

Meeting minutes for: February 17, 2020
First meeting of the 2021 year!

Updates from the General Assembly

NGSO E-Board and Chair Positions are up for election this coming spring! If you are interested in running for any positions listed below feel free to email the current position member to ask more about the position and their responsibilities. NGSO Leadership positions are a great way to build your leadership participation (build that CV!) and get involved with the program.

Several changes have occurred in the NGSO E-Board and Chair Positions; thus, the updated leadership is as follows:

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

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

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

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

Diversity and Inclusion – **AVAILABLE**

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

NewN – Emma Woodward (woodward.207@osu.edu)

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

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

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

CGS Delegate – Shane O’Neil (oneil.175@osu.edu)

NEURO President – Kia Adams (adams.2118@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.

- OSU’s Brain Bee is being hosted by NEURO in conjunction with Power in Neuroscience (an undergraduate club) THIS SATURDAY. Please reach out to Kia (adams.2118@osu.edu) if you are interested in any last minute volunteering for this event!
- Additionally, NEURO is interested in transforming their interactive science stations (usually brought to schools and public libraries across Columbus) into a virtual format! If you have any suggestions for interactive, virtual neuroscience activities please reach out!

Updates from Student Reps & CGS Delegate

Nicki Pukos, Senior Rep and 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 pukos.1@osu.edu with your suggestions.**
- Virtual recruitment was held last week Thursday, 2/18. The students who were invited to participate had previously been interviewed by faculty and were extended invitations to attend OSU, so the context (as well as format) was a bit different from previous years. Students were placed in “Break Out” rooms to facilitate more personal conversations between current students and recruits with a Trivia game available to help further facilitate discussion. **If you had a recruit attend last week, please be sure to follow up with them asking if they have any additional questions!**

CGS Delegate: The NGP’s CGS Delegate is Shane O’Neil. A current concern in the CGS is regarding EHS inspections of lab spaces. **EHS has proposed placing the responsibility of EHS inspections on the labs themselves** rather than risk increased exposure of COVID-19 to either inspectors or people in labs. The overall opinion of those in attendance was that this would be unfair to labs as they are not trained to complete EHS inspections and there would be an increased liability if something were missed. Additionally, too much responsibility may be put on graduate students who are part of smaller labs and there could be an increased risk of dangerous power dynamics where those in positions of power within the lab could pressure those taking the responsibility of inspections to pass aspects that do not meet standards. A possible compromise that was proposed during the meeting is that EHS only places internal responsibility on labs that are larger and have a track-record of no EHS violations so that liability is decreased. Please email Shane (oneil.175@osu.edu) if you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding this CGS update.

- Remember that you can 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: First year students will be added to the NGSO GroupMe so they may be kept up to date on NGSO events and meetings.

Vice President: NONE

Treasurer: NONE

Secretary/Webmaster: Currently working with webmaster/Keri to update the NGP and NGSO websites to show most up to date information regarding faculty and students. **Please reach out with any additional ideas at houle.26@osu.edu and/or tapp.16@osu.edu!**

Social: **First NGSO Happy Hour of 2021 is February 25 at 6 PM!** These happy hours are virtual Zoom events including Trivia/Kahoot, so join to see your fellow students for some socially distant fun! Becca is hopeful that as vaccines roll out and restrictions are lifted in-person events may once again be planned, but will only occur in cooperation with state, city, and university guidelines. Keep an eye out for surveys to determine activities to do during happy hours – **please reach out at any time if you have any ideas at biltz.17@osu.edu!**

NewN: Emma sent out a survey to first year students asking about their experiences with the NewN program for the 2020-2021 year. These responses were limited, so please reach out to your NewN mentees to share their experience with Emma. **If you're a new student, please reach out to Emma (woodward.207@osu.edu) with any pros/cons** you felt regarding the NewN mentee program as we hope to continue to improve this program for future cohorts!

Fundraising: Reach out or email stubbs.89@osu.edu with any ideas!

Professional Development: Michaela Breach organized a fantastic Science Communication Workshop for the NGP and it was a resounding success! This event was held at the end of January and was an hour and a half event focusing on ways to improve science accessibility in our specific research topics. There is a recording of the event for those who were unable to attend and additionally several resources were sent out after the fact regarding science communication:

- Science Talk 2021 (Virtual) Conference: <https://www.sciencetalk.org/science-talk-21.html>
- Look for more emails from Michaela regarding additional scicomm resources and upcoming professional development events!

Diversity & Inclusion: **The D&I Committee is looking for a new chair!** Please reach out to NGSO President Athena Howell (Howell.551@osu.edu) if you are interested in running for the position. The Mental Health Faculty Presentation has been postponed to allow incorporation of faculty feedback but will still occur this spring semester.

Concluding Remarks & Next Meeting Date

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, please email committee chairs.

Next NGSO Meeting will be Wednesday, March 3 at 5 PM after seminar!