

April 11, 2018

Officer Updates

Jess recovered from her sickness and resumed her role as NGSO president. We opened by talking about what the NGSO should be, and what we want to get out of it. Suggestions for improving academics included: workshops about public speaking and grant writing, a discussion or presentation about various lab techniques used by students in the program, and coming together before research presentations to get feedback on posters/talks.

Jess and Ben, our student reps, will be talking to Keri about improving recruitment for next year. The main suggestion is asking professors to be more involved. Along those lines, students would also like faculty to be more involved in NGP activities. This includes tailoring professional development opportunities to fit the needs of NGP students (like having NGP alum talk about their path to success at the annual retreat), asking professors to give short lectures on techniques like Photoshop or microscopy, and improving overall communication.

Committee Updates

Fundraising- Although no fundraisers are currently scheduled, t-shirts are still available for purchase. We discussed selling more t-shirts during future NGSO events, wearing our shirts to NGSO activities, and promoting them on social media. MELT also reached out to Liz to ask if the NGSO would be interested in doing another fundraiser there, so that's an option to keep in mind. Sarah brought up the idea of hosting a neuroscience movie night in the auditorium that is open to the public. We could charge for tickets to see the movie, then discuss the science behind the movie as a group. Also, CGS will promote our events for free, so this can help recruit more people to our fundraisers.

To spend some of the money the NGSO has raised, Liz is planning a team building activity that is similar to the Amazing Race. Thank you to everyone who filled out the survey. Right now, it looks like it will be 2 hours on a Saturday afternoon, probably inside on campus. This event is for NGP students only (no significant others). More details to come!

Social- The April happy hour will be at **Bottle Shop on Thursday, April 26th at 5:30pm.**

Other- Sarah is planning to create a GroupMe for the NGSO. This is a messaging app with the option to create polls, so this should cut down on the number of emails everyone receives while also providing updates about NGSO activities. Also, she suggested the NGSO become more active on social media by creating a Twitter (we already have an Instagram and Facebook) and posting more regularly. It was proposed we create a social media coordinator position to manage all the accounts.

There is a **STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) event from 6-8pm on Tuesday, May 8th at an elementary school in Worthington.** This event is similar to the STEM Expo help last month and is a great opportunity to educate young minds. In the future, the

NGSO would like to expand outreach to high school and undergraduate students. Perhaps we could hold a lunch and invite undergrads to talk about how to get involved in research, and steps to take to get into graduate school. We would like to form a volunteer and service committee to organize these events.

Finally, numerous people voiced concerns about the lack of communication with incoming first years after they get accepted but before they start in August. To eliminate this silence, Sarah will be emailing the new NGP class to welcome them to OSU. Sarah and Zoe will be listed as contacts for any questions about the program and provide guidance until they arrive. Once they arrive, we discussed having a NGSO welcome week. Perhaps a board game night or happy hour to get students acclimated to Columbus and the program. This will be discussed more in depth in our next meetings.

Next meeting: May 9th, location TBD.