

Minutes: November NPAC meeting
November 17, 2015, 12-1:15 pm

In attendance: Megan, Erin, David, Lauren, Emily, Joanna, Marissa, Lydia, Anna, John M

1. Strategic Planning debrief (Strategic Planning sub-committee reported):
 - a. The sub-committee presented the strategic planning document, and updated NPAC on the process. Briefly, Anna and Jack created and administered the survey to all Nic PhD students. Anna and Alejandro compiled and analyzed the results of the survey, then the sub-committee pulled together these results into a report. The sub-committee met with Martin Doyle, who sits on the Nicholas School Strategic Planning committee, on October 30, 2015 to share the results of the survey. Following the meeting, the sub-committee drafted a vision statement for the future of the PhD program in the Nicholas School.
 - b. These strategic planning documents have been shared with NPAC. **NPAC members, please respond to David's email with any edits for this document by Monday, Nov. 23.**
 - c. Once finalized, we will share the strategic planning document with a number of people/groups, including: PhD student body, Martin Doyle and the Strategic Planning Committee, Dean Townsend, Dean Urban, Jeff Vincent, Nicholas School division chairs and DGSSs, and the wider Nic School faculty.
 - d. Future NPAC initiatives: The strategic planning document identifies a number of initiatives for which NPAC can advocate. We plan to develop subcommittees in the early spring to develop two of these ideas into ~1 page proposals to submit to the "powers that be". **NPAC members, please use the link in David's email to vote for the two initiatives you feel most strongly about.**
2. Town Hall debrief (Lauren reported):
 - a. Lauren felt too much of this meeting was spent with NPAC reporting to constituents, not enough time left for constituents to raise issues.
 - b. Items of note that were raised by the student body included:
 - i. Taxation questions (see below)
 - ii. parking (there is likely little we can do, but maybe we can develop a carpool network within the Nic School to lower the barrier for students)
 - iii. Knowledge Network (Chelsea is this idea's champion - it can be submitted as a proposal to the School)
 - iv. Much support for small grants for research/travel
 - v. More social activities are wanted (e.g. end of term party) - we will likely add social chair(s) positions to the coming NPAC ballot
3. Collaboration/Integration with MEMs:
 - a. FOREM (Erin reported): Erin is the current liason to FOREM (the MEM's social organization). In the future, NPAC social chairs should work with FOREM to co-plan

events for MEM and PhD students. One fertile suggestion is a Friday afternoon event that combines GAS and FOREM's First Friday.

- b. GAS (Megan reported on behalf of the GAS coordinators): MEMs have expressed interest in attending GAS. In the past, we have allowed MEM students to "opt in" to receive weekly GAS invites, but have not invited the list serve. Because GAS is currently the only PhD social event for the whole Nic School, we should try to keep it focused on PhDs, and use this opt-in process for interested MEM students. We also may consider occasionally inviting MEM students to present.
- c. Nicholas School Student Council (David reported): NSSC is the granting group for MEMs/Nic School graduate students (NPAC treasurers report that PhDs have a separate pot of money, and will follow up on this). David met with the NSSC to help build the bridge. We've agreed to report to NSSC and vice versa on relevant issues, and schedule time in each organizations' meetings for representatives of the other group to contribute to relevant discussions. David reported that NSSC were happy to hear that NPAC exists and to collaborate going forward.
 - i. We may be able to apply for funding from NSSC - treasurers will follow up. If so, applications are likely due in spring.
 - ii. Nancy Kelly is the Nic School's admin student group coordinator. We will also ask her to clarify the funding for graduate student groups.

4. Career center access for Nic PhDs (Lydia reported): This initiative is temporarily on hiatus because of staff leaving. They will resume working on this when new staff have been hired.

5. Rapid response protocol for visiting speakers (UPE students reported):

- a. An incident occurred recently in which a number of students were verbally harassed by a visiting speaker. The Rapid Response Plan was developed by a group of students who organize a variety of different seminars (including, but not limited to, UPE) and two faculty advisers who are in the biology department but are also UPE faculty.
- b. The emphasis of the document is to compile information about resources that are available and current strategies (not exhaustive) that have been brainstormed about ways to immediately respond to harassment by a visiting speaker (either formally or informally).
- c. A version of this has already been distributed to Biology faculty (via a faculty meeting), all seminar coordinators in Bio, and the UPE listserv. However, there has already been more feedback generated so it is likely that this version of the document will continue to be revised. We will plan to share with the Nic School after the current revisions have been completed.
- d. A formal presentation of these resources will be incorporated into the biology and NSOE new PhD orientation beginning next fall. We will also plan to take a few minutes before GAS at some point to make the wider student body aware that this protocol document is available.

6. Taxation information session

- a. We'll plan to hold this event sometime in February
- b. Lauren/Megan will work with Danielle Wiggins to get this outlined, and report back to the group

7. December NPAC meeting

- a. We'll plan to do a December NPAC meeting sometime in the first two weeks of December
- b. We'll do an off-campus location and plan for a happy hour type time
- c. This meeting will be used to tie up some loose ends from the fall semester and to start brainstorming what the initiatives that we'll work on for the spring will be.
- d. For what it's worth, the NPAC spring/summer will be:
 - i. Developing the initiatives identified from this week's vote (see David's email!)
 - ii. Taxation information session
 - iii. NPAC elections for the 2016-17 year
 - iv. Planning the 2016 new student orientation
 - v. End of term party/social coordination with MEMs