



Faculty Meeting Report February 14, 2019

Spring 2019 Report

The Graduate Student Association's (GSA) mission is to provide a student forum for discussion of common needs, work cooperatively with the faculty and administration to build a recognized and respected institution, and develop student fellowship. Since the last faculty meeting (Sep 2018), GSA has successfully completely, continued, or launched several initiatives that align with our mission. These include:

Naturejobs Career Expo | Texas

GSA officers worked closely with GSBS and Nature to ensure that the first annual Naturejobs Career Expo | Texas was beneficial for all GSBS students. This project began in early 2017 and concluded shortly after the Expo, October 2018. Hundreds of GSBS students and UTH/MDA postdocs attended the Expo, where they learned about different career paths and interacted with academic and industry employers (e.g. Jackson Laboratory, EURAXESS, Fannin Innovation Studio).

GSA Peer Mentorship Program

This program pairs incoming first year students with post-candidacy students based on research interests. The pairing begins in the summer to provide incoming students a point of contact to assist with their move to Houston and their transition to graduate school. Once the Fall semester begins, GSA hosts a luncheon to introduce both parties and facilitate discussions about program selection, tutorial lab rotation selection, and other academic topics. Two additional luncheons are held in the Spring to talk in greater detail about mentor and program selections. The GSA Peer Mentorship Program was launched Summer 2017 and will be continuing for the third consecutive year this Fall.

GSBS Housing Survey

In the wake of Hurricane Harvey, GSA gathered anonymous housing information from current GSBS students and published this data for incoming and current students to digest. The students greatly appreciated this information, so we will be sending out an updated and improved survey in the coming weeks.

Collaboration with UTHealth and MD Anderson Postdoctoral Associations

GSA is initiating conversations with both postdoctoral associations to facilitate collaborations between the three organizations. GSA would like to broaden our Mentorship Program to include postdocs,

Career Development

We are looking forward to establishing a fruitful relationship with the GSBS Career Development Office this Spring. GSA plans to assist the office organize events and establish programs that allow students to develop valuable skills and gain experiences in relevant fields.

Events since last report + future events

October:

Naturejobs Career Expo Texas

November

Town Hall with Deans

December

Friday Afternoon Club

GSA Peer Mentorship Luncheon II

January

UT Housing Security

February

Pet Therapy

Initial Planning with Career Development Office

GSBS Housing Survey

March

Candidacy Exam Preparation – Student Panel

Publish Survey Results

April

Launch Peer Mentorship 2019-2020 program

GSA Officer Elections for 2019-2020

May

GSA-sponsored Photography Area at GSBS Commencement

Peer Mentorship Luncheon III

Memorial Day Hangout

June

GSA Summer Social with Undergraduate Summer Students

Begin handoff to 2019-2020 GSA Officers

July

GSA Photography Competition + Announcement Social

GSA would like to thank the Deans, Faculty, and Staff for their continued support, assistance and encouragement. Together we will continue to make GSBS the best graduate school for our students.

If there are any recommendations for future events or initiatives, please email me at

Robert.Williams@uth.tmc.edu.

Sincerely,

2018-2019 GSA Officers

Robert Williams

Daniela Branco

Wayne Jiang

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