

Thanks to everyone who stayed for the recruitment/NGSO meeting!

Keri talked about possible changes for recruitment this year. These are all just suggestions she is talking about with the faculty, and will update us once the decision is made. If the changes are denied, recruitment will occur as it did last year. The major changes would include having a 4th year or above student be on the interview panel for the incoming students. Since interviews occur the day after the welcome dinner, current students conducting interviews will not be allowed to attend the welcome dinner to prevent biases. Also, we will be getting rid of the group building tours and instead have students say what building they work in, and about the equipment and techniques they use. The biggest change would be reducing recruitment to two days instead of three. Recruitment will **January 4-5th**, please mark in on your calendar. Please ask your PI if he/she is planning to take students so Keri can make a list for the recruits. Also, let your PI know when recruitment is and try to encourage them to come to events. The more faculty the better! Finally, a friendly reminder to remain professional during all recruitment events. All questions and comments from recruited students should be answered truthfully, but in a diplomatic way.

Updates from the NGSO and committees were as follows:

Jess and Sarah talked with Keri about changing the seminar format. Keri is taking their feedback to “the Johns” and will keep us posted. Right now, the plan is to keep the research presentations as is, but make the journal club more engaging. For each speaker, a group of 3-5 people will give an in depth summary of the PIs background, highlight key findings from major papers, discuss how these papers contribute to the field as a whole, and give an overview of techniques used in the lab. Each student would give one presentation per semester in this format. This will take affect either in the spring or next fall if approved.

Fundraising- The T-shirt fundraiser is in full swing and the new T-shirts should be ready by December. What a great Christmas gift for friends and family!

Professional development- Kyle is working on setting up a business card workshop. The goal is to have the workshop before SfN, so stayed tuned for a date if you are interested.

Social- The Halloween mixer is at Brazenhead on Tuesday, October 24th at 7pm. It would be great if a lot of NGP students could go so we can mingle with the other programs. And there’s free food!

Website- Sarah regularly updates the NGSO calendar with all OUAB and NGP events, so remember to check it to keep up with events.

Thanks to everyone for all their hard work! The next meeting will be November 8th right after seminar.