

Meeting minutes for: August 26, 2020
First meeting of 2020-2021 year!

Updates from the General Assembly

Overview of NGSO mission statement, goals, and objectives.

NGSO is a student organization specifically for the OSU neuroscience graduate program with the main goal to promote advancement for all members within the program. NGSO also strives to improve the overall graduate student experience within the program.

Your 2020-2021 E-Board:

President – Kia Adams (adams.2118@osu.edu)

Vice President – Athena Howell (howell.551@osu.edu)

Treasurer – Toni Stubbs (stubbs.89@osu.edu)

Secretary – Zoe Tapp (tapp.16@osu.edu)

Professional Development – Michaela Breach (breach.3@osu.edu)

Diversity and Inclusion – Dani Boyle (boyle.316@osu.edu)

Fundraising – Toni Stubbs (stubbs.89@osu.edu)

NewN Committee – Rachel Gilfarb (gilfarb.1@osu.edu)

Social – Becca Biltz (biltz.17@osu.edu)

Webmaster – Sam Houle (houle.26@osu.edu)

Student Representatives – Nicki Puckos (Senior Rep, puckos.1@osu.edu) and Abby Zalenski (Junior Rep, zalenski.16@osu.edu)

Check out the NGSO website (<https://u.osu.edu/ngso/>) for resources such as survival guides to your first year and candidacy (<https://u.osu.edu/ngso/student-resources/>)!

NEURO Update: Kia Adams is president of Neuroscience Education: Urban and Rural Outreach (NEURO). The main purpose of this organization is to take basic neuroscience and scientific education to rural and urban areas to get people interested in neuro and science. Currently working on transitioning to a virtual format and will be having meetings about the virtual format and asking for volunteers.

- The Cognitive Sciences Club from OSU has offered to have neuroscience graduate students to participate in a panel discussing post-graduate options and your own experience in graduate school. **NEURO will be reaching out with more information and looking for volunteers.**

Frontiers in Neuroscience Seminar Series : Currently chaired by Kia Adams. This organization gives students the opportunities to nominate speakers to come to OSU (virtually) and give a talk, as well as meet with students in a small group format to discuss their own academic journey and advice for students.

- **Currently looking for nominations for the Frontiers in Neuroscience Seminar Series to fill seminar spaces for 2020-2021 as well as 2021-2022.** Specific accolades or awards are NO LONGER REQUIRED for faculty to be nominated. Faculty must be outside of OSU and have not spoken in past two years of Frontiers series. Nominations for any international speakers are highly encouraged because of the virtual format. A survey from Kia has been sent out asking for nominations, but you can also email her separately (adams.2118@osu.edu).
- **Currently looking for nominations for a new Frontiers in Neuroscience Seminar Series chair!** An email has gone out asking for nominations, but you can also email Kia and you can nominate yourself! Current chair, Kia, is soliciting speaker nominations and will forward the list for faculty approval. New chair responsibilities will include sending out invites to approved speaker nominations to speak at OSU (virtually) and will also have to introduce any speakers for the Frontiers Seminar Series. Email Kia (adams.2118@osu.edu) for more details!

General Assembly Questions

- Where can we find the Wednesday seminar schedule?
 - The NEUROGS 7887 Wednesday seminar schedule is found on Carmen. Click the course and you can then find the Zoom meeting information and the course summary under “Syllabus”.
- Would the next Frontiers in Neuroscience chair have to organize the actual seminar for invited speaker?
 - No, the chair will only be responsible for reaching out to prospective speakers to invite them and then introduce their talk, Keri will take care of logistics otherwise.
- What does joining a committee in NGSO entail?
 - Joining a committee is very unofficial, essentially you just need to reach out to the committee chair to express interest in participating in the committee and you will be added to any future emails regarding planning or logistics for that committee. You can be involved in none or all committees in NGSO, it is up to you!

Updates from Student Reps & CGS Delegate

Abby Zalenski, Junior Rep: Student representatives are here if you have any problems or things you want to bring to faculty/change in the program. They will be present at meetings to hear from the student body and make general announcements about.

- **Student representatives put out a call for ideas for monthly seminars!** Want a workshop in coding? Want to better understand microscopy/which imaging protocol is best for your experiment? Let them know! Email zalenski.16@osu.edu or puckos.1@osu.edu with your suggestions.

Sarah Light, CGS Secretary: The Neuroscience Graduate Program does not currently have a Council of Graduate Students (CGS) delegate. This is a way to get involved in the graduate school as a whole outside of the neuroscience program. If you are interested, check out <https://cgs.osu.edu/> for more information (though keep in mind the website is currently under construction!) and consider running for the delegate position this fall. See this link for more details: <https://cgs.osu.edu/leadership/delegates/>. Sarah Light has previously acted as the neuroscience graduate program CGS delegate, so reach out to ask any questions about the position to light.109@osu.edu!

