

Academic Committee Meeting Minutes:

Present at the meeting:

Andrea Martin, Emily Schaller, Katherine Ward, Jeff, Alan, Eugene, Vikram

VOTE: Andrea Martin elected as chair of this committee

Julie Fry will continue as secretary

Everhart Lecture Series: Alan reported on the success of the project. He noted that in the future it is important that the speaker know that the practice lecture is a dress rehearsal. The size of the room the lectures were given in was appropriate should be kept at around 150 people. The system and size works and we should stick with the current format. Andrea noted that it is important to consider balance in the types of talks.

Teaching Awards: The GSC currently gives out three awards – one to a faculty member for teaching, one to anybody for mentoring and one to a TA of a graduate level class. These awards typically have few nominations. We need to either “make it big or make it go away.” By September we need to have a clear plan and strategies of things we want to focus on for the GSC teaching awards.

Meeting with new registrar: We should meet with the new registrar sometime in the coming months to talk about what changes might be coming. Andrea will contact them to set up an informal meeting.

TQFR's (course reviews) – We would like to create a system of publishing course reviews for the entire campus similar to what is done in the GPS division. Currently the online lab review system is up and running. Course reviews are being tried for the undergrad core courses. Depending on the success/failure of this system, we will try to push to have this system implemented across undergrad/grad courses. Prof. Steve Fraiser (Biology) is in charge of this initiative. Jeff wants to continue working on this project.