



Dana Club Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, January 17, 2007

- I. Words of Wisdom from the DGS (John Wettlaufer)
 - a. Deadlines for this semester
 - i. ****Please note that there will be a very low tolerance for missing deadlines this semester, so consult your handbook early and often.**
 - ii. 1st years – prepare class schedule ASAP and send to DGS office for review; 2-3 page proposal for your first discourse due in April, you need to plan ahead with this because your proposal will need to be read and approved by your advisor and committee before submission
 - iii. 2nd years – abstract for second preliminary presentation due ASAP to Bobbie, course schedules due ASAP, second discourse pre-presentation (in the same format as first presentation) coming up in about 3 weeks, you will need to work with your committee and the DGS to schedule the presentation, if possible do not schedule the presentations for KGL 123, both discourses are due by the end of March, these should be reviewed by your advisor and committee, so plan ahead, the discourses should be in the form of a proposal as if you were applying to fund the project not just a paper, the qualifying exam/discourse presentations will occur during the last two weeks of April, the presentations should be 30 minutes in length and will be open to the whole department, it will be followed by an extended question session with your committee
 - iv. 3rd years – course schedules are due ASAP, third year review to be completed before the end of April, dissertation progress report due at the end of the semester
 - v. Continuing students 3rd year and beyond – dissertation progress reports due at the end of the semester
 - vi. Graduating students – degree petitions are due by mid-March, check with graduate school for more complete deadlines, give readers at least 1 month to read thesis, only need your advisor plus two readers
 - b. Bobbie will be leaving at noon on January 26, her replacement will not know the job as well and so may not provide reminders of all deadline, hence the need to consult the handbook and be on top of deadlines

- c. Thank you to Billy and Garrett for organizing AGU recruiting and everyone who did recruiting at AGU, there are 80+ high quality applicants for approximately 10 spots
- d. New student recruiting will occur over two days this year, a Friday and Saturday to be decided, it will be more casual and less rigidly schedules than in previous years, Friday will be mostly presentations by students and faculty representing the various research areas, Friday night will be a casual reception at a location to be determined (and discussed later in the meeting), the will be possibly a buffet dinner and open bar, the second day will be less formal with lab tours and meetings with students, students were encouraged to talk to the prospective students about job offers received, conferences or summer schools attended, the things that make up life in KGL, a field trip might be offered on Saturday, don't know yet how many people will come yet, the graduate students may organize parts of the visit

II. Colloquium Update (Erik Sperling)

- a. Why are there so few colloquia scheduled? Because of all the job talks associated with the geophysics and geochemistry job searches, these groups gave up their spots for colloquia this semester.
- b. Who is coming to give colloquia? There will be some paleontologists, AOCD people, and geology talks beginning at the end of February.

III. GSA Update (Bryan Woods)

- a. Proposed change to grading policy - Dean has proposed changing the graduate school's grading policy to an A-F +- system, the main proponents of such a change are humanities students who feel that the change is necessary to be competitive with students from other schools, the only other Ivy League school with an Honors/High Pass/etc. grading scale is Brown, the science students in general are opposed to the change because they say grades don't really matter in getting jobs, Bryan also argued that the grade change would discourage students from taking classes outside their specialty because under the current system students don't feel like they have to compete as much with other students, the GSA has asked the Dean to allow students input on the change, but as the proposition will soon be going to a full faculty vote, probably the only way to stop it from passing now is to speak to faculty members and ask them to vote against it, there is a small possibility that GSA might setup a website allowing students to give feedback
- b. New Health Center to be built – will go by new police station on Canal St, will have twice as much space as current center, plans have been approved and building may start as soon as this summer
- c. Yale health plan has switched to a new provider that is supposed to be the leader in Connecticut
- d. Yale Health Plan will cover emergency services outside of New Haven, but not follow-up care; you can also get med-evac services overseas

covered by the health plan, but you must apply online and print a Med-ex card before going

- e. GSA conference travel fund provides up to \$500 for travel to conferences, even conference that have already occurred, applications are being accepted for the current funding round until February 15, apply through the GSA website

- IV. Winter IM sports (Megan Andrews = volleyball, Brett Tipple = basketball)
 - a. Games for both sports begin this Sunday
 - b. Games will be held on Sunday mornings and afternoons
 - c. The full schedules will be posted on the Dana Club website
 - d. Everyone is invited to play, but you should email the Captains first to get on the roster.

- V. Group Photo (Brian Andres)
 - a. There was interest for taking a photo of the entire G&G graduate student body
 - b. The Dana Club President will schedule a the photo for lunch time in the near future

- VI. Treasurer's Report (Una Farrell)
 - a. Set up new bank account at People's Bank
 - b. All Dana Club monetary business will be conducted by check, so there is no more petty cash available to be stolen
 - c. Income from Endowment and Jan-Jul 2006 vending machines received
 - d. Repaid overdue debts
 - e. Newspaper and magazine subscriptions – Some subscriptions may have expired, but it is unclear which ones have; if you notice a magazine that you regularly read has stopped coming, alert one of the Dana Club officers and it will be taken care of
 - f. Current ledger available on Dana Club website

- VII. Upcoming Events
 - a. Retirement Present for Bobbie – spend about \$150, possibly get a precious stone globe
 - b. Movie nights (Snakes on a Plane Tuesday Jan 23, Tom's movies = BBC documentary on arthropods and Adult Swim cartoon on evolution vs creation, date TBD)
 - c. Chillifest with Jerry Olack – wants Dana Club name to “legitimize” it, wants to invite all of science hill, make it bigger and more appealing, Dana Club will work with Jerry to include more people's chilli and better organize the food, it was suggested that it could be combined with a night of skits
 - d. Department Picnic – Erik Sperling and Melissa will work with Phil on this
 - e. Wine tasting?
 - f. Joint Happy Hour with Physics – not much interest in this

- g. Joint Happy Hour with EEB, Forestry – no great interest in this either
- h. Any other ideas? Have about \$1000 to spend on events – If anyone wants to propose events, talk to Melissa or Una

VIII. Reception for new student recruiting – possible locations include KGL 102 (not favored by students, too small, not welcoming), Grad Student Club on Green (probably a good place, but far away), GYPSCY (far away, possibility for hanging out afterwards, inexpensive), Lawn Club (close, probably expensive, stuffy), Peabody Great Hall (close, interesting), President's Room in Woolsey hall (in nice part of campus, big enough, perhaps expensive)

IX. Any questions or other items? None were presented.

X. Reminder that meeting minutes will be sent out and posted online