

## Psychological & Brain Sciences

# Graduate Student Newsletter

Issue 005 - Winter 2023

Edited by W. Connor Gibbs

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Hello everyone! Happy new year! 🍀 🎉 🍀

In this newsletter we are pleased to announce that PBS will be holding a Masquerade ball!  
Please see the flier below for more information.

In this newsletter you will also find updates from the various department committees about the work they accomplished in Fall.

With that, we'll get on with the rest of the newsletter. We hope you all have an amazing quarter and we're looking forward to seeing you at the Masquerade ball!

Thank you,  
The Graduate Executive Committee

## Social Event This Quarter

RSVP Form: <https://forms.gle/apbod4pux4H2LFCF6>

# PSYCH & BRAIN SCIENCES

## MASQUERADE BALL



When: February 10<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-9:00pm



Where: Alumni Hall & Mellichamp Terrace  
Rooms @ Mosher Alumni House



Who: PBS graduate students, faculty, and staff

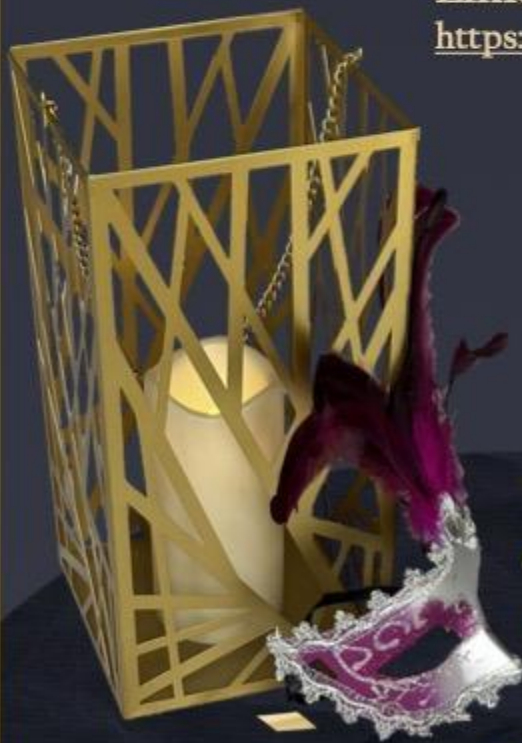
- Kids and +l's are welcome



Dress: Semi-formal or formal wear with a decorative mask are encouraged!

Link and QR code to RSVP:

<https://forms.gle/apbod4pux4H2LFCF6>



# Committee Updates

The complete list of department committees and their members can be found [here](#).

## Curriculum

The Curriculum Committee has continued to oversee and implement changes to the two undergraduate majors offered by the department. In the last quarter, we have monitored the progress of students through the majors and will continue to use the tracking data to develop potential changes aimed at promoting timely completion of undergraduate programs by students. Key topics that are under continued evaluation are: evaluation of demographic data related to entrance to the full major and time to degree, assessing the success rate of students moving from the pre-major to full major and whether or not the pre-major GPA is acting as an unnecessary gatekeeper, discussions about allowing pre-major students access to PSY 110+ courses, assessment of course equivalents for students in or planning to enter Education Abroad Programs, and the utility of the Interdisciplinary List course requirements in the Psychological & Brain Sciences major. The Curriculum Committee has continued to oversee and implement changes to the two undergraduate majors offered by the department. In the past quarter, we lowered the pre-major GPA requirement for students who matriculate to UCSB but have only PSY 10A and 10B to complete, we expanded the laboratory course offerings available to students in the Biopsychology major, and we removed inactive courses on the Interdisciplinary list in the Psychological & Brain Sciences major.

This committee oversees the department's overall curriculum.

Email: [curriculum@psych.ucsb.edu](mailto:curriculum@psych.ucsb.edu)

## Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

The PBS Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee for 2022-23 comprises:

Tamsin German (Faculty rep, Chair), Kallie Hill (Staff rep), Ikuko Smith (Faculty rep), Shreya Sodhi (grad rep), Karen Szumlinski (Faculty rep), Vinnie Wu (Grad rep), and Hongbo Yu (Faculty rep)

The PBS DEIC met most weeks in Fall 2022. The issues that were discussed and actions taken are as follows:

