

EGSAC meeting - March 2007

Very few participants!!! Angela Z, Einat, Vid, Jessie, Pat. 3 atmo/oceans/planetary, 2 GGG

Outline:

1. Update from the GSC
2. Activities: Ski trip, Bowling, peer hour
3. Meeting for graduate students with Prof. Maria Zuber regarding faculty searches
4. Tell us your horror stories!
5. Low attendance at EGSAC meetings and other department activities

1) Update from the GSC: Topics discussed in the last GSC meeting were

- Should the Diversity committee be a permanent or stay an ad-hoc sub-committee that's restarted every year? duced that it will stay ad-hoc. No permanent standing committee was established at MIT since 1974. There's a faculty task team for diversity, and also an undergraduate committee dedicated to this subject, but no graduate committee. Now the Diversity committee is under the Academics, Research and Careers committee.
- Statement was issued from GSC to call MIT to reduce greenhouse gas emission
- GSC would recommend that MIT will have Pass/D/Fail classes for grad students for classes that are not towards their degree (languages for instance)

2) Fun Activities:

- Ski trip - THIS SUNDAY!!!! As you can see, we will have lots of fresh snow. Contact Angela at azalucha@mit.edu
- Bowling - Pat will get the money from GSC. Someone should volunteer to organize!!! Please contact Pat at engelp@mit.edu.
- Peer hour - the last few peer hours suffered from low attendance. There have been suggestions of how to improve the situation, for example - screening of movies. More ideas would be very welcome - please contact Noah Mclean at nmclean@mit.edu. But the first idea is - just show up!!! Peer hour is fun, and a great opportunity to meet other students and post-docs (reminder - these are your future co-authors and reviewers!) and clear your head before diving back into work.

3) Meeting for graduate students with Prof. Maria Zuber regarding faculty searches Einat will organize a meeting for all the graduate students of the department with the department head, Prof. Maria Zuber. The purpose of the meeting is to update the students of the ongoing searches for new faculty in the geology and atmospheric sciences divisions. The students are encouraged to express their concerns and opinions regarding the searches and the candidates, as well as ask questions regarding the process of faculty hiring. The meeting will take place soon after spring break.

4) Tell us your horror stories!! MIT has a new executive vice president, who apparently is all fired up to tackle the MIT mishaps in the areas of administration, facilities, human resources, payroll, etc. She asked the department heads and the students to forward any horror story to her. Examples mentioned: the registrar! (i.e. students fined for not dropping a class that had been canceled, pre-registration for non-existing classes, etc), rooms with no thermostats, floors that are never washed, irresponsible facilities personnel, etc... Give us your stories!! contact Einat Lev at einatlev@mit.edu or Maria Zuber directly at zuber@mit.edu

5) Low attendance at EGSAC meetings - This is very unfortunate, because EGSAC and its representatives are the main channel for the students of this department to express our concerns and ideas. This is also a great way to learn how things really work in the department, and thus it is highly recommended that first and second year students attend the meetings. Obviously, the great free food (it's not just pizza! we have Chinese, Indian, Mexican...) is also a good reason to stop by.

Minutes taken by Einat Lev