- You can additionally participate in CGS committees that are involved in tasks such as reviewing funding applications, running research conferences, or getting involved in diversity and inclusion for the graduate school. You do NOT need to be a delegate to attend CGS meetings or participate in these committees, so consider joining!

Updates from the E-Board and Committee Chairs

President: Sent out a survey regarding meeting times/days for future NGSO meetings (survey can be found here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScsZLqGV8-FNNhlpf IaGQ8xJDOXLEYG TtJJveNEEp1Tqw3Q/viewform?usp=sf_link and is due by THIS FRIDAY September 4 by 5 PM), as well as frontiers speaker/chair nominations (survey can be found here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdest IR7edYYu2PaZeer8000fX7uQd4hp7IKnvN9b170ONUg/viewform?usp=sf_link and is due by THIS FRIDAY September 4 by 5 PM). **Please answer these surveys, but you can additionally email Kia with questions (adams.2118@osu.edu).** Also, new students will be added to the NGSO GroupMe.

Vice President: NONE

Treasurer: NONE

Secretary: Currently working with webmaster/Keri to include a specific “student accolades” segment to highlight current student’s work over NGSO social media such as Twitter/Instagram. **Please reach out with any additional ideas at tapp.16@osu.edu!**

Social: First NGSO Happy Hour of 2020 happened August 27 at 5 PM and was very successful! Keep an eye out for surveys to determine activities to do during happy hour such as Jackbox – **please reach out at any time if you have any ideas at biltz.17@osu.edu!**

NewN: NONE

Fundraising: Has a few ideas for fundraising and once they are more solidified, feedback will be welcome. Trying to avoid zoom format as to not overwhelm people but considering things like candy-grams. **Reach out or email stubbs.89@osu.edu with any ideas!**

Professional Development: Got feedback from survey and many people were interested in an R workshop, thus that will be organized. There was a suggestion to have Dr. Wester lead this workshop. Looking to gather alumni contact information from labs to establish a career panel, **please email breach.3@osu.edu with any information!** Also looking to gauge interest in a virtual zoom networking event.

Diversity & Inclusion: New committee that intends to take on a real commitment to focus on tangible actions to ensure representation and inclusion of EVERY student. This committee will focus on a professional “no BS” approach to talking about diversity and inclusion (i.e. don’t attack, but don’t make excuses). Mission/vision statement: to improve the equity of the NGP through meaningful programing and outreach to marginalized populations.

- Aims to create many programs/events to highlight diversity and inclusion and work toward breaking down biases and increasing understanding and action toward equity.
- Some suggested programs/events: teaching high school students, which could involve several grad students to teach modules throughout the week or only doing Saturday classes – will work more with NEURO to establish interest and feasibility. Also interested in creating events focusing on current community and increasing inclusivity through things like movie nights/trivia nights with the intention of creating conversations about diversity and inclusion. Would like to work with other graduate programs to supplement diverse communities because the NGP is small and may not be able to offer enough support to diverse/marginalized students (though this committee is working toward supplementing that).
- Wants to create a monthly newsletter with different highlighted topics and include helpful resources and primary references for people to learn more and be able to better start conversations both within and outside of NGP.
- Quick Plug – Mental Health Awareness workshop will be held during seminar on September 23rd!
- Working closely with the faculty diversity and inclusion committee chair, Dr. Dana McTigue, to bring changes throughout the program from students to faculty. Dani is open to any and all input to bring to Dr. McTigue to discuss with faculty! Currently going to discuss an accountability network to alert PIs of toxic/concerning behavior with no concern of retaliation/penalization. Will also discuss actionable plans to address past tendencies and discretions as well as gauge a sense of mental health awareness among faculty. Finally, will determine what actionable plans the faculty have in place/will create to increase diversity and inclusion within the program for both students/faculty. Keep an

eye out for a survey gauging general attitudes or specific instances of toxic/problematic behavior you would like to see changed, and in the meantime **email boyle.316@osu.edu with any comments or ideas!**

Concluding Remarks & Next Meeting Date

We are very happy to start 2020 with our new E-board and committee chairs! **Please reach out to any and all leadership about questions or suggestions regarding their committee/ideas.**

If you are interested in joining a committee or learning more about the committee's goals and initiatives, email committee chairs.

We do not currently have a set date/time for the next NGSO meeting. Kia sent a survey concerning future NGSO meeting times/dates, **please fill that out as soon as you can to help with planning of future meetings!**