

MGSC Meeting Minutes

October 23, 2019

Attending: Lacy, Ryan, Sulyok

Departmental Forum Follow-Up

- The Forum was useful, providing a lot of good information and many graduate students took advantage of the opportunity.
- At the conclusion of the event, Dr. Plaut mentioned that the administration would be willing to host a second Q&A.
- The MGSC will gauge interest for another forum to be held in the spring semester during the Town Hall meeting at the end of this semester.
- Following approval from the administration, the MGSC notes will be made public.

Teaching Course Load Discussion (Regarding 2-2 Teaching Loads)

- Several graduate students contacted the MGSC regarding an increased teaching course load.
- In their offer letters, the language has changed from older graduate students. The new language states that they will work “approximately 20 hours per week”.
- Since the letter gives an hourly workload, the department assigned teaching to fit these 20 hours. For students with this classification, if the average number of hours worked each week is more than 20, the MGSC recommends that they talk with their mentor to discuss why it is taking them more than 20 hours per week to complete their tasks. These students should also contact the MGSC in the event that this is happening for multiple graduate students.
- Dr. Brodskiy received three separate emails from graduate students about issue and has been in contact with Dr. Plaut regarding the complaints. Dr. Plaut contacted the MGSC to understand why students are upset.
- The MGSC believes that the underlying reason is that this is the first time that graduate students have seen a 2-2 teaching load in years and have been in contact with later-stage graduate students who have different teaching assignments.

October PDL

- The October PDL is tomorrow at 11:10 am! The panel will consist of Drs. Jameson, Strickland, and Vellis, moderated by Cara. Moe's will be served.

November PDL

- The October PDL will take place on November 12 at 11:10 am with guest speaker Dr. Hodge on Equity in the Math Classroom.
- The PDL will be a talk followed by discussion.
- Brenz Pizza will be served.

Town Hall

- The fall semester Town Hall will be held Friday, November 22 with snacks starting at 4:30 pm and the agenda items beginning at 4:45 pm.
- Alex will pick up snacks provided by the MGSC and Jack will create the Powerpoint.

Apparel Sale

- The MGSC will host the annual apparel sale! This year, we will sell t-shirts in both long and short sleeve options.
- Orders will begin in the early spring semester.
- Both shirts will feature the same design. Cara will solicit ideas from the department with final designs due by the Town Hall.

IDEAS

- The MGSC received approval to host the April 3 Colloquium and is working with Dr. Strickland to officially invite the speaker.
- Jack will email the chosen speaker and the Summit plans will be finalized during the next MGSC meeting in early November.