Monthly Meeting Minutes—February 23, 2015

The February monthly meeting of the Physics Graduate Student Council was held on February 23, 2015 at Panera in Harvard Square. Jae Hyeon Lee, Olivia Millder, Joe Olson, and Anna Patej were in attendance. The present document summarizes items discussed, plans for the upcoming months, and division of responsibilities.

Summary

The Council began the meeting with the review of members’ activity during the month of January and February.

- Arthur:
  1. Will update fellow Council members on the progress of his projects including internship opportunity and alumni directory.

- Anna Patej:
  1. Successfully organized a panel discussion on research and qualifying exam. She will solicit feedback from students and summarize them in a document for archival purpose. Beginning next year, the department will be organizing two separate panel discussions for G1 and G2 students, one for beginning research and another for qualifying exam.

- Joe Olson:
  1. Successfully organized a poster session for beginning students. He wrote a report on the event.
  2. There will be another poster session during the open house for G0.

- Nick:
  1. Will continue to organize social hour.

- Olivia:
  1. Played a significant role in planning and organizing a successful puppet show.
  2. Stress reduction events: Will begin planning for and organizing the events after the funding situation is cleared.

- Jae:
  1. Mental health issue: Drafted a plan for the initiative. A group decision was made to solicit a written essay from a faculty, sharing his or her experience dealing with mental health issue at the information session to be organized in April.
  2. Agenda: Revised the agenda for Spring 2015 and stored in the archive.
Below are other items discussed at the meeting.

- Desk assignment: The Council deems reasonable that students make a preliminary assignment after conducting a survey. The administration can then make the final decision on the actual assignment. To be further discussed with Lisa.

- Relationship with the department: Whenever the Council makes a group decision on an issue that affects other members of the community such as the staff or faculty, the Council should involve them in the process.

- Grad-undergrad mentoring program: Jae will meet with representatives from SPS to discuss working on this initiative together.

- Puppet show: Every year, a Council member will speak to one of the G2 students who is involved in organizing the puppet show to remind them to refrain from including inappropriate humor in the show such as sexually demeaning jokes about female faculty.

**Plans and divisions of responsibilities**

Below is the summary of the plans and division of responsibilities within the Council until the next monthly meeting:

- **Arthur:**
  1. Update fellow Council members on the progress of his projects including internship opportunity and alumni directory.

- **Anna Patej:**
  1. Start planning for the weekly Seminar.
  2. Solicit feedback from students on the panel discussion and summarize it in a document for archival purpose.

- **Joe Olson:**
  1. Organize a poster session for the open house for G0.

- **Nick:**
  1. Continue to organize social hour.

- **Olivia:**
  1. Stress reduction events: Starting planning for and organize the events after funding has been secured.

- **Jae:**
  1. Professional internship opportunity: Will explore an avenue for this initiative with Westervelt.
  2. Particle physics curriculum review: Start working the initiative.
  3. Student mental health: Start organizing this event. Set a date for the event, inviting Dean McCavana and Dr. Lapierre.
  4. Grad-Undergrad mentoring program: Work with SPS to provide undergraduate a channel through which to meet graduate students.
  5. Start writing the constitution.