1. Organized and ran a 'sneak peek' graduate recruitment outreach event via zoom (spearheaded by Karen Szumlinski); potential graduate students from PBS, and organizations such as SACNAS, McNair, and UC-LEADS were invited to hear presentations about UCSB, PBS, graduate student support, Faculty and graduate student research and participate in Q'n'A with graduate students and Faculty. Attendance was unfortunately quite low, but important lessons were learned to improve things for next year.
2. A UCSB graduate school fair was held at a Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting in San Diego on November 14 and 15th. The goal of the event was to increase the exposure of the three neuroscience programs (MCDB/DYNS/PBS) to prospective applicants. Many graduate students from PBS contributed greatly to the event.
2. A memo detailing PBS efforts for graduate student outreach and support was compiled and sent to graduate division in response to their request for that information for deciding the level of the department's block grant diversity augmentation.
3. A plan for a Diversity in Psychological Science UG class, to be offered for the first time during the 2023-24 academic year was developed; in its initial form the class will be offered via the UD special topics course #, with the goal of converting it to a course catalog class thereafter.
4. A plan was made to develop UG representation on the DEIC; several meetings were held with representatives of SUP, in order to recruit volunteers to create an UG panel with which DEIC would meet at least once quarterly.
5. Representatives from the committee attended monthly meetings of Diversity Officers run by the Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and Tamsin German attended working group meetings of a small number of UG Diversity Officers from STEM departments to brainstorm UG focused diversity issues.

This committee oversees department culture and climate, diversity and inclusion initiatives.

Email: [deic@psych.ucsb.edu](mailto:deic@psych.ucsb.edu)

## Graduate Admissions

In Fall, the Graduate Admissions Committee hosted a Sneak Peek event for students in the PBS department and from CSU schools UCSB has affiliations with. The event consisted of presentations from Shelly Gable, Chris McFerron, the diversity peer in Grad Div, and various faculty and graduate students about the nature of the PBS PhD program. The committee explicitly targeted McNair and Sally Casanova scholars from the CSU system. In Fall, the committee also set a goal to set a baseline for the number of incoming graduate students our department can support for the 2023-24 admissions cycle.

In Winter, the committee will review applications, including identifying any students who may help increase the diversity in our program, interview weekend will be scheduled for February, and the committee's goal for Winter is to have all offer letters sent by the end of March to reach a goal of roughly 15 new PhD students.

This committee oversees graduate student outreach and recruitment.

Email: [gradadmissions@psych.ucsb.edu](mailto:gradadmissions@psych.ucsb.edu)

## Graduate Affairs

The Graduate Affairs Committee does not have a substantive update for Winter 2023. If you are interested in the GAC's previous updates, please check out the previous PBS Grad Student Newsletters.

This committee oversees student policy, procedures, and milestones.

Email: [gradaffairs@psych.ucsb.edu](mailto:gradaffairs@psych.ucsb.edu)

## Graduate Executive

The Graduate Executive Committee has continued to organize and develop this newsletter to help PBS graduate students stay up to date with relevant department information. During the Fall, the GEC assisted the department in creating a seating chart for all grad students in order to comply with California law and organized the moving of the dissertation library to the break

room in the grad student trailer. The GEC has also been planning several social events, including last quarter's Murder Mystery event and this quarter's Masquerade ball.

This committee oversees internal projects, social media accounts, and organizes social events.

Email: [gradexecutive@psych.ucsb.edu](mailto:gradexecutive@psych.ucsb.edu)

## Graduate Training

The Graduate Training Committee does not have a substantive update for Winter 2023. If you are interested in the GAC's previous updates, please check out the previous PBS Grad Student Newsletters.

This committee oversees graduate professional and academic training.

Email: [graduatetraining@psych.ucsb.edu](mailto:graduatetraining@psych.ucsb.edu)

## Undergraduate Experience

In the Winter quarter the PBS Undergraduate Experience Committee is going to focus on ways to make the honors thesis process more transparent for students.

This committee oversees improvement of the PBS undergraduate experience.

Email: [ugradexperience@psych.ucsb.edu](mailto:ugradexperience@psych.ucsb.edu)



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Do you know a PBS grad student with exciting news or a recent accomplishment?

Fill out [this form](#) so we can share it on our Twitter!

This newsletter was organized by the Graduate Executive Committee. If you would like to provide *anonymous* feedback on this newsletter, please complete this [Google Form](#).

If you would like to provide *anonymous* feedback or make an *anonymous* recommendation to any of the committees listed above, please complete this [Google Form](#).