

Graduate Student Meeting Report

August 10, 2006

Submitted to the board by graduate student representative, Naomi Nichols

The meeting took place in the Lachine conference room from 6:30pm until 8:00pm. People stayed and socialized for another hour following the meeting. About 25 students attended.

Discussion Topics

Mentoring

- students were very positive about the speed mentoring session
- it was understood to have offered people an opportunity to discuss a range of issues that intersect with their experiences
- they were impressed that so many wonderful and respected mentors had attended to share their time
- the one-one-one conference mentoring partnerships have proven slightly harder to arrange; however, people are taking advantage of this opportunity as well

Workshopping

- students can only get funding to attend a conference if they are presenting a paper, so would be less interested in organizing a workshopping session
- that said, workshops on successfully navigating the ethics review process, or publication were of interest
- the suggestion was made that sessions could be created that utilized both a presentation format and then a longer follow-up/workshopping session
- an organized round-table for graduate students to discuss works in progress and network with one another was another opportunity people would appreciate
- people seemed less interested in attending a pre-conference workshopping day

SSSP Newsletter

- the graduate students would like to propose that we have a formal space for graduate student announcements and writing on the society newsletter
- Lisa Romanienko will continue conversations with Ken Kyle about this

List Serve

- we would like to create a graduate student list serve that people can elect to join
- a list-serve would facilitate communication throughout the year – it would allow us to organize our newsletter contributions; propose co-sponsored sessions; organize housing arrangements for conferences; a round-table for graduate students etc.
- if this is appropriate, I volunteer to create this list-serve

Local Arrangements Committee

- we propose that graduate students in the host city for upcoming conferences be responsible for compiling information on hostels, cheap food (as people described being unable to afford the restaurants on the regular conference list)
- communication would happen via the list-serve

- this might also allow us to organize billeting with other grad. students
- Sarah Damaske has volunteered to coordinate something for next year's conference in New York

Funding Issues

- a sincere thank you was expressed to the society regarding the availability of student subsidies and conference support funds
- with regard to the 20.00\$ increase across the board for society membership, the graduate students would like to see something like a percentage increase on current memberships or a sliding scale
- there was also a suggestion that a small discount could be offered to students who recruited 5 or more new members from their faculty

Splitting from ASA

- funding is connected to attending ASA – the 2 for 1 (4 for 1 for some people) conference experience works well for those on a budget