

April 27, 2020 - Dean's Council Meeting Minutes (12 pm - 1 pm CST)

Introductions: current chairs present? Any new members? --no new members at the meeting

Sarita Deshpande & Nikita Mehta - taking over co-chairs from Julian & Kelsey

Katie Aracena - GRIT representative

Jin Li - coffee hour

Brittany Broder - cultural co-chair

Sam Gartner - will be the cultural co-chair for summer

Alexis Monical - Grad Council BSD co-rep w Nikita

Marie Greaney - secretary

Program representative updates (how is your program doing/any ideas for activities/anything that DC can help with?)

Biophysics (Andres Moya) - students have led own happy hours; 1st year mentoring program continues; everyone has checked in at least once -seem well

Neuroscience (Victoria Okuneye) - not much programming. Neuro admins have organized coffee breaks for each program. Students are still giving talks. Sarita & Nikita: these have been nice to still have going on.

**Vicky would like to hear how this has gone over with the students (fact that the events are still going on, + programming faculty seminars). Thinking about cross-advertising all the talks that are happening throughout the BSD.

Darwinian cluster: Kelsey - haven't seen any seminars to go to; individual labs and interest groups have been good about meeting regularly. Would like to see talks advertised! TG (Friday talks) are not happening anymore. Sam & Katie - might be good to have scheduled happy hours/zoom talks in place of TG.

Public health: Meytal - has also kept up with weekly students talks & workshops; no seminars

Victoria O: is now experimenting w/ a weekly list of seminars happening in the hospitals (in place of rotations, etc.)

Vicky: we may try to do a weekly BSD-wide upcoming events email.

UChicagoGrad grad talk podcast - current effort led by Linsin Smith.

If you are interested in being a part of the podcast, please fill out this

form: <https://uchicagograd.wufoo.com/forms/zzn80ma0to6cu6/>

Platform for PostDocs and Students to Share Research Progress (Abby Stayart)

MyChoice could put together a BSD-wide platform for whatever programming is missing

- Research labs could give talks, themes/details can be determined, maybe labs who are working on COVID-related research could also present, Student-speaker series
- Email BSD with a summary of ideas

Victoria

- More workshops/programming geared towards visual communications, writing computational programming, other skills
- BSD is in the middle in terms of support/resources being made available (cohesive message)
 - Trivia nights, cooking contests, photo contests, movie nights via Zoom, meditation, yoga etc.

Katie

- Coding tutorials from Data Camp (some programs already have this for all their students)
- Vicky will send information out to the program heads to see if we can get class registration
- General science communication skills (UChicagoGrad is beginning a science podcast idea)

Treasury Update (Meytal Chernoff and Alex Smith)

- Everything has been updated on the website

Grad Council Reps (Nikita and Alexis)

GRIT Funding Rules Amendments - Challenges with Remote Activities

- BSD DC money can't be used for an individual, must be accessible by department (no gift cards, cash, etc)
- Individual movie rentals for group movie nights, book clubs, etc -
- Need a set of new rules for budget, how to govern for contests/incentives
- Melissa: there may be a university policy regarding gift cards (?). But otherwise we determine how we spend the money.
 - Gift cards are more complicated because they have to be bought through a gift card vendor
 - Guidelines come from the idea that because everyone is paying for the funds, everyone should benefit
- Katie: 2 current ideas that cost money - **approved**
 - 1) Book clubs (teams and clusters):
 - People could have an ebook to read for multiple weeks. Amazon sells ebooks to multiple people (request 10 copies and is emailed to all interested participants)
 - Advantage with Amazon is a unified central process - one person pays, one reimbursement
 - Open to everyone in the BSD and PSD
 - May have to break up into smaller groups depending on interest
 - 2) GRIT has Thursday night movie series streamed on Discord at 5 pm and then discussion at 8 pm
 - One person is renting the cost right now. It would be preferable that that individual be reimbursed by BSD GRIT funds

Spring Quarter (Remote) Trivia Night

- Organize a monthly game night (remote trivia, jeopardy, etc)

Virtual Coffee Hour (?) (Jin)

Travel Fund (Devin)

Cultural Chair update/interim cultural chair? (Brittany)

- Plays, theater, CSO, Second City - recorded viewings

Equipment Library (Charlie and Grace)?

Sports update (Alexis)?

- Remote fitness challenges, online intramural leagues, Michael Jordan documentary

Other questions?

- Student life funding? DC funding is stable, but unsure about next year
- Questions about saving the funding, surplus going into next year for bigger events