MCS GSAC Meeting Minutes
December 5, 2013

In Attendance:
William Huhn (Physics)  Matteas Tanha (Biology)
Patrick Mende (Physics)  Lea Veras (Chemistry)
John Pettersson (Biology)  John Wilcox (Chemistry)
Curtis Meyer (Associate Dean)

1. We started with a discussion of how the poster session went. We had an estimated attendance of about 70 people and while the event itself was quite nice, the location (coupled with construction of Scott Hall) probably lowered the attendance. We also discussed other ways of encouraging people to present posters next year.

2. The career event that Brittany Duncan ran in Mellon was well received and we should probably try to coordinate it as an annual event. We do need to do better advertising in the future, and a general discussion of how to do this was held.

3. The spring event will be in either late March or early April (like last year), and will be in Mellon Institute. It will be catered by an outside vendor, so people should think about ideas for whom to do this. Also, we should consider the location. The lobby was quite nice, but also very loud. Other possible venues in Mellon are the social room or spilling from the lobby onto the Mellon porch.

4. There was general interest in trying to bring in some speakers to talk about what people do after they receive their Ph.D., especially for those in non-academic careers. One area of particular interest is people not working directly in science. This also led to discussion of something done in the past with a panel of people discussing their careers. We agreed to try and identify some names and see if we could invite some people in for this.

5. Related to this, there are apparently a number of fellowships in policy that look interesting, but are only available to U.S. citizens. Are there others that are more general or are there ways to get around these restrictions?

6. Chemistry is thinking about organizing a talent show and was interested in expanding this to all of MCS. There seemed to be interest in both physics and biology so we will proceed with some organization of such an event. Curtis said that he could provide pizza and drinks from his budget.

7. The next meeting will be in mid January after classes have started back up.