

Employment Concerns Committee Meeting Minutes NAGPS National Conference, 11/17/09

Session led by Matthew Engel (ecc@nagps.org)
Minutes respectfully submitted by Kevin McComber

Graduate Student Employment Concerns:

- Inability to get jobs, inability to get jobs that fit their skills, inability to get jobs that pay appropriately
- International students not being able to get jobs in U.S.
- How to market themselves above undergrads
- Need for professional development
- Low pay for TAs/RAs
- Rights for RAs (can be terminated on a whim), dishonesty in hiring and firing

Brainstorming for Possible Action Items:

- Tips on getting jobs, specifically for grad students → Alex Miningham from inDegree can compile best practices info from his interactions and materials available in various places
- Finding new connections: poster session of people about to graduate
- NAGPS career day – poster sessions of near-grads and recent post-grads, invite companies, give talks, resume CD; determined this is probably too hard to pull off
- Sponsor a grad career fair – sectioned by interest; career fair not so good for academic jobs (universities won't attend)
- Offer centralized general info about job-seeking: how to put together a CV, how to search for jobs, timeline of job search based on type of job, how to network at an event, how to differentiate your skills from those of an undergrad, etc.
- Get our GSAs in closer ties with career offices, find out what the careers offices are doing, share best practices among schools, compile info about how well schools' careers offices are doing (e.g. job placement rate)
 - OSU has very good career services – have grad student specialist and specialists by type of job
- Can we get professionals to write about useful tips and publish online?
- Wash. U. has devoted grad careers person but they don't have great attendance at events
 - OSU: has careers person talk with their GSA
- Penn State: employers come to talk about job search, people speak about job searches in different areas; many grad students attend, but mostly domestic students
- Should have info about international student career concerns
- Shashank Singhai will get his career office to write up info
- Have people do testimonials about how NAGPS helped them in their profession
- Univ. of Nevada-Reno lost career office
- inDegree can help contact career centers – they will compile the info, if students can help contact careers offices
- NAGPS could give an award for best career services; put info about winner and statement from winner on website