Officer introductions

Questions for Jason/program weaknesses

- Candidacy timing: Margot Kaye knows more about when candidacy is. Margot, Armen and Andy Cole are the current members of the committee. Jason is looking for suggestions for a committee member.
- Jason wants more of us to do the individual development Huck plan. People who have done this program suggested that it was not very helpful.
- Jason would like someone on the Huck committee. Lake was our representative for a while. We need someone to attend the HGSAC (Rondy?). Maybe make it an EGSO position?
- Seminar poll results: People wanted the date and time of seminar series to be changed, so they were for this semester. No consensus in the poll on when would be a good time. Seminar room is the same for now. No consensus on frequency. Jason was against every other week. Seminars were packed more into the center of this fall semester.
- Do people want a faculty seminar mentor?
- Support was there for bringing in people from outside academia for either research talks or career talks. Next fall, we could have a series that focuses on professionals who are teaching innovators or are outside academia and can talk about career pathing.
- Status of additional courses/special topics. Bring up classes or ideas for classes that we are interested in to Jason or the EGSO. This would be a more discussion based class. It would be a 1 or 2 credit class.
- People were interested in having a Community Ecology course on the books.
- Common format/more official guidelines for comprehensive exams. The EGSO should work on developing broad guidelines for comprehensive committees.

Social activities

- Spikes game tonight
- Fall picnic October 5th: Ecology will provide grillables, students should bring a side item. There will be yard games.
- Will try to do a happy hour every 3rd Wednesday of the month, starting in September

Seminar Series

- Fridays at 2:30pm in FRB 106
- Fall series starts Sept 7, check email from Joe for schedule
- Spring series may still be looking for volunteers to host a speaker. Behavioral ecology is the theme of the series. Monique is looking for one more speaker.
- We need to have more involvement with meeting with speakers before and after talks.
- We are actively looking for a room for next year that is in the center of campus. Please email Jason with suggestions.
- Seminar series at other colleges migrate to a bar downtown after the talk. Prior speakers have been a bit put off that we don’t go downtown for drinks after. We should try and organize a few downtown movements after some speakers.

- Ecology swag orders
  - People were unaware of the sales last year, despite many emails. If you have interest in a specific item with Penn State Ecology on it, then you should email Sarah Isbell.

- FAQ Handbook
  - First draft will be released soon
  - Will continue to need edits
  - Hopefully can get input from new students about additional information they think would be helpful

- Mini-symposium
  - Date is still undetermined. We are working on booking a place. Usually takes place in between Thanksgiving and Christmas.
  - It would be ideal if elections were held prior to mini-symposium so that results can be announced at the event.