

Notes on graduate student council (04/05/2018)

- Cookie time
 - Good cookies and good coffee will bring more people
 - It fosters communication between the different years (currently they are insular)
- Keep faculty in touch
- Bringing the department together
- Welcoming students
- There are two separate issues [policies, and modifying the social structure]
 - These problems may not be as decoupled as they seem. It's really about communicating
 - As much as it seems decoupled, social improvements can be helpful for retention
- Three components
 - Making new students feel welcome
 - Ensuring the wellbeing of current students
 - Career development
- Why can't we just have forums?
 - Structure is important
 - We can still have forums even with the council
- Need to identify holes in the department
 - There are holes in how the department is run
 - We should address them with the department
- Career networking events
 - NSF has career networking events
 - We should go to NSF and apply for grants
- Should we be attending the department meeting?
 - Might be annoying if we go to the meetings and get skipped over
 - Maybe just have someone listen to the open session
- Adding graduate students back to the graduate student committee
 - Used to be 2 graduate students on the committee
- More social cohesion in department
 - Welcome reception used to be a bigger event
 - Maybe do a BBQ or potluck
 - Social event for the first years before they get thrown into classes and the qual
- Better website for physics dept.
- Integration bee
- Structure of the council
 - Officers with duties?
 - What positions, how many?
 - How often does it meet
- Advocacy positions vs. director positions
- Grad student on the climate and diversity committee