

May 9, 2018

Updates from Keri:

1. Keri started off the meeting with announcements about how to get involved with the program and recruitment. The program hopes to increase diversity among NGP students, so Keri is going to recruit students from SACNAS (Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science) on October 11-13th, and from ABRCMS (Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students) on November 14-17th. If anyone is interested in going on these trips email Keri and she can give you more information.
2. Also, Keri would like to set up a communication plan that involves sending targeted emails to students about relevant milestones and upcoming events. If you are interested in meeting with Keri (about 1-3 times) to help set up this plan, please email her. Along with this plan, Keri would like to form focus groups for each year. For example, all the second years plus Keri will work together to see what they program can do to help us succeed, and figure out what resources are available to help us get there.
3. Also, new student orientation is August 13-14th. The Saturday before is the softball game and there will likely be a retreat activity around this time, and another one later in the fall.
4. Lastly, a reminder that May 25th is the application deadline for students who wish to graduate in the summer.

Updates from President & Vice President

1. Jess and Ben went to the NGP committee meeting to discuss the concerns students mentioned. The students would like more faculty involvement, and the faculty seem onboard to make this change. To ensure faculty are aware of important events, they asked that students email individual faculty and invite them to events. Also discussed was changing curriculum requirements. Neurobiology of disease will (most likely) no longer be a requirement and it will be replaced with a statistics course. The faculty are also in favor of creating more professional development workshops, but they are unsure who would host these workshops.
2. There is an opening for junior student rep since Ben will be moving into the senior student rep position. The main responsibilities are planning career day, attending NGP committee meetings, and planning recruitment. Ben will send out an email asking for nominations, and then we will vote. The junior student rep must be post candidacy and have at least two years left in the program. If you are not interested in junior student rep but want to become more involved in NGSO, the current officer positions end July

31st so those positions will need to be filled. An email will be sent out early in July asking for nominations and statements.

3. Jess proposed we get rid of the web service committee and add a community service committee. This committee is separate from NEURO that would plan additional service opportunities. For example, organizing panels for undergraduate students to increase interest in research and applying for graduate school, volunteering at a 5k, etc. Everyone voted in favor to amend the constitution.
4. Keri approached NEURO and asked for a statement that could be brought to faculty about potentially increasing the service requirement for NGP students. Currently, the service requirement for NGP students includes participation in Brain Awareness Week for 2 years. The statement proposed to increase the service requirement to participation in BAW for all years in the program and add a few service requirements for first and second years. The NGSO voted no to presenting this service statement to the faculty this year, but this topic may be revisited after the community service committee is up and running.

Committee updates:

Fundraising- The Amazing Race team building event is scheduled for the afternoon of Saturday, June 9th. You must sign up to participate since NGSO will cover the cost.

Professional development- There is a post doc panel next Wednesday from 12-1 in Graves 1069. For anyone interested, it was recommended to get there early to get a seat since the room is pretty small. Kyle also found a brochure for industry careers and sample questions from the top 20 companies in biotech and pharmacy which will be sent out to everyone. Also, anyone interested in public policy or communication, there are fellowships through AAAS.

Social- The next social is on May 24th at 5:30pm at Seventh Son (they now have a rooftop bar!).

General assembly updates:

1. Kristina relayed comments from Godbout about changing the seminar format. As of now, the new format includes getting rid of journal club to add in year specific workshops. These workshops may include topics on candidacy, grant writing, and career development.
2. Liz would like to make everyone aware of the STEAM Factory and its collaboration with OSU. The STEAM Factory wishes to increase public awareness of research at OSU, and facilitate collaborations between disciplines. Faculty are often selected to give a 30-minute talk with 30 minutes for Q/A. As an organization, we hope to attend these events both for fun and to potentially participate in graduate student talks.

3. Sarah and Zoe emailed the incoming graduate students with information about housing and what to keep an eye out for in the upcoming months. They plan to send out monthly emails to help students with their transition to Columbus and the NGP.

The next meeting is on June 6th at 4pm in 135 BRT.