

Neuroscience Graduate Students' Association Meeting June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012

Time and Location: Good Earth Coffee House, 9:30am

Attendees: Curtis Benson, Lauren Alston, Andrea Schaffer, Caitlin Hurd, Shakib Rahman, Melanie Alpaugh, Sabine Schmelz, Scott Travis

Meeting minutes were approved from April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

### **Elections**

Elections were held to fill the vacant positions of President, VP Communications and GSA Representative on the NGSA Executive. Lauren Alston was elected as President, Scott Travis was elected as GSA Representative and Anna Wiersma was nominated as the VP Communications, pending her acceptance.

*Addendum* (June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012) Anna has confirmed that she will be taking on the role of VP Communications.

### **Improvements to the Centre**

A meeting with Dr. Collins was arranged to discuss ways for the center to benefit from a potential grant application due at in May. The committee decided to submit an application for funding used to enhance professional development and facilitate interdisciplinary meetings. The idea of having a shared student common area for all graduate students in the Centre was discussed. The grant was submitted through FGSR and is currently being reviewed.

Additionally there were two separate points of discussion at the meeting. The first was about changing the prerequisite classes for undergraduate Neurosci honours students from PMCOL courses to NEURO courses. The second was in regards to the lack of Neuro TA ships available to graduate students to help offset tuition costs. Due to a lack of large undergraduate courses and few large 300 or 400 level NEURO classes, there are very few TA ships available to graduate students. Possible options for this are being explored.

### **NGSA Logo**

Lauren has a preliminary sketch for the NGSa logo for t-shirts, hoodies and stationary. The preliminary design was approved by the executive board and Lauren will continue to work on a final version to be used to sell NGSa branded shirts and hoodies. Also Lauren will be checking with her contacts to have the design printed on mugs and see if this can be done for a reasonable cost.

*Addendum* (June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012) The NSA has informed us that we can print t-shirts using a silk screen or with a digital printer. If we choose to use the screen print there is a onetime set up fee, plus a small charge for each clothing article. Printing digitally has no set up fee, but is dependent on the quality and hence the cost per item. Lauren might have to make some modifications to the design which will be discussed at the next meeting.

## **Fundraising**

Different ideas were suggested for an NGSA fundraising event. These included an NGSA BBQ or bake sale, as well as a silent auction or selling NGSA branded shirts and stationary/mugs. Some of this will fall under the NGSA logo and branding of stationary so we will discuss this in the next meeting.

## **NGSA Social**

A summer social was proposed. Sabine will look into having an NGSA BBQ or putluck sometime in July. A tentative date of July 13<sup>th</sup> was proposed, but this may change based on other events and schedules that may also be going over the summer.

## **Signing Authority**

Signing authority was delegated to Lauren, Melanie and Shakib. Ian will be contacted to provide a letter to transfer the signing authority and Curtis will provide a VOID cheque for this purpose. Lauren will arrange a meeting with CIBC to transfer the signing authority.

*Addendum* (June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012): Signing authority was transferred to Lauren, Melanie and Shakib.

Meeting was concluded at 10:30am.

The next NGSA Meeting will be held at the Good Earth Coffee House on July 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am.