

2017 NASSS Graduate Student Update
Board of Director's Meeting
November 1, 2017
Windsor, Ontario

Report submitted by email by Samuel Twito (University of Texas) and Katelyn Esmonde (University of Maryland) (Graduate Student Reps 2016-2017).

2016-2017 Activities

1. Continued using faculty sign up first in the Take a Student to Lunch (TASTL) program using a survey.¹ Students then used a separate survey to list their top 5 preferred faculty. Additional students and faculty asked to take part after the survey as well.
2. Provided Student Room Share pairing options as conference approached to help yet unpaired graduate students reduce their lodging costs. Presented alternatives to the conference hotel once the conference rate was no longer available. Facilitated this through a Google spreadsheet¹ to facilitate participant ease of use.
3. Continued to hold the student election process online to coincide with the other Board Elections. Sophy Chan (Queen's University) was elected as the 2017-2019 Graduate Student Representative.
4. Will again have the grad student luncheon in combination with the Graduate Student Panel. The 2017 panel is titled, "What I Wish I Knew When I Was a Graduate Student." The panel features NASSS members in a variety of departments and positions who can share advice on passing program milestones, balancing expectations, and preparing for the job market. The panellists are Callie Batts Maddox (Miami University), Janelle Joseph (University of Toronto), Cheryl MacDonald (University of Alberta and You Can Play), Erin Morris (SUNY Cortland), and Matt Ventresca (Georgia Institute of Technology).
5. Our primary green initiative is, as per tradition, a ride share program to get attendees to and from the airports (both Detroit and Windsor). This was intended to present alternatives or coordinate use of the taxi service we suggested on our website. Secondary initiative will be in-person surveys at NASSS 2017 to understand what a more environmentally friendly NASSS would look like to attendees and then try and implement some of those strategies.
6. Began a graduate student peer mentor program to help integrate new graduate student attendees as well as students from smaller programs. Twelve graduate students signed up to be peer mentors, while fifteen signed up to be mentees. All participants in the program emailed with their research interests and other pertinent information, and were matched up on that basis.

¹ Initial plan was to use a forum on the grads page of the NASSS website. Recommendation for NASSS 2019 Vancouver is to encourage regular use of the forums for other discussions (e.g. paper writing assistance, discussion publication, conversations about sport studies programs at different schools, etc.) to increase familiarity and comfort and then handle grad lodging communication through that medium prior to coordinating lodging for the annual conference.

1. ____ students attending the Graduate Student Lunch & Panel
2. 57 students and 53 faculty members signed up for Take a Student to Lunch, and more will likely participate on the day of.
3. ____ students utilized the Room Share at the Cesar Windsor and _____ used the program for other accommodations.
4. ____ students attended the graduate student panel “What I Wish I Knew When I Was a Graduate Student.”
5. _____ students and _____ faculty used the Ride Share Program.
6. 12 mentors and 15 mentees participated in the new student peer mentor program.