SBSA

MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

FRI . DEC 7 . 12:00 PM . LKSC 4TH FLOOR

SBSA.STANFORD.EDU

Agenda

1. Previous SBSA events
2. Upcoming SBSA events
3. Winter Program Proposals
4. Office of Faculty Development (Shaila Kotadia)
5. Stanford Medicine Town Hall
6. GSC Affordability Town Hall
7. CGAP Meeting Updates
8. BioAIMS Updates (in collaboration with SBSA)
9. Open floor for questions and concerns

Recent SBSA events

Dec 5 Dish on Science Editing and Eating

Upcoming SBSA Events

Dec 10 Reproducible Science: How to Hack p-values

Dec 10 Science Policy Group: Patrick Windham on “What is Science Policy?”

January SBSA Holiday Party

Winter Program Proposals

List of past proposals available on the SBSA website

Office of Faculty Development

Certificate in Critical Consciousness and Anti-Oppressive Praxis

How do we think consciously about other human beings? How can we create a reflection and action practice (praxis) to create a more just world? CCC Mission Statement (PDF)

In-depth program that requires discomfort and vulnerability
Structure - fall quarter, workshops, peer groups, courses, and praxis component (e.g. mentoring undergrad URM, changing university policy to be more equitable and inclusive)

Pilot of 12 people in fall of 2019 through OFDD
Website will be open in January, application will open in March
The certificate will show your experience with diversity and inclusion on equity statements and CV

For more info:
Shaila Kotadia, Director of Diversity and Inclusion skotadia@stanford.edu
Deb Karhson, post-postdoc dkarhson@stanford.edu
Jesse Isaacman-Beck, postdoc jisaacma@stanford.edu
School of Medicine Diversity website: med.stanford.edu/diversity

School of Medicine Town Hall

- Two main points: quantity & quality of space, and financing
- Space
  - Since 2010, we've expanded beyond just LKSC and SIM1, including satellite campuses at Porter Drive, Arastradero Drive, Welch Road, and Redwood City
  - Huge clinical faculty growth, outpacing space growth
  - Also many labs are moving back and forth during reconstruction of BAGEL (Boswell, Alway, Grant, Edwards, and Lane)
  - To address these problems, acquiring lots of spaces detailed above, also new spaces like Theranos' old building
  - Remaining issues: disrupting productivity, transportation, and reliance on telecommuting
- Finances
  - There was surplus this year, which they said was good for reserves
  - Slides posted on Fiscal Affairs website

GSC Affordability and Finance Town Hall

[Notes from the GSC Secretary (google doc)]

The summary of the summary:

- The university does not have as much free money as we think
- New money has to come from donors, increase in tuition, or deductions in existing programs
- Breakdown of budget is available
- 66% of grad students in subsidized housing, increase with EVGR housing
- How to decrease rent to 30% of income?
  - Only solutions: more housing or larger stipend
  - Students should engage with affordability task force - need to hear from students
- How to put stipend in retirement accounts?
  - Not top priority given so many students are struggling to break even

Notes from the general meeting:

- Minimum stipend is based on the cost of attendance
- Biosciences stipends are greater than the university minimum, determined by home programs
- Deb Karhson was on the postdoc affordability task force
  - Recommendations are only now going to the cabinet, hopefully by January they will have real action items
  - Huge focus on grad student housing on campus
- Good way to get your voice heard is to join task forces

CGAP Meeting

- Early data suggests that GRE requirements may be changing application numbers - has not been rigorously analyzed
- Costs affecting program admit caps - housing, SGF
- 360 mentoring
  - Alpha test going out to a few faculty members
  - Should students be required to fill out? If not, how do we get them to fill it out?
  - Anonymity is a big concern and will be handled by a 3rd party
  - Goal isn't to have a mentorship score - goal is to highlight concerns
- Computational survey
  - Core question: is computational knowledge required to get your PhD at Stanford?
  - Statistics and computational survey sent out to all grad students - please fill out!
  - What are students using? What specific areas need more support?
- All programs are required to update and document their advising expectations

CGAP Meeting

Notes from general meeting:

- Glade (Eco-Evo home program rep) - no experimental design experience, all classes are R for programmers or compsci, or R for theory - no R for experimental design
- Brooks - stats classes are all theory, no application
- Deb Karhson - be very specific, ask postdocs what specific programs they use/you need (e.g. Datastudio and R)
- Staff have a statistics class for analyzing data - student equivalent?

GRE Requirements Update

#GRExit TL;DR:

- Many Biosciences programs are still requiring the GRE even though it has been shown to be a poor indicator for graduate school success,
- As the GRE inherently generates bias, we urge you to contact your program's graduate admissions committees to create a holistic, GRE-independent admissions process.
- **If you are interested in learning more or getting involved, please fill out this form by Nov 7.**

Hi Bioscientists,

Fall is here and graduate admissions season is upon us. Graduate school applications are due at the end of this month, and soon after that Biosciences programs will be evaluating hundreds applications.

During our fall BioAIMS general meeting, we discussed the recent changes in Biosciences Graduate Admissions (Slides 13-17). Earlier this year, the Stanford Faculty Senate recently voted to abolish the university-wide GRE requirement for graduate admissions to be competitive with other schools that have also made the GRE optional.

Despite the body of work that describes how the GRE is not only a poor indicator of graduate success, but also that the GRE requirement discriminates against women, underrepresented minorities, and applicants from low socioeconomic backgrounds (see attached articles for brief summary), many Biosciences programs still include the GRE in their application.

This year, the Office of the Vice Procost of Graduate Education is pushing for more holistic admissions processes, and BioAIMS and SBSA will be advocating for the creation of a suggested Biosciences-wide admissions rubric that reflects a holistic review. **We call on you to also put pressure on your admissions committees to create a holistic, GRE-independent admissions process.**

If you would be interested in learning more about these issues (talk or Q&A session) or getting involved, please fill out this form by Nov 7.

In solidarity,

Amy
BioAIMS President 2018-2019
Immunology PhD Candidate | Majeti Lab
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BioAIMS Updates

Amy Fan, BioAIMS President amyfan@stanford.edu

- Steve Lee, Assistant Dean of Diversity and Inclusion in the School of Humanities and Sciences, has been invited to come to SoM to talk to students in the last week of January
  - Experience at UC Davis with generating rubric to increase diversity in STEM PhDs
  - CGAP will start deciding admissions process for next year in the beginning of February
- HYPE - program bringing FLI and URM high school students to Stanford in late March/early April
  - Exposure to college life, postgrad opportunities, and science in general
  - Looking for volunteers for anything from planning events, giving hands-on science demos or cool science in general, helping check-in
- New BioAIMS social media - twitter.com/bioaims, instagram.com/stanfordbioaims

Forgot meeting selfie again :^(