

Attendees:

Lydia Greene, Emily Pechar, John Gardner, Ryan Huang, Seaver Wang, Ryan Peabody, Corrie Hannah, Tess Leuthner, Kendra Kaiser, Alejandro Lozano, Anna Wade, Cathy Chamberlain

- I. Nathan Walker – Nicholas School Student Council
  - a. They want to find more ways to connect MEMs to the PhD Students
  - b. ODAR supported mentor program with alumni and MEMs, could also involve PhDs. Glenda Lee is in charge, Nathan is exploring the concept
  - c. **Action: Put Nathan in contact with NIC-VIC initiative reps**
- II. Strategic Planning Committee Breakfast update
  - a. PhD students met with the Strategic Planning Committee a few weeks ago
  - b. The committee is looking for broad feedback about how PhD students feel about the Nic School structure
  - c. Found out that the schools used to give seed money to all PhD students to get their research going. This was replaced by faculty funding student research. We let them know that PhD students are interested in that again
  - d. Conversation was less strategic than hoped – discussion of career services not part of strategic plan
  - e. Committee is tasked with proposing different models for what the school and the PhD programs should look like
- III. Initiative Updates:
  - a. Career Conversations
    - i. Decided not to apply for professional development grant at this time
      1. What is the motivation of the grants? Fill gaps? Enhance programs that they are already created?
      2. Deb is going to contact Melissa Bostrom to answer a bunch of questions about the grant
        - a. i.e. If we were to develop idea and get funding, to what extent would career services be able to help with the organizing the segment? (They are understaffed so couldn't give time to organizing events in the near future)
      3. Idea to get second or third years involved in organizing these events? Would be time-intensive
    - ii. Identified holes in PhD student career knowledge from the GAS session:
      1. How to negotiate
      2. How to create research statements
      3. How to get funding
      4. Overview of alternative career options for environmental sciences
    - iii. Should students be going to Grad School or NSOE Career Services?
      1. Lots of workshops etc. with Graduate School Career Services
      2. NSOE CS is understaffed. They can help with one-on-one meetings only
      3. What can NPAC do? Let PhD student know that we can go to GS Career Services *or* NSOE CS. Also make sure that this is getting pushed to the strategic planning committee – maybe lumped into the research

strategic planning committee? Big issue is that NSOE CS doesn't have the capacity

4. PhD students should look at the MEM job postings – tell all PhD students to look at these
  5. Go to Jeff Vincent's office hours – more resources to NSOE CS to help organize lunch and learns with people in alternative. Let him know that we need more support from them, and they need more support
  6. Can some part of NPAC help advertise and disseminate pertinent information?
- iv. **Next Steps:** Put together a list of long term and short term goals and activities for career services
    1. One-pager of things PhD students should know about career services
    2. Write up where the gaps in support are
    3. What things could we get to happen this year by working with NSOE and GS career services? Goal to get at least one session planned:
      - a. Negotiation
      - b. Research Statement creation
  - v. **Action Item: Pull out career stuff from the survey and send to Corrie and Kendra**
- b. Symposium
    - i. Semi-conflict with ecology symposium. There's no money to put on UPE symposium
    - ii. There is money for Nic-School wide symposium
      1. Makes sense to have it in the fall – good way for new students to see the diversity of research. Aiming for late September
    - iii. Go full steam ahead to organize a NSOE PhD student Symposium next fall. More or less ignore potential conflict with UPE symposium
    - iv. Emphasize that students don't need to create a new poster (or presentation) – can reuse an old poster.
    - v. **Next steps:** put together a formal proposal and budget. At least \$7,000
  - c. Small Grants:
    - i. Expanding the budget
    - ii. **Next Steps:** Update the proposal and develop a call for pilot proposals
  - d. ML Connectivity
    - i. Following up with each other after this meeting to discuss next steps
- IV. Other issues
- a. Opening up NPAC meetings – opportunity for anyone else to come and get involved.  
**Action: Send one email to Nic-PhDs listserve about each NPAC meeting and that anyone can attend.** Emphasize the website calendar
  - b. Are there any links to NPAC or GAS on the Nicholas website? Currently no.
  - c. Next meeting: talk about GAS attendance, Grad Student Unionization
  - d. Treasurer: Do we need to get our own fund code? Can we get one through Duke Groups? **Next Step:** request a NSOE fund code