

GSA Business Meeting Minutes 10/19/11

Guest Speaker: Todd Reynolds, Maryland Teachers and Researchers

Todd Reynolds the union representative from MTR (Maryland Teachers and Researchers) spoke about forming a union for all graduate students at UMCP. MTR's main initiative is to push for the enactment of a law that would recognize graduate students as employees of the university. On Tuesday October 25th from 12-1pm MTR will be hosting a Grade-In at the Administration Building on campus. At the Grade-In, grad students can bring their midterm exams to grade (if they are TAs) or any research that you are working on to show administration officials that grad students are in fact. Bagels and coffee will be provided. On the legislative front MTR expects that a bill will be introduced in the Maryland General Assembly that if enacted will give grad students the right to organize into unions. Grad students are needed to testify on behalf of the bill. If you are interested contact our union reps (Dror Yuravlivker dror@gvpt.umd.edu or Blessing Okoroafor bokoroafor@gvpt.umd.edu) or Todd Reynolds (todd@mtrumd.org).

Field Rep. Reports

Methods: The new Research Paper/Oral Defense Comp has been taken by one student in the department, and the feedback was positive from both the student and the faculty associated with the comp. All students entering the program this year and in the future who plan on making Methods their second field will be required to take this comp format.

First Year Reps.- Thank You for making the Grad Lab cleaner.

Tech Liaison

-Our new Tech Liaison will be Candace Turitto (Thank You for agreeing to serve). If you have any technology issues (statistical software's license has expired, printers are not working, etc.) you can contact Candace (cturitto@gvpt.umd.edu).

Grad Course Survey Updates

- The report will be finished by Thanksgiving. Committee members: Agatha Hultquist, Katie Kruger, David Prina.

Workshop Updates

- An email will be sent by the end of this week, announcing the upcoming workshops.
- Workshop Conference Wed. Nov. 2nd 11am-12pm, TYD 1111
- Zotero Fri. Nov. 4th 3-5pm Room:TBD
- LaTex Mon. Nov. 14th 3:30-5:30pm and Mon. Nov. 28 3:30-5:30pm, Room TBD
- Stats Workshop is still in the works, Jeff will update us soon.
- Field Methods- not enough people were interested, it has been cancelled until next fall.

MAD Seminar

- The MAD Seminar (prospectus workshop) will be formed into a one credit class and will probably be offered Fall 2012 or Spring 2013. Raymond will check to see if the informal seminar will be offered in the Spring 2012.

Transparency Initiative

- Placement rates, 5th year funding waitlist, and similar issues will be addressed by the Co-Chairs and brought to the attention to Irwin. If there are any additional issues that you would like to be more transparent please let the Co-Chairs know (afuge@gvpt.umd.edu, rawilliams@gvpt.umd.edu).

Dean's Graduate Student Advisory Committee

-Our representatives (Hayley Sullivan and Gilbert Nunez) for the Dean's Graduate Student Advisory Committee (DGSAC) will be attending their first meeting next Wednesday Oct 25th. DGSAC will serve as an advisory council to the Dean and provide a forum for the exchange of information and discussion of matters pertinent to the graduate experience in the College. If you have any suggestions you would like for Hayley and Gilbert to address at these meeting please contact them (hsulliv1@gvpt.umd.edu, gnunez@gvpt.umd.edu).

Kickball Tournament

-Kickball-GVPT will be sending a team to participate in the annual GSG Kickball tournament on Friday October 21 from 4-7pm on the Engineering Fields.

Grad Lab Beautification Project

-After the meeting the Grad Lab Beautification committee (basically everyone at the GSA meeting) decorated the Grad Lab with a diverse collection of posters, if you have not seen it yet, you should check it out. Thanks again to Andy Jannett who baked a Funfetti/Brownie cake for the event.

Questions/Comments/Feedback

Contact Anne or myself (afuge@gvpt.umd.edu, rawilliams@gvpt.umd.edu).