

GSWC Meeting Minutes for 1-31-07

- members in attendance: Dwight, Bryan, Betsy, Neil, Carolyn, Chuck (grad office), Matt, Jessica, Leila
- Potbelly subs served for lunch
- new chairs for the coming year: Neil and Carolyn
- for last event, academic careers workshop, approximately 36 people in attendance, and 11 responded to the survey sent out
 - Friday was discussion of PUI's vs. R1 universities
 - Saturday went through entire process of applying for academic jobs
 - people responded very favorably in the surveys
 - some really liked the mock-phone interview
 - some really wanted to hear more about applying to community colleges
 - discussion of next time at end splitting into groups so students can ask professors specific questions as it relates to their interests in either PUI's or R1 institutions
 - approximately 1/3 of students were post-docs
- email account will stay with Carolyn for the next event
- for next event, Larry Miller, Professor Emeritus, will hopefully be coming in early March to give a lecture on, "How to get an idea, and have someone pay for it".
 - Larry still has not committed to this event, but if he does commit, Carolyn and Jessica will lead this event
 - Chuck said students in the past have found this 1 credit class he used to offer very useful, and not at all fluff – students felt it was well worth their time where they learned something they had not known prior to taking this course
- another idea for a possible workshop is, "how to succeed or be a standout in graduate school"
 - Dwight contacted Tim Lodge since he indicated interest in helping with this event
 - Tim had contact with Chuck Lucy at U of Alberta since he teaches a course similar to this at Alberta, where he offered some of his ideas to Tim (printout provided at meeting)
 - suggested it would be great to have Chuck come to give a lecture at UMN, but he was just here only ~2 years ago, and therefore will be tough to get him to come so soon again
- Another workshop possibility would be to host a nontraditional careers for chemists workshop
 - possible areas that could be represented are: law, DEA, public health, entrepreneurship, consulting
 - Matt and Leila offered to lead this event in the future
 - Matt will look for a day to hold this event after he talks with some people
 - thoughts were to have a panel discussion for the format of this event
- discussion of putting together a peer review group of people willing to sit in on oral exam practice talks
 - idea was to organize a list of volunteers and let the students contact this list of people directly if they were interested

- this is too late for fast-track students, but Dwight will take care of this for non-fast track students
- Since Karin is now gone, the ethics class is not being offered, but Professor Siepmann might take this over
 - he suggested switching this to the spring semester and offer in the first year instead of second year
 - both department and GSWC feel this is the departments responsibility so will let them offer an alternative to the ethics course
- Chuck mentioned that a new plan is in the works in the department for all new incoming graduate students, where everyone will receive a plan B MS, even if admitted to Ph.D program
 - motivation for this changes comes from students that are bumped down to MS from Ph.D get 2 degrees, where a superstar that remains in Ph.D program only gets 1 degree
- the GSWC will get a faculty member to advise us on these issues and changes so we can plan our agenda for workshops accordingly
- website will fall to Neil after Dwight leaves, unless someone else wants to take it over
- Chuck will give us space in his office as a repository for all GSWC members
 - this will help maintain continuity of information flow from year to year
- March 7th noon – tentative date for next meeting
- Leila talked with Neil at end of event about possibly having a workshop on paper authorship
 - she attended a seminar from a professor from Kansas
 - she has contacts and ideas about having a workshop on this topic
 - Neil said he would bring this up at the next meeting