

GO:MCB Meeting
October 27th 2020 11AM
Virtual Meeting

President: Katie Kyle
Vice President: Emily Green
Outreach Coordinator: Ryan Duggan
Treasurer: Patrick Grady
Secretary: Sean Gosselin
Chief Diversity Officer: Khalia Cain

Attendance: Katie Kyle, Emily Green, Ryan Duggan, Patrick Grady, Sean Gosselin, Khalia Cain

Opening: Katie led discussion on constitutional changes/needs.

- Constitution due very shortly (November 1st).
 - However may require physical signature
 - Waiting for an update on that
 - Otherwise Katie will get phy sigs.
 - Katie is in the process of making format changes.
 - Diversity and Inclusion Officer
 - Roles further defined within constitution.
 - Current version to be sent to all executive members of GO:MCB later today
 - Should representatives in faculty meetings be considered as part of the constitution?
 - For now we have added a small section for elected positions serving non-executive roles
 - Voting Changes
 - Due to the increase in officers, upped requirements to remove an officer (from 4/5 → 5/6)
 - Added a clause for ties to deal with the even number of officers.

Conversation shift to updates from DEI committee

- Regarding Diversity Committee
 - Work in progress/completed
 - Efforts in progress to gain undergraduate representation
 - Revamped website with new verbiage
 - Talked at Orientation
 - Mixed seminar series
 - Rotations
 - Trying to attract a more diverse student body
 - Using the master's program as a jumping off point for the PhD (in order to obtain research experience)
 - Unclear whether the requirement will be to complete it, or have the option to upgrade to PhD
 - Possibility of removing the initial research experience filter to allow more applicants from the pool in as possible students
 - Giving undergraduates research experience?
 - McNair programs

- Doesn't have the funding at the moment for such an initiative
- Student "tours"
 - Give them lab tours then introduce/do some research
 - Possible.
- Partnership with nearby schools
 - Patrick in process of writing grant for the state
- REU?
 - Tends to get cut from grants...
 - But maybe on a departmental/university level?
 - Might not be able to be an exclusive to minority/first gen students
 - But we could ensure diversity within the cohort?
 - Themes: Symbiosis / centromeres / nextgen / etc.

Katie brings up MCB:GO outreach, events, and later; student relations

- Outreach
 - Skype a Scientist diversity event
 - Reach out to Sarah?
 - Ryan will start investigating local high schools for events
 - Virtual mini conference?
 - Social events are likely impossible given COVID restrictions
 - Funded events are likely not possible
 - There is \$10K locked in the funding for these
 - Is there a way to retrieve this funding and re-purpose?
 - Possibly just changing the event while keeping the name the same would work.
 - Patrick will look into.
 - Research Outreach Panel?
 - Spring speakers needed
 - Looking for suggestions.
- Need to update the website (some time in the spring)
 - Will make further plans later
- Student Well-Being
 - Survey for Undergrads regarding their opinion on the current situation
 - Weariness, how safe they feel, etc.
 - Open google doc for question submission?
 - Khalia will create.
 - Student Payment Standards
 - Trying to even out support especially to lower funded students
 - Mental health support
 - Send out a survey on grad mental health and resource usage.
 - Getting an MCB specific councilor
 - The \$\$\$ may not be there, but Joerg and co may be able to provide suggestions
 - Are uconn's current resources sufficient?
 - Employee program seems to work for getting outside referrals
 - Mental health counseling center seems to be overloaded w/ Undergrads
 - They lost half their staff recently
- In-person Coffee hour
 - Katie is gathering information as to feasibility
 - emails already sent to Ciara and Maggie

- Needs to be outside and with ways to keep contact to absolute minimum
 - Distanced eating
- Virtual Coffee hours
 - Have been well received previously
 - Katie will plan a few for the coming months.
 - At least 1 member of GO:MCB should be present at each

Recap and Action Items:

- Katie will send out current constitution to the group over the coming day
- Ryan will investigate possible outreach events and determine whether we can assist or need to organize new ones
- Patrick will determine in which ways we can re-purpose funding from in-person events
- Khalia will work on forms for undergraduate well-being survey, ask for question input from other students.
- Emily will work on questions for graduate well-being survey (MCB specific)
- Katie will plan dates for virtual coffee hours, and investigate feasibility for in-person coffee hours.

Meeting concluded at 12:11AM