

**UNITED GOVERNMENT OF GRADUATE STUDENTS
AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER**

**ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES – October 1, 2014
ATLAS 229
5:00 PM**

- 1. Welcome / Food**
- 2. Call to Order**
- 3. Announcements**
 - John L: social event yesterday was good, we'll have another in Oct for OA week
 - Will from Chemistry: Will we have a ski day?
 - John: yes. One will be subsidized by UGGS and we might have a second one anyway
- 4. Approve meeting 9/17 minutes**
 - Approve
- 5. New Era**
 - Will from New Era: local non-partisan, non-profit that works to engage younger generations in politics and democracy. This fall, doing huge voter registration drive due to 2014 mid-terms. Trying to ramp up numbers for voters on campus. Reaching out to student groups to make sure everyone is registered. CO is all mail-in ballot state so everyone's address has to be up to date. Generally, trying to make sure everyone is registered to vote, let us know they're on campus all the time, and that they can train people to do voter registration themselves. Have to be a group to get forms, so would have to use New Era forms, but that's fine. 30 min training, only 13 days left for voter registration drive so encouraging people to get it done before then.
 - Will from chemistry: Don't you have day of registration?
 - Yes, but after 13 days you have to go to the municipal center to get registered.
 - Richard from ATOC: Doing anything else?
 - Yes, ballot drives, vote location info, etc.
 - Jeff from anthropology: Tell colleagues to keep it brief when talking to recitations
 - That wasn't us, probably CO-PIRG
- 6. Group grants**
 - Dan G.: Every year UGGS gives out group grants, we can award 5-6 for up to \$750 for student groups doing a specific event. This year, only 3 applicants.
 - Marianne from Brainhacks: Free and open to the public, encourages grad students to come present on their research in friendly and accessible format, using neuroscience research to improve everyday life. Pairs talk with movie. Place (Solid State

Depot) is non-profit and there's no projection system so applied for funding for a projector. [Showed pictures from past events.] Presentations are open to everyone.

- Xavier from Civil Engineering: Why hold them outside campus?
 - Marianne is a part of the hacker space and wanted to bring more neuroscience over there
 - Xavier: but university provides projectors and it would be free
 - Will from chemistry: having it off campus might be more accessible to community at large
- Trudy? Davidson from Math: started STEMinar a year ago, interdisciplinary seminar for grad students. Attendance from 15-50, open to everyone, organizing special social event called Speed Data-ing spearheaded by Sarah Grover from Psych. Happy hours following STEMinars have been largely unsuccessful so they're trying to have special event to bring people in. Planning to advertise to listserv and to other departments who forward emails on their behalf. Venue is E-town, in downtown Boulder, converted church into multi-use facility for social events, concerts, etc.
 - Marianne: Speaker is Randy O'Reilly from Psych, good speaker, integrative in how he thinks, good theories on how interdisciplinary communication fosters science
 - Sarah Grover from Psych: conference in social psychology has speed-data-ing event every year, non-romantic event to introduce grad students to each other, meet a bunch of people in rapid succession. Addresses the problem that at STEMinar people cluster with people from their own department. Also have a bingo idea that will encourage people to connect across departments, friendships and collaborations.
- Dan G. (presenting on STARS): holding a one-day set of talks with various prizes, inviting external speakers.
 - Alan from Chemical Engineering: knows this event. Idea is to have all grad students present their data to the public at large. Advertise via fliers, emails, etc. Have people from industry, professors talking about research interests, networking within and across departments, building collaborations. Some students use this event as a trial run for comprehensive exams. Open to the public. Been holding it in new biotech building.
 - Sarah from Linguistics: heard this group in CCS. They were impressed and gave them \$1000. But CCS money can't be used for food.
 - Will from physics: Presentation may be impressive but arithmetic is not impressive. Itemization comes to \$850.

