

GSAN Meeting Minutes – November 20, 2019

Meeting Agenda:

1. Ice Breaker
2. Updates and Event Planning

(1) Ice Breaker:

Thanks to Neelima for organizing this! ☺

(2) Updates and Event Planning:

(2.1) Social Team:

1. Speed Networking Event Feedback

- 8 people showed up (as expected), very wholesome, networking was a success

2. Winter Gala – December 14, 2019, 7:00 PM

- <https://www.facebook.com/events/1833657993433583/>
- Will be hosted with EMGSS
- Venue has been booked and permits have been obtained!
 - Venue: KIN Experience, 397A Rue Sainte-Catherine O.
 - Venue can hold 150 people
- Food and alcohol will be provided (open bar)
 - A request for volunteer bartenders will be sent out before the event
- Camille and Hannah will be the photographers for the event
- Advertising is going well – has been in the newsletter, Facebook event created, institute reps have posters
 - Continue to advertise in the next newsletter (early December)
- Coat check will also be available
- The event is fully accessible – if you have any accessibility requirements, please indicate this on the appropriate sections of the form when buying tickets
- If you have any dietary restrictions, please also indicate this on the form when buying tickets
- Please go through your institute slack channels/newsletters or contact your institute reps for the password to buy tickets:
 - GSAN/EMGSS Early bird: \$10
 - GSAN/EMGSS Early bird Guest: \$15
 - Early bird sale ends on December 1st

 - GSAN/EMGSS Late Sloth: \$15
 - GSAN/EMGSS Late sloth Guest: \$20

3. Plans for Early- / Mid-January

- Karaoke – January 22, 2020 at MacLeans Pub (karaoke upstairs)
 - No tickets – we will just gather at the bar
 - Probably no need to reserve a table – usually not too busy, staff have informed that having 40-50 people there will be just fine
- Winter Hike up Mont Royal – probably happening in the first week of January
 - Will be nice to include new students coming in January
 - Could ask people to bring sleds / cardboard boxes
- Maybe a photo walk across Montreal – could also be nice for new students to get to know the city
 - Everyone brings a camera / phone and walk around some of the nice areas in Montreal

(2.2) New and International Student Officers:

1. Winter Blues

- Planning to do this during the first or second week of December (maybe December 5, 2019)
- Planning to meet with the Wellbeing Team soon to organize the event
- There is an existing presentation – can be used again for this event
- Try to advertise in the early December newsletter

2. Campus Tour Scavenger Hunt Event Feedback

- Went really well
- The scavenger hunt has been saved so it can be easily re-used in the future

3. Buddies:

- Currently, 8 buddies have signed up
- If you are interested in being a buddy for a new winter student, sign up here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfG8TXnEqZdrLiXO-oI9woYoEchC2BDuCdX0KDUMeY4JWD6Hg/viewform>
- People are paired based on institute, country of origin, mutual interests, etc.

4. New Student Winter Social – January 16, 2020

- Third week of January so hopefully everyone will be back from holidays
- There will be 25 new winter students – would be nice for them to meet current students so if current students could come too, that would be great!
- Budget still needs to be figured out – New and International Student Officers to get in touch with Simon

5. “Not According to Plan” Workshop – February

- Grad school doesn't always go as you expect it to go – this would be a workshop that focuses on what happens when things do not go to plan
 - e.g. having a child (taking maternity or paternity leave), failing a candidacy exam, changing supervisors, taking a leave of absence, etc.
- If others (from Academics / Wellbeing) are interested in helping out, contact Max

6. Funding for International Students Workshop – March

7. Cultural Exchange Movie Nights

- Possibility to hold movie nights in different languages – but open to everyone (with subtitles!)
- For all of us to learn more about different cultures

(2.3) Academics Team:

1. 3MT – November 28, 2019, 6:00 PM

- <https://www.facebook.com/events/571971550298621/>
- All good to go – finalists have been picked and their participation has been confirmed, judges have been confirmed
- Continuing to advertise
- If you are free on November 28, 2019, it's a great opportunity to come watch and learn about other students' projects (also free wine and cheese after!)
 - There is also a peoples' choice award – you can actually play a role in deciding who gets cash prizes
 - Free wine & cheese!!!

