

HOGS Minutes for October 24, 2006

Attendance: Lingxia Su, Philip Ludwig, Ajay Nair, Kate Long, Aaron Walworth, Sara Tanis, Wendy Klooster, Travis Stegmeir, Aaron Warsaw, Theoharis Ouzounis, Erik Runkle, Greg Lang, Joseph Tychonievich, Kristin Getter, Nobuko Sugimoto, Roberto Lopez, Dan Little, Matt Blanchard, and Linsey Newton

New Orleans Trip

A volunteer opportunity is being organized by Art Cameron and Tom Fernandez to help restore public gardens in New Orleans. Transportation has not been finalized, but they are considering renting mini vans. They will depart Dec. 15 or 16th and return Dec. 20th or 21st. Lodging and food will be covered, but Tom needs a \$20 deposit to cover transportation. This money might be refunded. Send Matt Blanchard an e-mail if you are interested in volunteering.

Faculty Position Interviews

The seminars, discussion, and lunch with the candidates for the Postharvest position will begin this week. Graduate students are encouraged to attend and ask the candidate questions over lunch. Roberto e-mailed the evaluation forms out earlier, and he needs them filled out and placed in his mailbox by November 8th.

Two volunteers are needed to collect and summarize evaluations and help Sherry plan the lunches for the two other faculty positions (one in viticulture and one in vegetables) being filled. This may also involve serving on the search committee if a graduate student position is added. You do not need to have a viticulture or vegetable background to serve in this position.

Contact Roberto if you have any questions or are interested in volunteering.

Dental Insurance

Since graduate students do not have any dental coverage, there was a reminder about the MSU and Midwestern Dental Program. Under this program, it costs \$32 for 2 cleanings and an X-ray. Midwestern Dental has 8 locations in MI, including one in Lansing. To take part in this program, you need to call 1-800-544-6374 and ask for an application to the MSU GA/GEU Enrollment Program.

Halloween Party

The Hort Club/ HOGS Halloween party will be this Friday, Oct. 27 at 7PM at the Hort Farm. There will be prizes for the best costume and the best couple's costume. Pizza, snacks, candy, non-alcoholic drinks, and games will be provided, but please bring some sort of snack or drink to share.

GPC Update

At the last GPC meeting the faculty approved the direct enrollment of students with a bachelor's degree into a PhD program.

It was also decided that the topic for HRT 894 in spring 2007 will be genetic engineering and GMOs. Dr. Loescher has agreed to teach this course. If you would like

to have input on what exactly will be covered in the course, Greg Lang is willing to set up a meeting with Dr. Loescher.

Faculty Meeting Update

A teaching experience is highly recommended for graduate students and is now going to count for credit with a Pass/Fail grade so it will show up on transcripts. A faculty member will be responsible for supervising the graduate student's experience, which can include preparing course or extension material, writing test questions, or a number of other things. Dr. Behe is in charge of this change.

COGS Update

A new MSU recycling center is going to be built, and interested students are needed to help with the planning. Let Aaron Walworth know if you are interested, and he will give you more information.

Although not online yet, the graduate school has a thesis/dissertation template. If you ask the graduate school, you should be able to obtain it.

COGS is looking for graduate students to help update their website, so if you're interested, let Aaron Walworth know.

The COGS Bowling Party is Nov. 17 from 7-10 PM at Metro Bowl (5141 S. MLK). For \$5, you get unlimited bowling, free shoe rental, and unlimited pizza and beer. Let Aaron know if you are interested, and he will get you tickets.

HOGS Dues

Dues are \$10 for the year (\$5 per semester) and can be paid to Wendy Klooster, whose office is Room A224.

Upcoming Events

Broomball – more information will be coming