ESA Meeting Agenda

September 14, 2017

**Announcements:**

The Recruitment Committee is asking for feedback on last year’s recruitment event.  They’re hoping to gather ideas on what can be improved for this year’s event.  They are also soliciting statements of purpose to hand out at the recruitment event.

The Alumni Committee is hoping to start a new fundraising campaign this coming fall.

**Discussion:**

Exec Meeting: In the recent exec meeting, there were a few issues that were raised that we wanted to get feedback from the entire ESA before returning for the second meeting in October:

* Faculty/Student Relations: There seems to be a large disconnect between the faculty and students, especially in relation to students’ areas of interest.  For example, faculty expressing concern that recent hires are no longer relevant to students’ interests. What are some suggestions to overcome this divide?
* Courses/Faculty: Only one course was canceled this semester (yay!), but again, the concern for courses and faculty being reflective of what current students are interested in taking.  What are some suggestions that can help ensure a diverse course (and faculty) load?  For example, one suggestion has been that there has to be a required number of courses (on the department end) offered in each semester based on a certain field.  Another suggestion is that courses should be required to all cover x, y, and z  in order to be accessible to the most number of students.
* New Exam: Professors have expressed concerns that the new exam is not resulting in high quality material or material that covers enough fields.  Further, professors have concern of what is even expected of the new exam and don’t incorporate the new structure into their course design.  What are some ways we can help with this problem?  Does this simply go back to the faculty/student communication?  Should the ESA host workshops?  Can the ESA create a detailed guide like the old exam had?

Website: Recently, there have been complaints about the structure and function of the website.  It has been proposed that it needs an overhaul and possibly needs to be moved to an outside domain. The page of the committees needs to be updated.

Redecorating the Lounge: The ESA space in the lounge is sorely in need of an update.  Specifically, we are hoping to, once again, define the content of each board and host a decorating party to update the designs of both.

Friday Forum: The microphone in the lounge is not portable, resulting in Friday Forum Q&A sessions being incomprehensible.  Should we propose to the department they purchase a new microphone?  Further, the possibility that the Friday Forum start live streaming?

Monthly Events: While our budget is not in yet, would we be interested in using some of our budget to host monthly get togethers.  If so, what would the scope of those meetings be?  Simply food and drinks?  Should they be constructive?  Should there be an activity attached?