2. Tackling Grad School as a FirstGen Student – November 23, 2019, 2:00 PM

- <https://www.facebook.com/events/775423619553589/>
- Discussion group to get people together, share resources, etc.
- Open to everyone who identifies as a first-generation student – those who do not have an immediate family member that has been to grad school
- Room is booked, snacks & coffee & tea will be available

3. NeuroBlog

- <https://blog.gsaneuro.com/>
- New article by Alex regarding sustainability
- If anyone is interesting in writing/creating something for the NeuroBlog (anything grad school or neuroscience related), just be creative and send things to Hannah
 - This would also be a great opportunity to share things that are discussed in discussion groups

4. Language Classes

- Everything is going well

(2.4) Wellbeing and Sustainability Team:

1. Upcoming Event with Academics Team – Tackling Grad School as a FirstGen Student – November 23, 2019, 2:00 PM

- See above

2. Sustainable Living Info Night Feedback

- The event was really successful – 25-30 people showed up

- It started at 4PM – may have been a difficult time for people to show up but this was the time that GreenLabs had available
 - Something to think about for next time
- There was a very nice, informative presentation about sustainability
- Thinking of doing this event again next semester for new students
- Made a neuron out of plastic waste that people brought!
- GreenLabs will be continuing to collect (washed) plastic lab waste – will be using this to make an art piece in Bellini

3. Other Updates

- We now have storage space! – GSAN has a room with BrainReach (in the Duff building)
- You must fill out a form to gain access to this space – more info to come from Neelima

(2.5) Communications and Outreach Team:

1. Clothing Order

- Clothing orders are in and institute reps have all the clothing
- Institute reps should have received an email with all the orders from your institute – let Claudia know if you have any questions
 - Make sure to read carefully to give the right clothing to the right person

2. Hoppy Hours

- (Tentative) Hoppy Hour schedule for the year:
 - January: MNI
 - February: Downtown (Bellini, Genome, McIntyre, Stewart Bio)
 - March: MGH
 - April: Glen / LDI
 - May / June: Douglas
- Message Claudia if this does not work for you
- The budget will be between \$100-150 – please message Claudia when you start planning to discuss what you're allowed to buy!

3. Next Newsletter – December 2nd, 2019

- Make sure to fill out the Google form on time if you have an event / project to advertise: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfG1-UuZAuhM5JCq_hc1ywf4RZoz0fQJCnj5zXU-x_8KfL2aA/viewform

4. Puzzle Piece Idea

- At one point, someone at the MNI brought a 1000-piece puzzle and just left it in the library for everyone to work on as a relaxing activity – looked like a pretty successful initiative
- If any institute reps think that this may work for your institute, let Neelima know and we can potentially get a puzzle

5. Institute Reps and PGSS Reps – Updates

MNI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizing a lunch/potluck event for people to get to know each other Organizing a nice walk – e.g. up the mountain after work one day Holiday party posters have been put up!
Douglas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holiday party posters have been put up! Something was organized for Halloween – trick or treat event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Also, a lot of labs dressed up for Halloween– this was pretty cool! Douglas holiday party – being advertised on Slack Thinking of organizing a snowman building contest – on the fields near the Douglas
Bellini	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No updates as of now
MGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Had a door decorating contest for Halloween – great success, every single lab participated Also had a potluck – also a great success, most labs participated There will be a holiday potluck at the MGH on December 11, 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There will also be an ugly Christmas sweater contest - \$50 Amazon gift card and more prizes to come
McIntyre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No updates as of now
Stewart Bio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No updates as of now
IRCM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No updates as of now
Glen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trying to find/get in contact with all the students at the Glen Planning on organizing a potluck after the Christmas break Planning on organizing a movie night
SCSD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most SCSD events are hosted by SCSD students – IPN students are not factored into their funding and budgeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IPN students make up ¼ of the students at SCSD Is there something that we can do about this? A lot of small events taking place within the IPN students
PGSS Reps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was a new rule that every PGSA only has one vote – a lot of people were against this <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This rule has been revoked – we have three (3) votes and three (3) seats again Perhaps planning a climate strike in the future Neelima has to submit the updated GSAN constitution to PGSS by the end of the semester – has been updated, just needs to be proofread and sent

- This year, we do have budget for some extra events at institutes (aside from the hoppy hours)
 - If you have ideas, present them to Claudia for approval, and then you can talk to Simon about budget - depending on the size of the event/ what you want to offer

6. Website Changes

- Meeting with the Wellbeing team to discuss changes on the Wellbeing part of the website – changes slowly being put into place
- If anyone else wants any changes on the website, let Harriet know
- Neelima to send Harriet the final constitution to put on the website

7. Social Media

- If you want access to Facebook & Instagram to e.g. post stories at your event, let Neelima know
- Just make sure that there is only one post per day on social media so as to not overwhelm people
- If you want to double check, you may run your posts past the communications team

(3) Future GSAN Meetings:

- Instead of having another meeting for December, thinking of just getting together for a board game night
- It is probably best to do this after the Christmas break – look out for a Doodle poll for Neelima