

November 27th, 2014 SOBGS Meeting Minutes

Bioformal – Poll was sent out regarding food choices for the bioformal.

SOGS – No quorum at the November meeting, therefore no voting. There was a 45 min health plan presentation. An interdisciplinary research forum is being developed to showcase graduate research. Magda's water bottles for the environment and sustainability initiatives are selling really well. SOGS will have an ombudsperson.

PSAC – still no representative, hopefully will get one in new year.

Grad Ed – Ranked NSERC awards. No meetings, however if there are concerns regarding graduate education, send them to Grad Ed representatives.

Seminar – Joanna's term is up in January, call for nominations will go out in January. BGS 2084 is booked for winter term speaker lunches.

Research – 3 research clusters were identified at the biology retreat this past year. There is a research cluster fund available for up to \$500 to facilitate research days pertaining to cluster development – the deadline will be January 31st. Research celebration afternoon on January 8th – all faculty will give a short presentation on their research. Science communication team is working on research profiles for Western News; picking out best abstracts on recently published bio papers and writing outreach stories and papers, aiming to publish in newspapers.

Outreach – Biology tables were reduced at the fall preview day due to competition with medical sciences for space. BUGS still had their lab showcase however. Next open house is in March.

Social – Bake sales raised \$400, and the gift basket is drawing in a substantial amount of donations

Chair – Senate is working on student-supervisor code of conduct, will be seeking student and faculty input in 2015. Will not be binding to faculty, only guideline. Mustang athletics is pushing an initiative to enhance the graduate student experience via an easy-to-use booking form to organize get-togethers around Western Mustangs sporting events. Once form is filled-in, organizing the event is taken care of by a team of people headed by Stephanie Merino.

Other Business – Grad/TA evaluations are currently optional. To become better TAs/teachers, we need access to feedback – also would act as a quality control to enhance undergraduate learning experience.