2018 NASSS Graduate Student Update
Board of Director's Meeting
October 31, 2018
Vancouver, British Columbia

Report submitted by email by 2017-2018 graduate student representatives Katelyn Esmonde (University of Maryland) and Sophy Chan (Queen's University)

2017-2018 Activities

1. Continued using faculty sign up first in the Take a Student to Lunch (TASTL) program using a survey. Students then used a separate survey to list their top 5 preferred faculty. To increase participation in the program, we will offer a sign-up sheet at the poster session on Nov. 1.

2. Provided Student Room Share pairing options as conference approached to help yet unpaired graduate students reduce their lodging costs. Facilitated this through a Google spreadsheet to facilitate participant ease of use.

3. Continued to hold the student election process online to coincide with the other Board Elections. Jesse Couture (University of British Columbia) was elected as the 2018-2020 Graduate Student Representative.

4. We changed the format of the graduate student luncheon to a graduate student-faculty networking luncheon. Instead of a panel, faculty members and interested post-docs are interspersed amongst students in order to speak to various topics that may help students in their graduate school careers and beyond. This year, 13 faculty and post-docs have signed up to participate. Students will have the chance to connect with various faculty through 3 10-minute networking sessions.

5. Our primary green initiative is a ride share program to get attendees to and from the airport. This was intended to present alternatives or coordinate use of the taxi service we suggested on our website.

6. Continued the graduate student peer mentor program to help integrate new graduate student attendees as well as students from smaller programs. 10 graduate students signed up to be peer mentors, while 23 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. ___ students will attended the Graduate Student Lunch & Panel
2. ___ students and 59 faculty members signed up for Take a Student to Lunch, and more will likely participate on the day of.
3. 12 students utilized the Room Share at the Hyatt Regency in Vancouver and 1 used the program for other accommodations.
5. _____ students and _____ faculty used the Ride Share Program.
6. 10 mentors and 23 mentees participated in the student peer mentor program.