- We can't award them more than \$750 anyway, so personally doesn't think it's a big deal.
 - Scott from psych: this is coming up really soon, why haven't we heard about it yet?
- John: going to ask groups to leave the room.
- Scott: is this actually a broad thing? How have they even recruited grad students to talk at this?
 - Alan: usually biologically oriented students attend. Don't know why they haven't been doing more promotion.
 - John: we could encourage them to promote more.
- Xavier: thought this was only for chemical and biochemical engineering students. Maybe we can have them phrase it so that it's only open for certain departments.
- John: Group grants have to be open to all.
 - Sarah from linguistics: we had a similar question at CCS. Only chemical engineers are allowed to present, but anyone can attend.

1.2. Discussion on STEMinar:

- Will from chemistry: seems like a lot of money on a venue.
 - Dan G.: most events are in free space but they're trying to get more people to attend this one
- Discussion on Brainhacks:
 - Xavier: been to some of these events before, and it's pretty easy to borrow projectors and screens. Only going to be used once a month?
 - Scott from psych: what is this projector system going to be doing? Will it be portable, or installed in the space?
 - Will from chemistry: maybe we could get them to say it was funded by UGGS? Likes this one because it's an investment – not like a one-time food purchase. Opportunity to reach out to the community and this will be used for years. Maybe it should be a requirement to have groups we fund mention that they've been sponsored by UGGS.
 - Alan from chemical engineering: how did they quote the projector? Did they find cheapest possible? CU sells used ones for something around \$100. Could make it part of the requirements that they show us the procedure

they used to get the best deal for their projector.

- Jeff from anthropology: do they have audio equipment?
- Will from physics: projectors range from \$50 to \$1000 on Amazon.
- Xavier: why not start a borrowing system so that we buy it but all different student groups can use it?
- Richard: do we need a hard answer tonight? Can we vote on it in two weeks?
 - **John: we can motion to table it tonight and we can ask them to come back**
 - **Zeke from aerospace: motion to table Brainhacks. [passed]**
- Elena from geography: how were group grants advertised? Why so many fewer than last year?
 - Dan G.: we try to advertise the same way we advertise individual grants.

7. Open Forum

- Scott from psych: has been working with career services on employment assistance for non-academic jobs. If anyone has things their departments are doing, let Scott know because he's trying to establish a network for non-academic career training.
 - Will from physics: only things that happen in his dept are organized by students themselves. Can you update us on what you see that other departments do?
 - Yes. Could even be an agenda item.

8. Travel grants

- Dan G: graded travel grants last week, we had 53, thanks to everyone who helped. Less than normal, was surprising. We're going to try to push announcements earlier next year. Still funded 35 travel grants.
 - Chelsea from JMC: someone wasn't sure if they were eligible because their school is shifting around right now.
 - Dan G: as long as your status is a graduate student, you're eligible.

9. Campus climate symposium: **Oct 7 12pm-1:30pm UMC Gallery**

- John: annual series that they're working on. First one was a few weeks ago, wasn't very well attended by grad students, provost and CUSG are spearheading this but they're doing a terrible job of advertising it. Next one is 10/7 on issues framing the climate issues on campus. Presentations by Title IX Coordinator and the Dean of Students. Noon-1:30. BFA is doing ones in Nov and Dec and we can help decide the topic. We should really have a strong grad student presence at these.

- Will from physics: what does “issues framing climate issues” mean? And what happened at this other meeting?
 - John: It was about “academic freedom” and people from sociology department were there talking about Patti Adler case.
 - Scott from psychology: “climate” means social climate.
- Scott from psychology: BFA is in charge of this one and CUSG is doing the subsequent one. Toying with various ideas but power dynamics is one possibilities. Send ideas to Scott if you have ideas for other topics.

10. Graduate Student Climate Survey

- John: working to finalize next week. Email us with any comments or suggestions.

11. Outcome of group grants:

1. STEMinar: 27 yes, 0 no
2. STARS: 26 yes, 1 no
 - Both passed

12. Meeting Adjourn

ATTENDANCE LIST COMING SOON