

**MINUTES**  
**Plant Pathology Graduate Student Association Meeting**  
**Thursday April 19, 2007**  
**3:15-4:35 p.m.**  
**Gardner Hall 1406**

Meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m. with President Heather Olson presiding. 13 members were present.

- Departmental Issues and Student Questions, Dr. Moyer
  - Thanked all grad students for all our help in the past academic year, specifically with the departmental picnic, recruitment activities, and refreshments for Monday seminars.
  - Stressed the importance of students being involved in various activities including professional activities and to develop disciplinary identity.
  - Suggests that graduate students should have active memberships in APS and/or other professional societies and we should be participating in professional meetings and/or workshops.
  - Congratulated PPGSA on the success of the Rosie Perez seminar and how well it was put together.
  - Jack Bailey memorial tour will occur on August 16, 2007
  - Plant Pathology department will support the Student Seminar Exchange program financially. He thought it was an excellent idea.
  - Status of the South Gardner renovation. Realistically the move back into the building will occur in August or September. After the renovation is complete, one lab from Gardner will move to South Gardner and another will move to the Fox building. This will generate space for common equipment and additional office space.
  - Accounting/Administration Personnel responsibilities:
    - Antoinette Norton – Lead Accountant, in charge of departmental accounts
    - Katina Hooks – Contracts and Grants Processing Specialist
    - Larry Schaer – Accounting Tech II, responsible for travel
    - Charles Echerd – Building Liaison, responsible for hourly employee issues and building issues
    - Marly Lee – Student Services Coordinator
    - Josh McIntyre – Receptionist
  - Please see Dr. Ritchie for any issues with stipends
  - Departmental success was stressed saying that we currently have over \$40 million worth of active grants.
  - Current forms for preauthorization and reimbursement should be used.
  - **A specific statement is needed regarding the importance of the PPGSA meetings. He stated that many issues dealing with compliance, policy and procedures are addressed at the meetings and that lack of attendance is not an adequate defense when dealing with these issues. Students that have lapses in deadlines will not find a sympathetic ear within the department because fixing problems is becoming more difficult in the technological age.**
- Graduate Student Issues, Dr. Ritchie
  - **Stated most clearly the importance of involvement and attendance in regards to departmental activities, including weekly seminars. He stated that he has a very good memory and that sometimes potential employers will contact him for a reference regarding particular students' involvement and participation in departmental activities. You want him to remember you favorably! Remember also, he controls grad student assistantships.**
  - Student misconduct regarding plagiarism will not be tolerated. There was a situation in another college in which 4 of 11 students had plagiarized on an exam. Several websites were shared regarding plagiarism:
    - <http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/plagiarism.html>
    - <http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>

- Plagiarism will become more strictly policed and enforced and will extend to thesis and dissertation papers.
- Misconduct in modifying figures with Photoshop is increasing. Some refereed journals, such as Science, inspect figures for authenticity.
- Reminded students that he is open to our students taking any of the ethics courses offered by the University and that these courses will help give us a different perspective.
- PPGSA Officer Nominations, Heather Olson
  - Social Committee Chair: Leah Floyd
  - Electronics Officer (web page design, give info to Josh and Marly): Cary Rivard, Sarah Ruark
  - Recruitment Officer: Lisa Kohl
  - UGSA Representative: Amanda Kaye, Andrea Dolezal, alternate
  - Secretary: Faith Bartz
  - Vice-President (chair of finance committee): Andrea Dolezal, Katherine Whitten
  - President: John Zwonitzer, Lee Miller
  - Committee Volunteers:
    - Social: Sue Colucci, Amanda Kaye, Brooke Edmunds
    - Finance: Amanda Kaye, Jim Kerns, Brantlee Richter
    - Special Events: Katherine Whitten, Brantlee Richter, Faith Bartz, Andrea Dolezal, Lee Miller and Amanda Kaye
- Financing Update and Fundraiser. Jim Kerns
  - Approximately \$3000 is in our account
  - An email soliciting participation in our spring fundraiser was sent out to the department. Based on response dates and appointments will be set up by Jim over the next few weeks.
- Student Seminar Exchange Programs, Brooke Edmunds
  - Department will support this program financially
  - Each participating institution would host 1 student per semester. The program will probably involve NCSU-VT one semester and NCSU-Cornell the next semester.
  - Seminars should be approximately 1 hour with 45 minutes being presentation and 10-15 minutes for questions. Eligible participants should be 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year Master's students or Ph.D. students that have presented their Ph.D. update seminars.
  - This topic was referred to the special events committee and they should return a proposal to the PPGSA by June 1, 2007 detailing the specifics for student selection.
- UGSA Report, Andrea Dolezal
  - UGSA Picnic, Sunday, April 22, at Pullen Park shelter #3 from 12:15 to 3:00 p.m.
  - Minutes from the UGSA meeting will be posted in the graduate student lounge.
- Other Topics/Concerns, Heather Olson
  - Summer Trip: Melanie had volunteered to organize the summer trip(s). Please email her at [mlkatawc@ncsu.edu](mailto:mlkatawc@ncsu.edu) with possible ideas for these outings.
  - Potential for one day trip and one overnight trip.
  - Previous fundraiser money would be used to partially fund these trips.
  - One idea given was to have a float trip.
- DO NOT FORGET TO VOTE by emailing your votes for each position by Friday, April 27 to Heather Olson at [haolson2@ncsu.edu](mailto:haolson2@ncsu.edu)
- Meeting adjourned: 4:15 p.m.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

APS

July 28-Aug 1, 2007; San Diego, CA

Jack Bailey Memorial Tour

Aug. 16, 2007; Sandhills Research Station, sod farm, Metrolina Greenhouses, NC Research Campus

Fall Departmental Picnic

Oct. 27, 2007

