BGSO Meeting Minutes

November 7, 2016

**Officers in Attendance**

Elvin Morales, Rachel Oidtman, Mauna Dasari, Bethany Blakely, Benjamin Gombash, Victoria Makuru, and Mark Hawk in attendance

**Members in Attendance**

Chissa Rivaldi,

**The Life Science Symposium**

We have positive thoughts and comments about the symposium website, great job Mark (<http://biology.nd.edu/graduate/life-science-symposium/>)

**Life Science Symposium Details and discussion**

* Symposium will likely last one day
* Speakers will arrive the night before
* We will likely have the west coast speakers go last, and the east coast and Midwestern speakers will speak first to account for jet lag
* We will likely have 6 grad student talks (10 to 15 minutes). There will be three in the morning and three in the afternoon, in between the guest speakers
* We are not sure how we are selecting the grad student speakers
	+ possibly an abstract submission process?
	+ We could get non-committee students who are not applying to review things
	+ We may get faculty involved in the screening process
	+ We could have the infectious disease people look at it (they are qualified to read, but have fewer ties to this area)
	+ BGSO officers and committee members should make sure there is no bias towards officers etc.
	+ If we had an unbiased selection committee, it should get rid of that problem
	+ The ecology folks could be pulled on, or the infectious disease folks may know more about what they are reading
	+ Elvin and Mark do not feel a conflict with a poster, but possibly with a talk
	+ There is a cell seminar in the spring that is “underutilized,” which could be used as an audition for the symposium talks
	+ We are unsure of whether other folks from other universities could get talks
	+ The pro of having only ND students do talks is that it is more intimate, but it could go bigger in the future
	+ This is different from other conferences (they do not have auditions)
* We will have posters and talks, we have sufficient space for that.
* We want it to be diverse
* In the future, we could go Midwest regional
* Bringing in speakers just to see ND students’ projects may not benefit the speakers themselves
* There are a couple of popular Midwest regional conferences
* What would the next topic be? Ecology/Evolution or Infectious disease
	+ They were originally clusters, but, we try to avoid that word in favor of “research foci”
	+ We may want to start that discussion soon
	+ If we start the next symposium’s committee in February, we need to know what the topic is sooner rather than later
* We also need to start thinking about grants
* Why is the symposium divided by foci?
	+ The alumni seminar series will cover the other two foci
	+ There would be two annual events that cover all of the research foci
	+ The focus on dividing it between the three foci is for two additional reasons
		- You get to do it at least once during your graduate experience
		- Rotating it allows us to highlight one of the major disciplines, once per year
		- this gives better coverage of the particular thing, rather than doing a light coverage of each
	+ Are the three foci roughly 1/3 of the department
	+ Attendance will possibly be poor if only drawing from one research foci
	+ One point of the symposium is to work as a networking opportunity for that foci
	+ It may be good to have a unifying thing from the department level
	+ The large multi-faceted side of the department could be a strength, we could get more multidisciplinary things going
	+ Collaboration could be a sort of theme
	+ All of this could be for future symposia
* We will invite other departments (Chem, Biophysics)
* We are thinking to keep the speaking spots for Bio students
* Right now, we are focusing on one research focus, and we need more funding

**Alumni Workshop series**

* We have not been able to move on to talk specifics, but we are applying for funding sources (GSU), and there are other professional development moneys available
* We have a more official proposal that is available
* We have yet to meet with Rebecca to get more info on DGS involvement
* It will be a 1 day event, a panel of 3 to 4 alumni from the two foci that are not a part of the symposium, they will give 15 minute talks with a coffee break between each one
* We break for lunch, then Q and A, and talking to people “schmoozing”
* We are looking at Spring 2017
* Recruitment Committee meets on Wednesday, so in December we will have more information on specific details
* If something important comes up, Elvin may be notified early

**Events**

* Ice Skating
	+ Rent out the ice arena for skating, Henry suggested it
	+ It was $150.00 last year to rent the main rink, and then BGSO paid $3.00 for skate rentals, it was a department wide event (so we could get to faculty, families of faculty, employees, etc.)
	+ Elvin would like to do it because it is department wide
	+ We can check the availability of the rinks online, and get in touch with them
	+ We had a gallon of hot chocolate in the past, it was like $20.00
	+ Do they have cider or coffee (other hot drinks)?
	+ Bethany will plan the events, but she wants information about how it was done in the past
	+ We want to do it this semester, this could be the November event, and maybe December/January would be the Sky Zone event
	+ We had it once during finals and it was packed, on a Sunday at 4:00 p.m., and we did it at 8:00 p.m. once, and it was well attended
	+ This could be a good Wednesday event
	+ We want the main rink, and we may be competing with high schoolers renting the rink
	+ We can do 1 hour, 1.5 hours, or 2 hours
	+ It costs money to use the jumbo tron, so, do not do that, but they will play music if we ask them (can we provide music?)
	+ There is an Olympic rink and a Lefty rink
	+ We will do 2 hours, with 1 gallon of hot chocolate, 1 gallon of something else, and cookies
	+ The ice rink will likely cost ~$200.00 to $250.00
* High ropes event review
	+ Went well, half of those who signed up actually came, it basically came out free for us due to the Go Grant
	+ We spent less than $200.00 on the BGSO brewery tour
	+ We are supposed to leave ~$1,000.00 for the next BGSO board for next year
	+ We look good
* Sky Zone Trampoline event
	+ We could rent all of Sky Zone, but we were planning on going to general admission and subsidizing the cost a bit
* Have we thought about sports related health activities?
	+ A 5K or a run?
	+ There is a Pi Day 5K
	+ We could have a mosquito costume 5K
	+ We might be able to get sponsors from local
	+ We could have a BGSO 5K team rather than sponsor our own
	+ We could host our own fundraiser on the sides for another charity
* Would people be interested in a Polar Plunge?
	+ The weather may be horrible this year, so that could be a factor
	+ “The cool kids do the polar bear plunge” Potential poster slogan (peer pressure)
	+ Polar Bear Plunge is for the Special Olympics
	+ This could be a recruitment event
	+ The Polar Bear Plunge is on Sunday March 5
	+ It seems like a good idea
	+ We should check on interest
* Elvin moves to change the meeting date of the January meeting from January 2nd to January 23rd
	+ The motion was seconded by Victoria
	+ The voting took place
		- In favor = 9
		- Opposed = 0
		- Abstain = 0
	+ The motion passes