

**Minutes for the  
Geology Graduate Student Association  
9-10-2019**

1. Call to Order:
  - a. Pat Bobbitt, president, called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm in Cooke 435.
2. Attendance: A. Croft, Juliana Conlon, Sam Rodgers, Ian Taylor-Benjamin, Devon Gorbey, Jiawei Jiang, Hui Gao, Ricky Milleville, Caleb Walcott, Chris Sbarra, Josh Charlton, Erin Schuster, Celia Trunt, Jeremy Stock, Jenny Soonthornrangsang, Pat Bobbitt
3. First meeting remarks: Pat welcomed everyone to the meeting.
4. Old Business:
  - a. Get involved- sign up for committees!
    - i. Fill out the google doc with name and email- link will go out again with meeting minutes.
  - b. Activities:
    - i. Committee will meet and plan for camping and/or kayaking, event time tbd, but in the next few weeks
    - ii. Happy hours: on Fridays, come and get to know other grad students in the department better!
      1. Many people who go are willing to drive, so let someone know if you need a ride!
  - c. Pegrum
    - i. Long term solution to the Pegrum tasks is needed.
      1. Several club members participated in the discussion: ultimate decision is that the faculty liaison (Devon) should bring up this issue, and suggest that the Pegrum order be changed to either Wegman's food (morning pickup) and Tim Horton's coffee (afternoon pickup on campus) or all from Tim Horton's.
      2. Club feels that this would not only be more convenient for the grad students/club when considering the Pegrum tasks, but also would
    - ii. Until a long term solution can be found, we will continue to ask for volunteers on an as needed basis
    - iii. Pat asked the club for volunteers to handle Pegrum refreshments for the next Pegrum.
      1. Jenny will order for next week and put up flyers, and Pat help pick up.
  - d. Webmaster: Pat and Erin reminded the club of the responsibilities of webmaster, and asked if there are any volunteers so we can fill the position.
    - i. Ricky was unanimously approved as webmaster.
    - ii. Discussed setting up a club Instagram.
  - e. Winter Party committee: Jeremy Stock was unanimously voted in as co-chair of the Winter Party committee.
5. New Business:

- a. Pat mentioned the department wanted photos of everyone, sent to Barbara Catalano.
  - i. Email a professional looking photograph that shows your face clearly to [bac6@buffalo.edu](mailto:bac6@buffalo.edu) before Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>.
- b. Committee Meeting: schedule your committee meeting ASAP, so that it can get done by the end of October
  - i. Pick up forms in the office from Sharon!
- c. Volunteer for Mark Diamond Review Council, Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup>, get a free meal and review the grant proposals.
  - i. They need STEM graduate students to participate. It's easy to participate, and will help your grant writing!
  - ii. Let Erin know and she will send you the information!
- d. Dr. Briner would like to decorate the area around the department office with posters, etc. to help recruitment and also contribute to the department atmosphere
  - i. Maybe a photo contest of field photos from grad students, printing and matting could be paid for by the department potentially
  - ii. Also there may be plans to redo the poster with grad students in Hochstetter, which the club is in favor of doing
  - iii. More about this later!
- e. Outreach Committee: Caleb talked about the Buffalo Maker's Faire and Penn Dixie Science day, encouraged people to sign up to volunteer. Cool activities are planned, it's a great way to connect with the community!
  - i. Sign up online, fill out google doc
  - ii. Free admission to the Maker's Faire if you volunteer
- f. Tutorials committee: Writing hour possibly Tuesday or Thursday, every other week, with club funded snacks and coffee?
  - i. Will send out a email and doodle poll to gauge attendance.
- g. Union Update: we currently have the lowest density of members of any department, if you are a TA, please consider signing your union card
  - i. The PhD excellence initiative will only be funded for 1 year, raising stipends for PhD students to \$20,000, so to compensate there is a freeze on PhD recruitment for the next year for most departments (not including geology department)
  - ii. There is a petition to sign protesting the recruitment freeze and asking for the excellence initiative to be funded for 5 years, and to agree to the living stipend solution committee (recommended by FSA and GSA)
- h. GSA Update: still waiting for bank account to be set up, so for club funded events we can use Wegmans or have a club member purchase it and be reimbursed later

6. Our next meeting will be on October 8<sup>th</sup>, at 2pm in Cooke 435. Hope to see you there!

Respectfully Submitted,

Meredith Cole  
GGSA Secretary