

Minutes: February NPAC meeting
February 24, 2016 3-4:15 pm

In attendance: Anna, Lydia, Erin, John M, Joanna, Stacey, Chelsea, Seaver, Megan, David, Becky, Alyse (via Skype)

1. Introductions of:
 - a. Nathan Walker (NSSC PhD liason), MEM (ESC) and treasurer of NSSC
 - i. looking forward to reciprocal communication between NSSC and NPAC
 - b. Justin Kirkpatrick (PhD rep to FOREM), former MEM and current UPEP PhD student
 - i. Social event for your radar: March Forth pub crawl next week (more information to come in email)
 - c. Alyse Larkin (MSC co-rep to faculty at DUML)
2. Marine Lab business/update (Alyse reports):
 - a. Alyse presented survey results to the DUML faculty - as with other Nic School faculty, they support a second, focused survey, suggesting that we be strategic about what we hope to get out of it.
 - b. Some questions DUML faculty would like to see on the second survey include:
 - i. What do PhDs think about/get out of TAing?
 - ii. Are there sufficient resources to support TAs (in terms of training, etc)?
 - iii. Has anyone been paid for a TA without having to do the TA work?
 - c. Lisa Campbell also suggests that we consider holding forums to gather more open-ended information about the initiatives.
 - d. They will also share the information gathered as part of the NSOE strategic plan survey (28 PhD student respondents)
3. Second survey (Anna and Erin report):
 - a. Erin and Anna are putting this together tomorrow (Feb 25), so please get your questions to them ASAP
 - b. We'll come up with some baked treats or a raffle prize as an incentive

Note: We should informally mention this/start greasing the wheels/priming Dean Urban to let him know that these proposals are coming.

Note: We should also take our bigger scale ideas up to Susan Lozier (EOS faculty member) who working on the Big Duke strategic plan. Anna, David, and Megan will do this.

4. Vertical Integration (Joanna and Becky report):
 - a. Nic-VIC (vertical integration and collaboration)
 - b. This spring will be a beta-testing phase. Looking to get students involved in leading small workshops (e.g. on data analysis, modeling, etc)
 - c. Moving toward a more formalized program with a PhD commitment of about 45-60 hours per academic year.

- d. Some talk about formalizing mentoring training and recognition:
 - i. Mentoring workshop - the Grad School has this for faculty, and presented at Marine Lab earlier this academic year - Megan will follow up and see if we can get something put together for us.
 - ii. Have a mentoring section in the Scholars@Duke page?
 - iii. Loop PhD mentoring experience into the new curriculum for Nic School undergrads that includes more mentored research experiences.
- 5. Small grants (Lydia reports):
 - a. They've got questions ready for the survey and a draft proposal
 - b. Will update after the survey results come back.
- 6. Career services (John and Lydia report):
 - a. Megan, John, and Lydia will meet with the new staff in career services to get things rolling
 - b. Questions for the survey:
 - i. What services do students want? Let them rank them.
 - ii. Have you interacted with career services in the Nic School or Grad School? How was it?
- 7. Symposium:
 - a. Will be discussed at UPE breakfast on Feb 25
 - b. Seems like there will be support to expand the symposium to whole Nic School with institutional support from other departments/programs (i.e. money and planning)
 - c. Note that expansion will mean concurrent sessions or a longer event.
- 8. Elections
 - a. We'll try to have these in the beginning of April
 - b. Try to groom/tap people
 - c. Many incumbents returning next year, others can have lesser commitments in advisory positions.
 - d. GAS information session/town hall (April 1?)
 - e. David will provide a list of positions/draft nomination form by the end of March - positions include: program reps, GPSC reps (opt in to NPAC), Faculty meeting reps, GAS coordinator, treasurer, Social/Orientation chair
 - f. co-nominations, etc. will be taken (just like last year)
- 9. Orientation
 - a. Yep - we'll get that rolling

Note: We'll try to have a draft proposal packet put together by the end of March.

