

# BioGSA Meeting Minutes

Date: September 8, 2022

Location: Butler 103

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		<b>Discussion/Future Action</b>
<b>Special Business</b>		<p>-SPRC, which has previously taken place during the fall, has officially been moved to the spring to be part of recruiting.</p> <p>-Department tailgate is Sat. Sept. 10, 11:30am. Be sure to RSVP to Lieu.</p>
<b>Reports</b>	<b>President/Vice President</b> (Sara & Ebi)	<p>-The department has approved BioGSA's request for funds to cover 20 applications fees of incoming students spread over two years. Our next step is determining how to decide which incoming students' application fees will be covered.</p> <p>-Friday graduate student seminars are taking place at 1:45pm in BSBW 025.</p>
	<b>Treasurer</b> (Haley)	<p>-BioGSA has fully paid for the welcome social that happened in August.</p> <p>-Payment for the biology beer steins is being submitted.</p>
	<b>Fundraising Rep</b> (Joseph)	<p>-The call for t-shirt design submissions was sent out. The deadline to submit is Monday, Sept. 19. See Joseph's email from Sept. 6 for more details.</p> <p>-The biology beer steins are in and will be sold starting at the tailgate on Saturday, Sept. 10. A credit card reader has been reserved.</p> <p>-The website for our online store is still not active. The SOFC has been informed and we are waiting to hear back.</p>
	<b>Graduate Programs Committee (GPC) Rep</b> (Riley)	<p>-Starting next academic year, incoming students will be required to take Cell Biology in the fall and Molecular Tools in the spring, switching the order in which they were previously required.</p> <p>-Starting next academic year, incoming students will be able to switch out one of the 5 required core courses for a course approved by their P.I. that is more relevant to their lab/project.</p> <p>-There were discussions of reimplementing a scientific writing course, however no official steps have been made.</p>
	<b>Faculty Meeting Rep</b> (Marilyn)	<p>-Submit any questions to Marilyn for the faculty either via email or the anonymous google form in her email. The more often something is requested, the more weight it has. Be on the lookout for an email from Marilyn with details about the issues she'll bring up and resulting answers during this week's faculty meeting.</p> <p>-Notes from the previous faculty meeting:</p>

	<p>-There has been trouble finding space for all of last year's new hires There have been some renovations, but no new lab or teaching spaces.</p> <p>-Some BIMS and Biology undergraduate courses are being merged to reduce redundancy.</p> <p>-As of now, BIMS and Biology are still separate departments, however there were discussions of possibly merging the two. No official decision has been made.</p> <p>-Anatomy &amp; Physiology labs and help desk will receive virtual 3D dissection tables, new computers, and new microscopes.</p> <p>-Only one new faculty will be hired this year. This will need to be kept in mind during recruiting as it means the department will not have room for as many new students.</p> <p>-Faculty brought up the idea of creating a mascot for the biology department. BioGSA decided not to move forward with this.</p>
<p><b>Graduate &amp; Professional School Government (GPSG) Senators</b> (Sam &amp; Nolan)</p>	<p>-GPSG's first meeting was this week.</p> <p>-Due to the merging of Colleges, there will be a lot of changes implemented in GPSG this year. The most relevant thing to us at this time is that starting next academic year, GPSG senators will be elected per college instead of per department, with no more than one senator from each department. The new College of Arts and Sciences will have two Master student senators and two Ph.D. student senators.</p> <p>-During the BioGSA meeting, there were discussions of reaching out to the graduate student organizations of other departments within the College and possibly forming a new committee to ensure proper representation to GPSG moving forward. This will be pursued by Sara, Ebi, Sam, and Nolan.</p> <p>-There was a presentation from the city of College Station about proposed zoning changes to lift the restriction of no more than 4 unrelated people being able to live in one residence. This is to reduce the cost of living and increase available housing for the increasing number of A&amp;M students. No action is required on our part.</p>
<p><b>Student &amp; Post-doc Research Conference (SPRC) Reps</b> (Prakruthi &amp; Javier)</p>	<p>-SPRC committee has not met yet</p> <p>-SPRC has officially been moved to the spring to take place during recruiting</p>
<p><b>Graduate Recruiting &amp; Admissions Committee (GRAC) Rep</b> (Nop)</p>	<p>-GRAC meetings will begin next month.</p>
<p><b>Diversity Committee Reps</b> (Jordan &amp; Maureen)</p>	<p>-The diversity committee has not met yet, but will in the next couple weeks.</p>

<b>Old Business</b>		-Feedback for the welcome social in August was overall positive.
<b>New Business</b>		-Reach out to other grad student associations within the college regarding representation in GPSG next year.
<b>Next Meeting</b>	Oct. 13, 12pm, BTLR 103	