

BSGSA meeting minutes for August 30, 2004

Meeting started at 16:01

Members present: Matt Smith, Greg Forcey, Laura Nelson, Alegra Galle, Will Clarke, Todd Boonstra, Joe Allen, Shawn Hawks, Ali Tackett, Joni Johnson, Curt Francis, Rachel Bush, Susan Spinar, Mark Davis, Scott Ralston, Bryan Safratowich, and Melissa Konsti.

This year's officers are: President Matt Smith, Vice President Greg Forcey, Secretary Jim Church, and Treasurer Todd Boonstra. Ron Hutchison is the faculty advisor for the BSGSA.

About the BSGSA

- Purpose of the BSGSA:
 - Representative body for the graduate students of the Department of Biological Sciences
 - Promote fellowship among the graduate students in the Department of Biological Sciences
 - To investigate and propose solutions to problems unique to graduate students in the Department of Biological Sciences, leading to an enhanced graduate student experience for current and future members
 - To serve as a channel of communication between graduate students, staff and administration
 - To provide volunteer service to the community, the university, and other educational organizations

- Webpage:
 - <http://biology.ndsu.nodak.edu/bsgsa/index.html>
 - Contents of the webpage include the BSGSA constitution, grad student tips, pictures and other information about the society

- Dues are \$7.50/semester or \$15.00 for the year. Dues are payable to the BSGSA and are to be given to Todd Boonstra.

Thanks to last year's officers: President Mark Davis, Vice President Matt Smith, Treasurer Susan Spinar and Secretary Greg Forcey

Highlights from last year:

- Webpage:
 1. \$1300 was given to the BSGSA for developing the Department of Biological Sciences webpage. The BSGSA will receive \$300/semester for updating and upkeep.
- Symposium: We had the first annual Northern Plains Biological Symposium
- The BSGSA developed a Powerpoint presentation about the College of Science and Mathematics for Dean White
- The BSGSA held its annual fundraiser

- Members of the BSGSA took students from the Governor's school to the Minnesota State University, Moorhead Buffalo River Science Center to teach them about Ichthyology, Herpetology and Ornithology.
- The BSGSA also volunteered to assist with the North Dakota Science Olympiad

Goals for this year:

- Increase BSGSA membership by 75%
- Increase faculty/student interactions
- Increase departmental unity
- Awards
 - Equipment grant for BSGSA member is \$500
 - Sheila Kath Award will be given again this year
 - There also may be a Graduate Student Award
- Funds
 - We will try to build upon last years success
 - Try to have more than one fundraiser. A chili cookoff was one idea mentioned. If you have any ideas, please notify a member of the fundraising committee.
 - The fundraising committee members include: Will, Laura, Alegra, and Rachel
- Take a departmental field trip during the spring semester
- "Big Brother/Sister Program": Make office hours available to undergraduates for advice
- Discussion group(s)
 - 3:00 pm on Wednesday has been set aside for paper discussions on various topics.
 - Another idea for a discussion group

Graduate Student Web Pages

- Greg Forcey will be offering classes to learn the software (Macromedia Contribute). Graduate students can either learn how to use the software and make their own websites, or make their websites using MS Word and then send that file to Greg. Greg will send out an e-mail with more information.
- All graduate students need to have their webpage completed by November 1, 2004.
- The webpage committee members are: Greg Forcey, Matt Smith, Mark Davis, Scott Ralston, and Jim Church

Departmental Brochure

The BSGSA has another opportunity to raise money. Dr. Bleier is unhappy with the current brochure, and would like the BSGSA to develop a new one. Greg Forcey, Todd Boonstra, Joe Allen, Susan Spinar and Alegra Galle have joined the "Brochure Committee".

University Studies Classes

These classes needed graduate students to come in and talk about their past, present and future for 15-20 minutes. Laura, Bryan, Shawn, Mark, Joni, Will, Scott, Susan, Greg, and Matt have volunteered to help.

Symposium

- The second annual Northern Plains Biological Symposium will be held March 4, 2005 from 8:00 am-5:00 pm in the Century Theatre, in the Memorial Union.
- Funds gathered for this event are \$6,500. Thanks to Mark Davis for all of your hard work in raising this money.
- We still need people to give oral and poster presentations. Let Matt know if you are interested.
- Dave Reznick will be one of the keynote speakers. We still need ideas for a second keynote. Let Matt know of any suggestions you have.
- The day following the symposium is the Stevens Hall open house. Let Matt know if you are interested in attending, or if you have any ideas for activities.
- If you plan on attending the symposium, you can register online:
<http://biology.ndsu.nodak.edu/bsgsa/register.html>

Tuesday Social for August 31, 2004 will be held at Thunder Road. Greg will send out an e-mail.

It was also mentioned that we should try to get money from the CSO.

Meeting was adjourned at 16:42