

GSC Meeting 10/8/2003
Rm. 190 9:00–11:00am

Attendees: Dr. Burnett, Dr. Harrison, Beth, Tyler, Chris, Heather, John, Catherine, Suzy, Hilary, Tara, Melanie, and Dan

Dr. Burnett answered some questions about the payroll issues discussed at the last meeting as well as other subjects.

1. The Chemistry department was just about the only department who enrolled its students in summer credits but stopped due to budget issues a few years ago. As a result students have to pay to use services such as the gym, intramurals, and health center. There are no plans to reinstate summer tuition credits because of the cost and it is really not necessary.

2. The fact that some students did not pay FICA this summer and some did was a mistake made by the University Payroll office and the Oracle System, not the Chemistry Dept. Students who did pay taxes were treated as they should and students who did not were supposed to. It is unclear how these two groups were divided all though it may be related to who is a 12 month RA and who are TAs. Those who did not pay will not be responsible for paying taxes in the spring. The problem will be fixed next summer.

3. Also if any students plan to finish within the next year please see Bonnie to be sure that students have the appropriate number and type of credit hours.

4. Dr. Burnett also indicated that the department would be willing to start up the Wednesday afternoon coffee and cookie social events provided there was enough student participation and students did not just come for the cookies and leave. Other ideas for department togetherness are welcome such as purchasing a volleyball net if there is enough interest. Also for the Friday seminar series it should be the responsibility of the sponsoring lab to setup and make the coffee. The GSC voiced concerns about having to do things that are not student initiated however doesn't mind helping out if given adequate time to organize and distribute the workload.

Dr. Harrison answered questions about the future of the department in terms of hiring objectives, lab space, and what can the department do for the graduate students.

1. The faculty will meet soon and discuss strategy for future hiring. There are a lot of potential retirements approaching and so they will have to be replaced. Next year there should be two new hires. In terms of fields it was not very clear on what types of chemistry the new hirings would represent although bio-analytical is popular at the moment. The faculty would like to expand in size from 25 to about 35 professors.

2. Space to put new labs is available and would just need renovation. Space may also be available on the 5th floor for a graduate student lounge area.

3. The department hopes to hire more support staff in order to help with administrative/ accounting for grants, renovations, and the organic stock room.

4. The department purchased a new 300MHz NMR and will update all the NMRs so that they use the same operating systems and software. A training program will also be started so that people can be properly trained on the instruments.

5. Career Planning and Placement has someone to help with students in the Graduate Arts and Sciences. Also the suggestions was made to bring in more recruiters

to interview graduating students and possible keep a file of older students resumes on hand to show recruiters. We would also like more of a web presence and to interact more with alumni. Perhaps start alumni/ grad student mentoring.

6. The department would also like to provide more speaking opportunities for the graduate students either through departmental symposia, professional meetings, or visiting undergraduate institutions to talk and recruit. Dr. Burnett mentioned there is talk of adding 4th year talks to the list of requirements to graduate (not now but in the future).

Halloween party was discussed and the date was set for Oct. 31st at 2302 Fontaine Ave (next to where the first year party was). The GSC will contribute funds in the amount of \$350 for food and decorations and any leftover decorations will be stored with the GSC for future parties. GBS may have a party at Star Hill Friday Oct 31st.

We will see what happens with the Coffee/Cookie Weds. Since Dr. Burnett said the department will fund. We may need to have a Coffee/Cookie Chair to be the official key-holder and assign labs. Also because the department will fund the Coffee/Cookie the GSC may want to instead do a few lunches for the department this winter (pizza or giant subs)

Chris attended the last meeting of the GSCAS (Gradute Student Council for Arts and Sciences) and read a report. They have \$27000 and donate it to groups who need extra funds. They also have Research Exhibition and we will get more details on that. They are also going to DC next week to lobby for tax free stipends which was apparently the case prior to 1986. They meet the first Monday of every month in Garret Hall.

Newsletter information and pieces are being collected at the present time

T-shirts will be decided on at the next meeting. Chris will get a quote and an email will be sent to the graduate students to look at the website and vote on the T-shirt design. Also the possibility of getting some long-sleeved was mentioned.

That's all at this time.