PGSA Meeting
November 11, 2015 2:00 - 4:00pm

In attendance: Lisa Feingold, Eric Oosenbrug, Susannah Mulvale, Jenkin Mok, Jacqueline Hogue, Annalise D'Souza, Jala Rizeq, Audrey Wong Kee You, Carol Lee

- Dr. Adrienne Perry (Psychology Graduate Program Director) and Lori Santos (Graduate Office Administrative Assistant) were in attendance to discuss how the department can work together with the PGSA, and to present the results from the Cyclical Program Review (CPR).

- Discussed upcoming duties of the PGSA, specifically organizing the Holiday Party. We decided on December 3 for the date and the social committee should get in touch with Ann to confirm and book the room. Along with food and drinks, the party could have things such as a band or DJ, and themes or games like a Christmas sweater contest.

- The PGSA is also responsible for organizing the new student orientation. We will begin to plan this later in the Winter semester.

- Clarified with Dr. Perry the three kinds of departmental meetings at which we can have a grad student representative in attendance:
  - Grad Executive meeting: attended by Area Coordinators, Graduate Program Director, Department Chair, and PGSA Grad Exec Reps
  - Grad Faculty meeting: attended by faculty and PGSA Departmental Reps
  - Grad Department meeting: attended by faculty and open to students

- Dr. Perry informed us that the department will be hiring a total of four new faculty members for the following sections: Clinical Developmental, Developmental Science, Quantitative Methods, and Social and Personality. Approximately 3-4 applicants will be interviewed for each position, and the interviews will take place throughout the Winter 2016 Semester. Each interview will last a full day, and will involve various talks, meetings, lunch, and supper. One component of the interview will involve the applicants meeting exclusively with small groups of grad students.

- Grad Lounge: discussed our request for a grad student lounge in the Psychology department. Dr. Perry advised that we keep advocating for this, and send a request in writing to the Department Chair. We can cite the CPR results in this letter, as they indicated the desire for a social space to foster collegiality and communication between graduate students.

- Dr. Joel Goldberg (Psychology Department Chair) briefly attended the meeting for introductions and encouraged communication between grad students and the department, and to let them know if there is anything they can improve on.

- CPR Presentation:
        Dr. Perry presented a slideshow of the results and explained the process and purpose of

collecting the data. Every eight years the program is required by Ontario Universities Council on Quality Assurance to perform a CPR. The Institute of Social Research is in charge of collecting the data. The information collected goes into a binder containing general information about the department, faculty, staff, and students. The department presents a written summary of the CPR results to the Deans of the Faculty of Health and to FGS. It then goes to a panel of external evaluators, and ends up at the Provost's Office. It is a public summary. There will be another presentation open to all graduate students on November 17th.

- Annalise asked if we could get data not only on the students' expectations that was conveyed in the CPR but also of statistics on things like average completion times. Dr. Perry confirmed this data was being compiled.

- After presenting the results and fielding questions, Dr. Perry and Lori left the meeting, and we continued with the exec.

- Annalise suggested that we send out an email reminder with slides about the Grad Re-orientation presentations given by Dr. Perry and Lori in October so that students are aware of program's expectations of them. We should also send out an email clarification on the re-allocation of funds, and a reminder about the CPR results presentation November 17th.

- Talked about having more regular social events and pub nights, and starting a PGSA facebook group. We would have to decide on a way to administer the group and monitor posting.