Connor
 - c. Outcome: **Approved**
2. Committee name – VOTE on name
 - a. PGSC – 6 votes
 - b. GSIP – 5 votes
 - c. Outcome: **PGSC Approved**

New Business:

3. Grad student feedback on department review (approx. 60 min) – Led by Tiko and Lauren
4. Discussion and recording of feedback (2 groups)
 - a. Lauren's group

Strengths

1. great faculty, but not enough meaningful access to them, lack of access to quantitative faculty
2. People get awards but are not celebrated in the department (faculty and students)

Weaknesses

1. Lack of orientation for new students physical/logistical and social
2. Not enough statistic classes or available statistic-related supports

3. Funding is poor

Opportunities

1. Create manual with more info about program & importance of community
2. Increasing understanding of importance of community in dept. (esp. increasing buy-in for social events among faculty; e.g., mandatory attendance/department wide expectation of faculty to attend early meetings, share research)
3. More frequent grad social events
4. Increase TA hours

b. Tiko's group

Weaknesses

1. Lack of information provided for TA positions, not enough info about their responsibilities
2. Silo-ing
3. Lack of diversity at undergraduate and graduate level, not enough discussion about diversity
4. Lack of mentoring for grant writing

Opportunities

1. Re: Lack of TA info
 - a. More description of TA responsibilities in application process or in student led-manual/tip sheet
 - b. New students need to be protected from applying to TA positions that would be too much work, reiterate rights of grad students in collective agreement from grad students to new grad students, telling new students which positions you should be avoiding, and what realistic expectations should be
 - c. Student buddies have a list of everything that incoming student might contact them about, housing, funding, TAs, here is our general advice
 - d. Including syllabus in the TA descriptions
2. Re: Siloing

- a. More opportunities to share research, foster collaborations – speed data-ing, datablitz event, or informal poster session
- 3. Professors need to share emails of current students to incoming students so that there is contact early on
- 4. Re: Grant Writing
 - a. More mentorship for grant writing – encouraging faculty to include grad students in their grants/grant writing
- c. Additional suggestions:
 - i. Formalize professional development. There used to be a seminar, can this be brought back or made more formal.
 - ii. Courses, increasing offering of graduate statistic courses
 - iii. Post syllabi and descriptions of courses on UVic website at time of course selection
 - iv. More clarity about tuition fees, esp. in regard to when you get a reduction in tuition

Additions to the Agenda:

- 5. Connor proposes to open up subsequent meetings with updates from representatives regarding their respective areas
- 6. Add Connor's name to GSS role in Psyc Grad Committee Proposal

Additions for Future Meetings:

- 1. Breanna suggests to create/assemble strategic plan for funding options for PGSC (e.g., GSS, Pocket Funds in Psyc Dept, etc)
- 2. Look into creating graduate student listserv to communicate with all grad students about PGSC related news, updates, meeting minutes
- 3. Connor proposes add student advocacy to PGSC mandate
- 4. Create descriptions for each role, to be included in PGSC proposal

Adjournment: 3:40pm, adjourned by Liz Williams

Minutes submitted by: Alex Fisher