

Minutes of
Geology Graduate Student Association

November 14, 2012

I. The meeting was called to order at 12:00 in the Map Room (HOCH 439).

II. Attendance: Jessica Ball, Timothy O'Brien, Christine Burrill, Elizabeth Ceperley, Simon Pendleton, Carolyn Roberts, Sandra Cronauer, Sam Kelley, Greg Babonis, Matt Sweeney, Laura Best and Kate Feiner.

III. Issues Discussed:

1. Officer Updates

- a. President/Faculty Liaison – Tim substituted for Sam for the Nov 1 faculty meeting. The list of courses on the geology department website will be revised to reflect courses being offered.
- b. Senator – Most important issue discussed is the change of the rule that any departmental club officer can serve as an alternate senator, but only has voting privileges if listed as an Alternate on the Senate Election Verification Form. The new rule would be any departmental club officers can serve as alternate senators, and will have full voting privileges.
- c. Treasurer – (see Winter Party updates below)
- d. T.A. Union Rep.
 - A new T.A. contract is in the works, the last one expired several years ago. It helps if TAs are registered as members and Sandra can get you a form to sign up.
 - TAs who have dependents can have pre-tax money taken out and deposited into a Dependent Care Advantage Account. Email Sandra for more information and the number to call if you are interested.
 - Professional Development Funds – APPLY! You can even apply for retroactive funding if you keep your receipts.

2. Alumni Board Meeting – Date postponed to February 2013. Each discipline should put together a slide or two about their research. Also looking to include ideas from students how alumni could help such as workshops on interview skills, resume writing, etc or, presentations on their job.

3. Get Well Wishes for Marty Roth, Department Secretary, who will be absent for at least several weeks. Flowers and a card from graduate students. More information to come.

4. Committees:

a. Winter Party

- i. Photo Contest – Underway! The email that was sent out didn't have the attachments with all the information but the information is posted around the department.
- ii. Tickets are printed and are available for purchase. Advance ticket prices will be \$15 without open bar, \$25 includes open bar and \$22 and \$36 at the door. See Liz Ceperley to get your tickets!
- iii. Vote to encumber \$20 for posters to advertise Winter Party – Unanimous.

b. Department Outreach

- i. Jessica Ball is a rep. for AGU Volcanology section. If you'd like to see certain issues addressed, for example, if you'd like to see more funding opportunities, share your thoughts with Jess. AGU is revamping their approach to get young students and early career scientists involved
- ii. Long term project: Creating or updating a brochure for new students on living in Buffalo.

c. Graduate school Workshop – Q&A with undergraduates: Thursday, Nov. 15, 2012 at 3:30 in NSC 216. Volunteers will give a brief talk about a certain topic: GRE prep, Making the Decision to go to grad school,

Looking for Schools, Application Process, Visiting the School, Funding, Masters vs. PhD. Topics discussed will be made into a brochure and made available to undergraduates.

5. Future Club Activities

- a. Buffalo Association of Professional Geologists (BAPG) Dinner Meeting. November 14, 2012.
 - 5:30 pm – Social Hour (cash bar)
 - 6:30 pm – Dinner (Buffett) and talk starts around 7:30 pm
 - Where: Orazio's, 9415 Main Street, Clarence, NY 14301
 - Cost: Students: \$10.00
 - Topic: Geology and Hydrogeology of the Alberta Oil Sands
 - Speaker: K. Scott King, M.Sc., P.G., P.Geo. AMEC Environment & Infrastructure
- b. University of Rochester Department of Earth & Env. Sciences Seminar
 - November 16, 2012 UB's Dr. Jason Briner will be giving a talk on the response of Arctic ice sheets to abrupt climate change. Seminars are at 3:00 in Hutchison 229.
- c. Whitworth Ferguson Planetarium (Buff State)
 - i. Program: Legends of Autumn: Perseus and Medusa.
 - From website: "Take a tour of the Autumn sky as seen from Buffalo and learn the legends behind some of the visible constellations."
 - Date(s): November 9 – December 1
 - Time: Fridays @ 6:30 pm and Saturdays @ 4 pm
 - ii. Program: Star Lore of the Iroquois
 - From website: "Learn about some of the star stories of the Iroquois Nation"
 - Date: November 17th
 - Time: Fridays @ 8:00 pm
- d. Disaster Movie Night!!
 - Date: Tuesday November 20th
 - Time: 7:00 pm
 - Location: Hoch 439
 - We will be screening the epic ~~failure~~ classic that is THE CORE!
 - Popcorn and soda's provided, BYOB
- e. **Next & Last meeting for the Fall semester: Wednesday, November 28, 2012 at noon in the Map room (Hoch 439).**

VI. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

*Christine Burrill
Geology Graduate Student Association Secretary*