

Psychological & Brain Sciences

Graduate Student Newsletter

Issue 007 - Fall 2023

Edited by W. Connor Gibbs

Hello everyone! Happy start of Fall quarter! 🦋 🦋 🦋

In this newsletter we are pleased to announce that the GEC will be hosting an ice skating night at Ice in Paradise. 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 last Spring.

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 Ice in Paradise!

Thank you,

The Graduate Executive Committee

Social Event This Quarter

RSVP Form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeVJJyDEM_M4-7NDkIHIKNAWIKtA1gpuHCCmBp3JbpxlqgU0g/viewform?usp=sf_link

Join us for PBS
SKATE NIGHT

October 28th: 6 - 8 pm

RSVP HERE : forms.gle/sk8

Ice in Paradise

6985 Santa Felicia Dr,
Goleta, CA 93117

❄ Free skate rentals!

❄ Come in costume!

Please donate to our
food and drink fund:

Venmo @Dylan-Benkley



Committee Updates

The complete list of department committees and their members for the 2023-24 academic year can be found [here](#). The committee updates in this newsletter were prepared by the 2022-23 committees.

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 on-going topics that 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 continued to analyze recent data on student progress and assessed potential sweeping changes to majors proposed for the College of Letters and Science.

This committee oversees the department's overall curriculum.

Email: curriculum@psych.ucsb.edu

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

The PBS DEIC met about every other week in Spring 2023. The issues that were discussed and actions taken this quarter were as follows:

1. Data from the PBS 2021-22 PBS Climate Survey was analyzed. While low response rates for many of the constituent departmental groups (e.g. Faculty, Staff) limits the broad conclusions that can be drawn, some details were shared at the DEIC Town Hall meeting during week 10, with a specific focus on Graduate student responses (where the response rate was better).

2. DEI Committee members wrote and submitted a grant proposal to the Cognitive Science Society program on broadening participation in Cognitive Science.
3. Efforts to establish a system for achieving some UG representation on/for DEIC remain in progress, though the goal of having this in place by this quarter was not met. This effort will be renewed in Fall, where we will explore whether collaboration across Departmental committees (e.g., The Undergraduate Experience Committee) might be a more effective strategy.
4. Faculty representatives from the committee attended monthly meetings of Diversity Officers (TG, IS, KS) run by the Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, as well as working groups focused on UG and PG specific DEI issues (TG, KS).
5. What the goals for the committee should be next academic year were discussed; they will include a review and evaluation of progress on the PBS strategic DEI plan.

This committee oversees department culture and climate, diversity and inclusion initiatives.
Email: deic@psych.ucsb.edu

Graduate Admissions

This year our Department's leadership decided to be very conservative in admitting new graduate students because of uncertainties about funding and costs. We admitted 14 students of which 10 accepted our offers. We will have an incoming class of 10 new graduate students. The Graduate Admissions Committee is crafting a clear timeline and priority protocol for graduate admissions, which will be voted on during a Department meeting in early June.

This committee oversees graduate student outreach and recruitment.
Email: gradadmissions@psych.ucsb.edu

Graduate Affairs

The Graduate Affairs Committee has continued to review and implement department policies regarding graduate students. Last quarter, the committee selected awardees and departmental

nominees for a number of awards. The committee also organized annual graduate student reviews.

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 Spring quarter, the GEC was planning several social events, including last quarter's trivia night. In addition, the GEC set up an Agency Account with UCSB so that we can more easily save and manage the funds we raise to support GEC events.

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

Email: gradexecutive@psych.ucsb.edu

Graduate Training

In Spring 2023, the committee finalized a proposal that outlined a framework for the qualifying exam to promote equity across the areas. The proposal was submitted to the Grad Affairs committee for comment and was discussed and voted upon at the faculty meeting on June 6th. The proposal was unanimously approved by the faculty.

The quantitative subcommittee met several times to develop the quantitative core curriculum for the graduate program. This work is ongoing.

This committee oversees graduate professional and academic training.

Email: graduatetraining@psych.ucsb.edu

Undergraduate Experience

The Undergraduate Experience Committee does not have any updates to report.

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](#).