

Psychological & Brain Sciences

Graduate Student Newsletter

Issue 008 - Winter 2024

Edited by Joanne Stasiak

Hello everyone! Happy start of Winter quarter! 🎉🥳🎊

In this newsletter, we are pleased to announce that the GEC will be hosting a cultural food potluck and arts & crafts night! Grads are encouraged to bring a dish important to their background or family. Please see the flyer below to learn more information and RSVP!

In this newsletter, you will find information about a planned departmental assessment that will occur in the following week, which will involve student feedback via university-administered surveys. You will also find updates from the various department committees about the work they accomplished last 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 this quarter's social!

Thank you,

The Graduate Executive Committee

PBS Department Evaluation

UCSB will be conducting an evaluation of the PBS department to assess both strengths and possible areas of improvement. As part of this effort, each student will be emailed a survey that will assist in the university's assessment of the department. These surveys will be sent out on **January 16th**. Please keep a look out and be sure to complete them to make your voice heard!

Social Event This Quarter

RSVP Form: <https://forms.gle/YrGaKPCqFnVDFMAp7>



The poster features a central illustration of a smiling pink cloud character with a paintbrush and a palette, standing next to a large easel. The easel displays the event title 'Arts & Crafts and Cultural Potluck' in a stylized purple font. Various food items like dumplings, skewers, and a bowl of ramen are illustrated around the easel.

Join us for an evening of delicious food and fun!

- Please **RSVP to bring a dish!**
- Painting, felting, & many more crafts will be provided!


RSVP here!

February 23rd
5:30pm-8:00pm
SAGE Room

Consider donating to our drink fund
Venmo @Dylan-Benkeley



Committee Updates

The complete list of department committees and their members for the 2023-24 academic year can be found [here](#).

Curriculum

The Curriculum Committee continues to oversee and implement changes to the two undergraduate majors offered by the department. Key focus areas have been: updates to the major sheets, changing temporary courses to permanent courses in the course catalogue, and consideration for PSY1 to become a 5-unit course. The committee has also been discussing options for a PBS service lower-division course that is offered campus-wide to all students, and is considering whether there are possibilities for removing chemistry as a pre-major requirement.

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. Sneak peek event for prospective students. The major activity of the DEI committee this quarter was to organize a "Sneak Peek" event for prospective graduate students from underrepresented communities. The committee met in September to organize the event and the Sneak Peek event occurred on October 10 from 4:00 to 6:00 via zoom. Organizing the event, including reaching out to staff, graduate students and faculty in our areas and graduate division personnel who participated in panels, and advertising the event widely to organizations like McNair scholars, undergraduate advisors at other UCs and CSUs, and our professional associations. Approximately 12 faculty and 12 graduate students participated in the event and over 70 prospective students attended. We met again after the event to review how it went. In general, the event was very successful, but there were some issues related to the webinar format and there was one student who disrupted the N&B breakout room. We agreed that in the

future, we would not request a webinar and just run it as a zoom meeting so we would have more control over muting students or putting them in breakout rooms as necessary. We were also surprised by the lack of knowledge of some students about our field, and in the future we should make it clearer in our advertising that we do not offer graduate degrees in clinical psychology.

2. Updates page on DEIC website. We've added an Updates page on the DEIC website, which contains summaries of work done by the committee every quarter since Spring 2022. We hope this serves as a useful archive for committee members and the rest of the PBS community to follow our progress and identify areas needing attention to meet the goals outlined in our action plan.

3. Karen Szumlinski reappointed as diversity officer for liaison with Grad Div. In addition to these activities, Karen Szumlinski was reappointed as our diversity officer for liaison with the Graduate Division, and in this role, Karen composed an email about our department to be sent to prospective students on a list, maintained by the Graduate Division, of students who have indicated an interest in psychology in their outreach events. Karen also compiled information from faculty and graduate students on our activities related to recruiting and supporting diverse students for an annual report to the Graduate Division, which determines the size of our diversity augmentation to the block grant that supports graduate students.

4. Additional events and workshops. Members of the committee also participated in events organized by the campus diversity office, including visiting speakers and an event on diversity grants. Members of the DEI committee and Graduate Recruitment committees also participated in two 2-hour workshops organized by the Graduate Division for our department and the Department of Geography on issues of diversity in graduate admissions.

5. Winter 2024 goals. In Winter we plan to meet every two weeks. Our goals for the winter quarter include reviewing the Department website to consider how it could better reflect the diversity of our department. In addition, we will review the results of our previous surveys and the campus climate survey and plan future surveys.

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

Email: deic@psych.ucsb.edu

Graduate Admissions

The Graduate Admissions Committee developed a clear procedure for allocating admission slots to faculty members (in the form of a flowchart) and the Department approved the procedure. To help faculty members prepare, we were able to inform 13 faculty members during the summer that they had been approved to recruit a student during this admission cycle. More requests to recruit may be honored as the Department gains more information about graduate student support. We have tentatively scheduled February 16-17 as Interview Weekend, when we will invite prospective graduate students to visit our Department.

This committee oversees graduate student outreach and recruitment.

Email: gradadmissions@psych.ucsb.edu

Graduate Affairs

The Graduate Affairs Committee continues to review and implement department policies regarding graduate students. In the Summer, the committee assigned PBS graduate and faculty mentors for the PBS Program Mentoring. In the Winter quarter, the committee will oversee Ph.D. students' fulfillment of degree requirements that are due at the end of Winter quarter, such as dissertation proposal and second-year paper.

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 Fall quarter, the GEC planned several social events, including last quarter's skating night at Ice in Paradise. In addition, the GEC is supporting the initiation of a mental health club for PBS grads, the Soft-Belly Club, which will begin having meetings this quarter.

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

Email: gradexecutive@psych.ucsb.edu

Graduate Training

This quarter the Graduate Training Committee is reviewing curricula from 30 other graduate programs from across the country. This review will give us a sense of national trends in graduate training and serve as inspiration as we structure the new PBS program.

In the winter, the committee aims to meet ~every 2 weeks to structure the new curriculum.

This committee oversees graduate professional and academic training.

Email: graduatetraining@psych.ucsb.edu

Undergraduate Experience

The UEC did not meet this quarter. The main task of this committee is collecting nominations for the end-of-year UG awards and organizing the decisions and ceremony in the Spring quarter.

This committee oversees the 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](#).