

Psychological & Brain Sciences

Graduate Student Newsletter

Issue 006 - Spring 2023

Edited by W. Connor Gibbs

Hello everyone! Happy start of Spring quarter! 🌸👋🌸

In this newsletter we are pleased to announce that the GEC will once again be putting on a Trivia Night for the department, hosted by Courtney Durdle and Ian Midiere! 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 Winter.

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 trivia night!

Thank you,
The Graduate Executive Committee

Social Event This Quarter

RSVP Form: <https://forms.gle/KQy9E4DTVG6PmodX9>

PSYCHOLOGICAL & BRAIN SCIENCES

TRIVIA NIGHT



PROUDLY PRESENTED BY THE
DURDLE & DURDLE TRIVIA
PRODUCTION COMPANY



MAY 5TH

5:00 PM

SAGE ROOM

FOOD! FACTS! FUN!
WHAT MORE COULD YOU ASK FOR?



LET'S GET QUIZZICAL!
RSVP online at

<https://forms.gle/S2kFPiSKaDc4MsaS7>

Committee Updates

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

Curriculum

The Curriculum Committee continues to oversee and implement changes to the two undergraduate majors offered by the department. 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, and assessment of course equivalents for students in or planning to enter Education Abroad Programs. In the past quarter, we have obtained and initiated analyses of updated data on student progress, have reviewed requests for new courses, approved a and these efforts will continue into next quarter.

This committee oversees the department's overall curriculum.

Email: curriculum@psych.ucsb.edu

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

The PBS DEIC met three times in Winter 2023. Fewer meetings were possible because of the very busy faculty search candidate visit schedules, with each Faculty member of the committee on one of the three committees. The issues that were discussed and actions taken this quarter were as follows:

1. The committee discussed a number of items raised by graduate student representatives on a range of DEI issues including submissions to the anonymous reporting tool on the Diversity microsite, transparency in the faculty hiring process, and the aftermath of the UAW academic worker strike.

2. A memo in response to inquiries from the office of the VCDEI was discussed and drafted detailing progress made on the [PBS Departmental Strategic DEI Plan](#). This also asked us to comment on feedback/questions about one particular aspect of the plan (Topic C: Faculty Recruitment, Promotion and Retention). This memo [can be viewed here](#).
3. Further progress was made on achieving UG representation on the DEIC; a group of 10-16 interested UG major students will meet with TG in week 10 of W23 to discuss details and implementation. We hope to have this UG committee set up and ready to provide input by early in S23.
4. Faculty representatives from the committee attended a mandated bias training session (IS) as well as monthly meetings of Diversity Officers (TG, IS) run by the Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.
5. Goals for the committee for S23 were also discussed, chief among them the analysis and dissemination of the 22-23 climate survey and the possibility of running a DEI town hall.

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

Email: deic@psych.ucsb.edu

Graduate Admissions

We had a successful Interview Day on February 3 as well as individual visits from prospective students throughout the past few weeks. The Department is being conservative this year, with a target class size of 10. We developed a list of faculty who are approved to recruit based on the department's priority system. So far we have made 9 offers, all of which are still outstanding. We appreciate everyone's support of the recruitment process, especially your willingness to talk with prospective students.

This committee oversees graduate student outreach and recruitment.

Email: gradadmissions@psych.ucsb.edu

Graduate Affairs

The Graduate Affairs Committee does not have a substantive update for Spring 2023. If you are interested in the GAC's previous updates, please check out the previous PBS Grad Student Newsletters, available [here](#) (at the bottom of the page).

This committee oversees student policy, procedures, and milestones.

Email: 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 Winter quarter, the GEC has been planning several social events, including last quarter's Masquerade event and this quarter's trivia night.

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

Email: gradexecutive@psych.ucsb.edu

Graduate Training

The Graduate Training Committee does not have a substantive update for Spring 2023. If you are interested in the GTC's previous updates, please check out the previous PBS Grad Student Newsletters, available [here](#) (at the bottom of the page).

This committee oversees graduate professional and academic training.

Email: graduatetraining@psych.ucsb.edu

Undergraduate Experience

The PBS Undergraduate Experience Committee continues to explore ways to make the honors thesis process more transparent for students. We have also moved into awards season. The call for nominations for PBS graduating senior awards has gone out, and we look forward to making selections to celebrate our stellar graduating seniors in Spring!

This committee oversees improvement of the PBS undergraduate experience.

Email: ugradexperience@psych.ucsb.edu

 Follow us on Twitter @[pbs_grads](https://twitter.com/pbs_grads)

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](#).