BoD meeting minutes
6-1-11

Members present: Artemis Ailianou, Megan Dobro, Dan Bower, Jelena Culic-Viskota, Patrick Sanan, Jose Mendoza-Cortes, Paul Nelson, Gloria Sheng, Jacob Sendowski, Lauren Edgar (minutes), Maggie Osburn, Brett Cornell, Allison Kunz, Toni Lee, Terry Gdoutos, Joe Meyerowitz, Danielle Brown, Casey Handmer (guest)

I. Committee Updates
   a. Advocacy
      i. Orientation planning in full swing
      ii. President’s Diversity Council meeting – discussed enrollment stats for last 10 years, focusing on recruitment versus diverse and well-balanced environment
      iii. Congrats to Megan for winning diversity award
      iv. No updates from coffee hour – but we will no longer send a special email announcement (trying to limit email spam to grad students)
      v. Café closing at 5 for summer hours – is there a way to extend this? Broad closes at 2:30. Ask Anneila about extending hours? Lack of student space after hours

   b. Academics
      i. TA Award to Nick Hoh
      ii. Mentor award Dennis Dougherty

   c. Social
      i. Formal went really well
      ii. SAC hosted a GUSH – very well attended, great advertising ahead of time
      iii. Access to Cats Rec Rooms and CSS pending, Lauren will email when updated
      iv. Upcoming GUSH on June 17th, possibly hosted by Garden Club
      v. Social Committee will meet soon to plan summer events

   d. Sustainability
      i. Continuing work with Net Impact
      ii. Good event about urban agriculture, but events are mostly attended by non-Caltech people
      iii. Can we change the time of events? Probably not for those coming from outside
      iv. Supposed to start construction soon at the garden space on Wilson – bike storage and picnic storage (so can’t use garden plots yet because construction will start again soon.)
      v. Did we ask for bike storage? No, but problem with bike theft on campus still exists.
II. GRB restructure/separation from GSC: discussion and Q&A
   a. Trying to revamp the GRB so that it’s more functional, can attract members itself, more respected by students
   b. Mostly positive feedback from admins and GSC
   c. Joe Shepherd in favor of waiting to implement until August, but still ready by orientation
   d. Document coming soon with proposed changes
   e. Does the GSC want to have control over the GRB? Right now no one is really exercising control.
   f. What is this “control”? GRB by laws are under GSC bylaws, so when we rearrange things (like election timing) it automatically applies to the GRB right now
   g. If we haven’t exercised control in the past, why would the GSC suddenly start?
   h. Let’s make this separation official
   i. Is there anyone that stands above the GRB? The dean can’t change the rules, but he can determine the action

III. Working with the administration to establish fellowships for graduate students
   a. Faculty are not always able to support their students
   b. Casey Handmer wrote an article for the tech about establishing grad fellowships
   c. Joe Meyerowitz– grad stipends went up dramatically when NSF raised its stipends, can we apply pressure to Caltech to match NSF and DOE standards? People in biochem have deferred to other schools because the other schools offer higher stipends
   d. Maybe we need to improve fundraising – discuss with development office
   e. Artemis Ailianou brought this up with the Alumni Fund but their funds are much more specified
   f. Once there’s a new VP for Development is in place, the GSC will meet with him/her to discuss this matter. One approach is to have graduate student to meet and converse with trustees and other potential donors. Increasing face time with graduate students will increase the visibility of graduate student research and need for support through fellowships.
   g. We would ideally want to meet with the Trustees every time they’re on campus. Can the graduate office help?
   h. Another benefit from fellowships: grad students (particularly in theoretical fields) will not have to TA every quarter and can complete their degree faster
IV. Miscellany

a. Gloria will bring food next meeting and will organize a doodle poll for food restrictions

b. 50% vegetarian food is the new requirement for GSC lunches