

Minutes of

Geology Graduate Student Association

October 13, 2011

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:05 by Andrew Rankin in the Planetary Lab (HOCH 444).
- II. Attendance: Timothy O'Brien, Simon Pendleton, Greg Babonis, Patrick Whelley, Sarah Ogburn, Andrew Rankin, Lauren Fortson, Timothy Holling, Jessica Ball, Roy Widrig, Amanda Hintz, Mickael Smolen, Juliette Maurice, Jamal Amin, Carolyn Roberts
- III. Old Business:
 - a. Officer reports:
 - i. Senate rep, Tim O'Brien, reminded members about the Mark Diamond fund, and reiterated specifics (<http://gsa.buffalo.edu/Funding and Services/MDRF.html>).
 - ii. Treasurer, Lauren Fortson, passed around the current budget information, and reminded members about the \$50/semester we can use for gifts (e.g. for leaving faculty).
 - iii. Faulty liaison, Greg Babonis, will send out an email with the juicy details about the last faulty meeting.
 - b. Update on the GGSA website: waiting for the GSA to review the website
 - c. Committee reports:
 - i. Winter party: the deposit is ready and the venue is all set. Jessica Ball has volunteered to help Sarah with the cake. We need volunteers to create a music playlist for when the Flying Monkeys are not performing. The question still exists as to if there will be an auction or not, and the difficulties about doing it through GSA were brought to light during the meeting.
 - ii. Outreach: Penn Dixie went well. Discovery Days is coming up (Nov. 11 from 12-3pm) and volunteers will be needed to help run the Department table. There have been requests for talk at local schools and Cub Scout groups- any volunteers? In addition, a basic PowerPoint about the UB Geology department is being put together for talks given at local colleges.
 - iii. Graduate School Workshop for undergrads: scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 3 during the regular Pegrum time (faculty meeting is during this time). Patrick, Mandie, and Lauren have volunteered to be involved with this workshop, but we still need more volunteers to help orchestrate this and/or share their information/experiences. We can utilize PowerPoints from pervious workshops.
 - iv. Student research funding from GGSA: Tim O'Brien is sending out an email with more information regarding how much money can be given to students and the criteria/requirements for awarding funding.
 - v. Ambassadors for visiting students: each ambassador will be emailing their respective research groups to find out who can house and/or go out to lunch with visiting students. To recap:

Group	Ambassador
Climate/remote sensing	Greg Babonis
Geochemistry	Lauren Fortson
Volcanology	Andrew Rankin

IV. New Business:

- a. The New Graduate Student Orientation packet (read by Patrick) informed new students about conference funding opportunities.
- b. Center for Geohazards (<http://www.geohazards.buffalo.edu/>): gives money in the form of a scholarship to grad students and is looking for some environmental research-oriented proposals. Sarah explained that some issues occurred with the Center's website and its members list, so those who were members may have to go through the process again and re-become a member. The Center also has some money for student-selected speakers to come give talks.
- c. Lauren Fortson proposed we try to re-activate the University at Buffalo chapter of Sigma Gamma Epsilon, and is gathering more information on this matter.
- d. Lauren Fortson proposed a department newsletter on the basis that creating a paperless newsletter could bring the department closer together by informing everyone on what students and faculty are doing (research-wise). Mandie Hintz seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously, and an email is going to be sent out about the newsletter idea soon.
- e. BAPG: Shanna Losee was our representative, but we probably need a new one. There should be an open spot for a UB student rep to fill (to be voted on at the next BAPG meeting, Oct. 19).
- f. Pegrum coordination will be switching from Tracy Bank to Bea Csatho, so Greg Babonis asked students to start gathering names of speakers we would like to have talks from next semester.
- g. The next GGSA meeting will be Thursday, Nov. 10, at noon in HOCH 444.

V. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

*Carolyn Roberts
Geology Graduate Student Association Secretary*