

NPAC Meeting
3/20/17
1:30-2:30pm
EH 1101

In attendance: Emily, Katy, John, Joanna, Anna, Cathy, Tess, Seaver, Alejandro

I. Updates:

A. ESP Faculty update (Katy)

1. Proposal to restructure school - timeline is to complete before new Dean comes in

B. Strategic Planning update (Anna)

1. Waiting for overall structure to be confirmed before more strategic planning happens - TBD on our involvement going forward

C. Elections update (Lydia/Emily)

II. Initiative Updates - Final Updates and Outlook for Next Year

A. NIC-VIC (Stephanie, Joanna, Lauren, Justin & Katy)

1. Accomplishments: Mixer summary/ideas for collabs and database for collaborations
2. Need to be better integrated into structure - connect to a faculty advisor (i.e. Charlotte Clark). More associated with group-MP class (every Spring)
3. Rethink what we mean about integration - not just adding another thing on the todo list
4. Suggest some good models for integration - within labs, encourage faculty to consider that
5. Issues: integration takes a lot of lead time, more than just listing a database. Already some existing avenues: Bass Connections

B. Small Grants (Tess & Seaver)

1. No applications :(
2. Most exciting for early PhD students - reframe and focus on early career students
3. Frame as supplementary/pilot/seed grant - doesn't have to be a new idea
4. Potentially send out to Faculty? Push for summer funding
5. GAS event this Friday

C. Career (Kendra & Corrie)

D. Symposium (Anna & Ryan P.)

1. PhD only symposium (Dean Vincent's thought)
2. Booking the last weekend in September - working with Anne Davis
3. Preference for Friday
4. Brainstorm how to get lots of interest and a high turnout rate
5. Open to everyone- all students, administration, etc
6. Speaker...?
 - a) Lawyer from Earth Justice?
 - b) Outreach oriented? Journalist? Government
 - c) Dot Earth blog guy - serves on NSOE board

E. Marine Lab Connectivity (Alejandro, John Gardner, & Brad D.)

1. Being more proactive about telepresence - this has been accomplished
2. Maybe not a concrete initiative - just something that we think about and build into our plans

3. Outstanding needs: Remote access to CCT courses
4. Page on website with info about logistics on coming to/coming from ML to main campus
 - a) How to keep updated?
 - b) Marine Lab liaison - same as GPSC rep
5. Make sure we have ML participation in the symposium

F. Website (Chelsea & Cathy)

1. Help Danielle coordinate publishing a handbook for PhD students - post on website
2. New NPAC website: <http://sites.nicholas.duke.edu/npac/>
3. Send content to Cathy (everyone do this for the summary report!) & layout comments (to a tempered degree!)

G. GAS

1. Should it be its own initiative?
2. Future unclear - could be replaced by symposium
 - a) Better to have an occasional happy hour open to all students?
 - b) Limit the number of times GAS meets - speakers will better self-select
3. Turnout is small - 6-8 people
4. Lack of interest when not relevant to your research
5. Extra beer for end of year party
6. Survey the PhD students about GAS interest and structure

III. Other Business:

A. NSSC/Budget submission

1. Add \$5000 for small grants
2. \$1000 for GAS
3. Need to add in what was spent this year
 - a) GAS - ~600
 - b) Orientation ~?
 - c) Small Grants ~ \$3000
 - d) Year End ~ \$500

B. Year End Reporting

1. Add in space for links, etc in summaries

ML:

As for the DUML connectivity initiative - I agree that maybe it should be phased out as a major initiative at NPAC, but I would like the next person who is MSC rep to be able to participate in that discussion and think about the main issues that fall in this realm so they can work on those.

It seems like students at the marine lab are able to negotiate and ask for certain things through our DGSA pretty effectively, which might obviate the need for such an initiative, but perhaps I am wrong. For instance, working through NPAC could help us gain access to RCR and teaching certificate requirements here, but we could also gain that through the work of our DGS, who is already doing that. This is one example.

Something I will do now is poll the students at the marine lab so I can get a better sense of what they think about this, what they would like to see, etc.

Nic-Vic:

I think that in order for this initiative to be successful, there needs to be (a) committed involvement within NPAC... if no one cares enough to work on the initiative internally, it will certainly not gain traction outside of our group; and (b) better connection with the masters students (an in-person event would have helped with this, especially since our original timeline was during the MP development phase, but that got scrapped at the very last minute).