

Minutes from 8/6/07

1) We invited Elaine Ostrander to give Genome Sciences seminar, and she has agreed to come for the seminar on February 20th. For her visit, we will likely plan a WiGS-hosted breakfast to discuss issues related to women in science, the traditional lunch with the speaker on campus, and a dinner out. Breakfast and lunch will be open to anyone, but dinner will likely be limited to 6 people. We'll have more information closer to the event.

2) We have invited Sandra Lee to give a policy seminar this year. We're still waiting to hear back from her, and we'll give her a little time since she may be on a summer vacation.

3) We discussed changing the name of WiGS to Diversity in Genome Sciences (DiGS). We ultimately decided on keeping the name WiGS to maintain a focused objective of advocating for women in the department, but we will be open to advocating for other underrepresented groups, as well. In addition, we discussed how to get others, particularly men in the department, involved in our events. We decided that when we advertise meetings/events etc, we will specifically state that all events are open to everyone, since some in the department may mistakenly believe that WiGS events are closed to men. We are also working on reformulating the mission statement on the website to more accurately represent what WiGS does and stands for.

4) Budget update: we were approved for our entire budget. This will give us funding for the following during the 2007-2008 year: 1) A policy seminar; 2) A family-friendly department barbeque; 3) One lunch event per quarter with lunch provided; 4) Refreshments at our monthly planning meetings; and 5) A COMBI seminar and lunch with the speaker.

5) We briefly discussed the family-friendly department barbeque. It will take place during the summer of 2008, which will give us plenty of time to plan it. Possible locations that were discussed included Gas Works and Magnuson Parks? It will likely take place during the weekend, as weekdays may be more inconvenient for families with children.

6) We have asked Christine Queitsch to host a discussion on interviewing for post doc and faculty positions during winter quarter. We're still in the process of coordinating this event.

7) We also discussed lunch/activity options for fall quarter. Ideas mentioned included: 1) Inviting Lynn Hogan (fundraiser for medical school) to discuss childcare options at the university. Stan Fields has been in contact with her regarding this issue. 2) Determining who at the University is directly responsible for childcare options at UW and inviting him/her to speak. 3) Inviting Wylie Burke to discuss policy issues/research; 4) Inviting post-docs or grad students to give practice talk? 5) Inviting an adjunct faculty to give a research talk/discussion about women in science? We decided to invite Wylie Burke to our fall meeting.

8) The list of WiGS-like organization is still in the works

9) We also discussed how to make happy hour more female friendly. Most at the meeting believed it should get better now that it is coupled with research reports, so no major changes are currently called for. However, we decided to petition for drinks that are not soda or alcoholic (bottled water, juice, vitamin water, etc.), and we will talk to Margo about this.

10) Our next meeting will be Tuesday, September 4th at noon in Foege-S040 (note the room change!)