

NPAC January meeting
29 January 2016

Present: Megan, David, Erin, Becky, John, Varsha, Anna, Emily, Lydia.

1. Discussion about draft MEM/PhD collaboration plan (Initiative led by Joanna, Becky and Lauren)

- Last semester, Charlotte Clark met with Anna, Megan and Lauren to discuss how PhD students could work with MEM on MPs.
- The idea is that PhDs could act as either 'resource advisers' for multiple projects (e.g. stats skills), or work on one project in a role somewhat between advisor and MEM students (i.e. collaborator')
- Sub-committee proposes to send out a survey. They are drafting intro/background with proposed/desired benefits to PhDs:
 - PhD students get real-world impact through client-oriented MPs
 - PhD students get assistance with undertaking research ideas via MEM's collaboration through research-oriented MPs.
 - PhD students get mentoring experience. *Comment:* Want to make this an official program (probably within Nic). Probably wouldn't work through Cert. Teacher Training.
 - No payment envisaged.

Decided to incorporate survey questions into overarching NPAC survey.

Question: Would PhDs join existing MPs or propose new ones? *A:* At the moment we're thinking joining students to existing projects. We would start here as a testing ground.

Comment: But having PhD's pitch ideas is a good incentive for their involvement (get to see their ideas happen).

Comment: Need to clarify PhD student's role.

Sub-committee will incorporate this meeting's feedback into a new draft plan.

Sub-committee will follow up with Charlotte about 'official' recognition of program.

2. Marine Lab (Anna, Alejandro, and John Gardner)

- Nothing to report at this point.

Sub-committee resolved to meet to discuss.

3. Small grants (Lydia and Emily)

- Group is building a proposal for 'small grants' between PhD-PhDs (cross discipline). No institutional support for this currently. Currently it's just happening by chance.
- Proposing just two in the first year, perhaps \$2000 total.
- Not related to dissertation work.
- For reimbursement, rather than open fellowship. Students would pitch what they want/need and why, and NPAC committee would select the best (blind) (approved by Dean's office or faculty). NPAC would have a formalized assessment rubric.
- *Proposal:* Have two categories: research and outreach.
- *Comment:* Let's keep the scope clear and focused. Shouldn't be money for anything.
- *Comment:* People could develop ideas/links through a 'speed dating' type event at GAS.

Emily and Lydia will incorporate the meeting's comments into an updated draft proposal and send around by email.

4. Additional suggestion: Sanford has small research grants (up to \$500) for PhDs which can be used more broadly than travel and tutoring (the Nic school version). We could propose to expand it to individual research purposes. Note this is a separate proposal to the above.

5. Tax Session (Megan on behalf of Lauren)

- Lauren is working on this with Danielle. This is coming up in February. She wants help and ideas. No date yet set. Likely to be some kind of instructional session.

NPAC members to email Lauren with any ideas.

6. Big new survey of students (Anna)

- Faculty (ESP) want more information about our desires re careers, want to know our 'demographic' information. Seems there is enthusiasm among faculty to 'focus on PhDs'.
- Good opportunity to also get feedback on the three sub-committee ideas.

People involved in each sub-committee should submit questions relevant to their NPAC work. Careers people submit careers related questions.

Erin and Anna are going to suggest questions that faculty would want, then will send out to NPAC committee, and will solicit faculty questions also.

7. Expanded Nicholas Graduate Student Symposium

- There is enthusiasm to broaden the ecology symposium, if organizers are amenable, to bring in all Nic PhD students (or research-orientated MEM's if their work meets symposium standards).
- Ultimately want to scale up the symposium.

Megan will send emails.

8. Next GAS will be a mixer with FORUM. Beer provided by FORUM (PhDs to pay)

NPAC Chairs to promote with their programs.

9. Next meeting:

- Focus on Careers, orientation planning and NPAC elections. Brief update on the sub-committees.