

Attending: Bly, Massaro, Rooker, Weber

1. **Next Professional Development Luncheon** Rooms reserved for the Friday before Thanksgiving from 12:05-1:25 for a 12:20pm event start. Subject will be job interviews. Faculty invites of Jameson, Frazier, a PI from Oak Ridge that oversees hiring, as well as Lind and Day. Kelly will email to coordinate invites. Tyler will investigate food, possibly Buddy's BBQ and Salad.
2. **Mentor Survey** Currently 16 responses, 11 of whom are possible mentors. Promoting the program in the 109 office might encourage more participation. Since supply of mentors appears to exceed demand, we'll plan to keep a list of unpaired mentors should a first-year student become interested in a mentor even after the survey completion date passes.
3. **Awards** A fellow grad student suggested a possible end of the year award separate from the grad student's best teacher award to recognize extraordinary effort in support of the graduate student community outside of the classroom. Additionally, Darrin mentioned that he and Pam have talked about the award plaques in the department offices that have not been updated in some time. Perhaps the MGSC could spearhead that effort. Inevitably, these motives beg the question about fund raising. A design contest for t-shirts that could be sold to students on Pi Day.
4. **Peer Institution GTA Contact Hour Study** Kelly produced a beautiful presentation file to present the results of the GTA contact hour data collected in the MGSC's effort to help the department establish a currency for what is a GTA fair duty in our department. Trends among 29 peer public institutions are included. Mark will be collecting detailed UTK data this week so that more than just a single data point can be used to communicate the state of our GTA's current duties in terms of contact hours.
5. **Possible Future Investigations** Grad student retention rates among GTAs and non-funded students may be helpful to know. Course requirements at peer institution PhD programs might provide data to help potentially improve the department's current course requirements.