

## GSA monthly meeting minutes

September 15, 2021

Meeting was conducted on September 15, 2021, beginning at 3:30 in AOS 811 in a hybrid format of in-person and zoom. A whopping 42 graduate students attended the meeting, including 5 students who attended online. Alicia and Pete will work on improving the method for people attending virtually for them to be able to participate better and be better heard.

The meeting started with a round of brief introduction of people's preferred names, research tracks, and their positions at GSA.

Then each committee introduced its objectives and provided updates during the summer.

Welcome (Stephanie):

1. Need help from students at the AMS conference booth for recruiting graduate students. In return, the students might go to the AMS for free. Contact Stephanie for detail (smbradshaw-at-wisc.edu).

Secretary (Chen Nuo)

1. Plan to work with Pete to migrate the GSA website more toward the theme color of the AOS main website during the semester.

Seminar (Terry)

1. Seminar signup needed, contact Terry for sign-up (tpagano-at-wisc.edu).
2. The seminar will be held generally in two formats: a. 35-45 minutes talk plus 15 minutes Q&A, or b. Flash talks with 20 minutes talk plus 5 minutes Q&A.
3. You can present anything on seminars including but not limited to: your undergraduate project, master's thesis, professional development training (e.g. proposal writing and DEI).
4. The seminar will be held Wednesdays at noon, open to the option of holding it on zoom.

Outreach (Vijit)

1. Talk with 4th graders at Melrose Mindoro elementary school about things like how to read a weather map, how the weather is going to be like this time, etc. This will be a virtual event in the week of Oct 11-15th.
2. The science olympiad coaching with Hamilton middle school. Generally, meet once a week on campus for that, sign up for tutoring. Contact Vijit (maithel-at-wisc.edu)

#### Treasurer (Brienne)

1. Brienne is going to send out a poll on people's thoughts on our 2021 calendar selling, which helped to raise a lot of funds for GSA and for other social events.
2. Open to suggestions for 2022 calendar design, and suggestions for other GSA/AOS merch and diversity, equity, inclusion (DEI) based events.
3. Explored the possibility of holding an end-of-year gift exchange event.

#### DEI diversity, equity, and inclusion (Zoë and Kari)

1. A DEI meeting is scheduled for Friday.
2. AOS main website is undergoing an update, which will include a tab for DEI, including:
  1. people one should go to for specific DEI problems
  2. university statement on DEI
3. mentioned research opportunity for undergraduate students, possibly related satellite research.
4. There will be a department survey on how do people think of the overall environment of the department (e.g. how welcomed one feels).
5. Working on acknowledging the indigenous land statement. The university doesn't have a land acknowledgment statement. Traditional knowledge should be tied to the process.
6. Bringing back the URGE (Unlearning Racism in Geoscience) discussion people had last semester (spring 2021).
7. Working on a letter in response to the [letter GSA wrote last summer \(2020\) on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#).
8. Brought up the change of Schwerdtfeger library name and an undergraduate award named after the same name. A potential to ask the previous recipients of the award to write a collective petition to change the award name.
9. Expressed an intention to collaborate with other departments (e.g. geology, Nelson, physics and math, etc.) on historical minority issues.
10. Rosa has signed up for co-chairing the committee in 2022 spring.

#### Faculty Liaison (Taydra, Cam)

1. Last week's faculty meeting was largely on the qualifying exam, including
  - Why is the exam still here?
  - grades will possibly get back to the students in two weeks after the exam.
2. Every 5 years, faculties refresh and develop curriculum, but it has been 7 years since the last time the curriculum was updated
  - People show interest in adding new courses (e.g. GCM, advanced radiation, tropical dynamics) in the next round of curriculum
3. It should be noted this year the colloquium provides a virtual option
4. Updates on the AOS main website
5. The department is planning a monthly meeting for DEI and plans to bring back the URGE podlets and develop some actual solution
6. Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) with different faculties
7. Nuo brought up the photos of graduate students on 8th floor need to be updated.

#### Alumni (Claire)

1. The Alumni committee provides the opportunity for feedback from the alumni on one's CV, resume, and helps with job finding.
2. Possible more posting on social media.

#### Social (Maggie)

1. Social committee organize building-wise events like pie day and the annual softball game
2. Committee member require (contact Maggie if you're interested (mebruckner@wisc.edu))
3. Shared past (and possible future) events like a book club, food sharing, yoga session, coffee break, hiking, and trivia at bars
4. There is a writing group on the AOS graduate student slack channel. It's currently virtual every Tuesday.

The final chunk of the discussion was about graduate representatives on department committees, following are the description of each committee and people that have volunteered to be representatives:

- website
  - Review, update and modernize AOS and affiliated websites
  - Nuo and Sreenath
- Social media
  - Review, moderate, and support social media activities on AOS official accounts
  - Megan is already in charge of the social media posting

- Curriculum
  - Organize timetable, review or initiate course proposals and syllabi, oversee short-term instructor hiring committees, develop long-term course allocation and curriculum plans
  - Taydra, Rosa, Terry, Miguel
- Alumni
  - Plan and execute events and strategies regarding alumni outreach and donor development, interact with Alumni Engagement Board, help organize AMS alumni reception and AOS homecoming, collect news items for the alumni newsletter
  - good opportunity for professional master students
  - Claire, Dan, and Brad
- Possible hiring committee
  - exoplanetary cluster hiring
  - remote sensing hiring