17 January 2018
Ecology Graduate Student Organization Meeting Minutes

1. Officer Introduction
   a. President-Shannon White
   b. Vice President/Treasurer- Sarah Isbell
   c. Secretary-Ted Primka
   d. Social Co-chairs- Maddie Slook and Curt McConnell
   e. GPSA Representative- Sarah Rothman
   f. Webmaster- Rachel Rozum
   g. Andersen Award Representative- Ellen Brandell
   h. Curriculum Committee Representative- Carli Dinsmore
   i. Program Committee Representative- Staci Amburgey

2. Recruitment
   a. 1 February: Dinner at The Deli. Meet at the Nittany Lion Inn beforehand.
   b. 2 February:
      i. Tour. Lunch is at noon. This will likely be the switch out point if you cannot be guiding the whole day. If you are guiding, talk about the program and your experience as you walk.
      ii. Dinner/Faculty Social at Jason Kaye’s house. Jason’s house is near Sunset Park. A whole meal will be provided. Please attend this event if possible.
   c. Assume you are going to any event that you said that you could attend in your response to the survey email.

3. Social events
   a. Happy Hours
      i. One TONIGHT
      ii. Interdepartmental with Animal Science
      iii. Sledding beforehand?
   b. Other Ideas?
      i. Escape Room. Can only occupy 16 people at a time. Only an hour long. $17 per person.
      ii. Grad Cup
      iii. Cookie potluck?
      iv. Ice skating?
      v. Hiking
      vi. Meet at someone’s house and potluck
      vii. Cabin retreat/Spring retreat- needs to be planned out sooner rather than later. Bring ideas for a spring retreat to next meeting. Bear in mind time and travel costs.

4. Candidacy Exam- two people taking. End of February/early March there will be a practice exam for orals.

5. Nonsocial Events the EGSO would like accomplish
   a. Website/ Facebook Updates
      i. Needs updating
      ii. What information could we put on there that would pull more internet traffic?
iii. How can we provide more information for new students?
iv. Pictures of colloquium talks
v. Featuring student papers and professional presentations
vi. Events calendar-social and professional. EGSO calendar link to website?
vii. Growth and new ideas needed as well
   1. Could link to content that other people are already producing.

6. Miscellaneous
   a. Andersen Award
      i. Travel award for $500. Preference given to pre-comprehensive students.
         Expect an email from Ellen shortly.
      ii. If you are post-comps, you should pay attention to the Huck travel awards.

7. Announcements from Jason Kaye
   a. Big number of interviewees
   b. Large budget
   c. Looking for ideas for improvement of the program:
      i. Uploading pictures from Colloquium to the website
      ii. Hikes
   d. Recruiting:
      i. Be very/more positive during these times. Shelter the recruits from your
cynicism.
   e. What is the appropriate way to engage with Jason?
      i. Use 2nd Colloquium meeting as an EGSO meeting where we interact with
         Jason/program head
      ii. EGSO should probably meet prior to ^ meeting to get officers together and
         formulate a plan for the year.
      iii. Meetings with Jason and officers?
   f. What would you liked to see changed in the program?
      i. Positive changes:
         1. Faculty participation seems low. Last recruitment turnout was very
            low. Mini-symposium seems to have a good/reasonable turnout
            though.
            a. Ideally more participation in happy hour and seminars
            b. Seminar fatigue? Maybe combine more with other
               programs to reduce the number of speakers
            c. Happy hour after seminar?
            d. More faculty friendly post-seminar hangout/bar/snacks?
               i. Might not be able to be enacted this semester, but
                  possibly next semester
            e. Every other semester seminar?
            f. Moving seminar out of the 4-5 block?
         2. Basic stats specific class for ecology? No community ecology
            course? Introduction to the ecology of our region retreat prior to
            classes in the fall?
         3. Keep forwarding crystallized ideas to Jason

8. Announcements:
   a. T-shirt order/mugs/stickers/sweatshirt/magnets interest?
b. After ecology seminar series snacks gathering interest?