

GPSA Coordinating Committee
Meeting Summary
27 March 2009

Present were Travis Cox, Kathleen Delate, Mike Duffy, Charles Sauer, and Mary Wiedenhoef.

Agenda items

- 1) GPSA Spring Symposium
- 2) request for group professional development grant (PDG)
- 3) faculty membership application from Tom Kaspar
- 4) officer elections
- 5) SAEA Conference, 15-17 July 2009

Mike Duffy called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.

1) Mike provided an update on the symposium program. Fred Kirschenmann has agreed to be the guest speaker. Fred's lecture will be titled "Sustainability in the 21st Century: From Greening to Resilience." The program will be held from 3:00 to 6:00 PM in the Sun Room and South Ballroom. The South Ballroom will be open at 1:00 PM for poster set up. The GPSA Interdisciplinary Research Award will be presented at the start (Amber Anderson Mba is the recipient). Charles will provide publicity and coordinate poster preparation. The GPSA will subsidize poster printing costs up to \$25 per individual or lab group.

2) Mike brought to the floor the request for a group PDG. One student approached the program to request a single grant for a group of GPSA students who are planning to attend the same conference in May 2009. There is no precedent for this type of award so Mike solicited input from the committee. Pros and cons were discussed but no clear consensus emerged. It was resolved to collect more information about the members of the group and then make a final decision.

3) The faculty membership application of Tom Kaspar, USDA-ARS and collaborating professor in the Department of Agronomy, was presented and reviewed. The request was approved and the committee recommended proceeding with an election. The membership election will be held with the new officer election, pending the identification of candidates.

4) Mike raised the issue of officer elections. His term as program chair is due to expire on 30 June. Candidates are needed for the office of chair and associate chair. Mary Wiedenhoef indicated that she does not wish to be a candidate for the chair but will run again for associate chair. Mike solicited suggestions for candidates. The nomination procedure was discussed briefly. Mike will seek candidates to run for chair.

5) Mary Wiedenhoef addressed the committee concerning the Sustainable Agriculture Education Association (SAEA) Conference to convene in Ames on 15-17 July. She provided an

update on registration, program planning, and fund raising. Mary requested conference support from the GPSA. After brief discussion, it was agreed to provide that support. The program officers will review the budget and determine the amount as soon as possible.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM.