

## Grads-Chair Meeting

02/28/14

1. Chair Gao makes announcements:
  - a. Prof. Finkelstein will be the new DGS starting July 1.
  - b. Chair Gao is extending her duty as the Dept. Chair for another 3 years.
  - c. Asks GSO to help organize Spring Reception.
  - d. Memorial for Adamos will likely be held in late March, and it will be organized by the Physics Department along with the Greek Student Organization.
2. Other Graduate Student Questions
  - a. So far, 8 students coming to Open House.
  - b. New building:
    - i. Current Problem: Money
    - ii. Current Problem: Disruptions to surrounding buildings
    - iii. Advantage: Develop Team Based Learning-friendly classrooms
    - iv. Advantage: Will have upgraded HVAC system for tabletop experiments
  - c. Parking: Suggested that as soon as new students get NetID, inform them to put themselves on Parking wait list. (Meg to do: Contact Nancy about this.)
  - d. Graduate Curriculum Committee
    - i. Preliminary Exam: Question of uniformity addressed; recommendations will be made to faculty.
    - ii. Defenses: Concluded that they should be more open to department.
    - iii. Recommendations will be made for Core Course Committee
3. Further Discussions
  - a. Graduate Student Stipends: Chair Gao informed us that we get paid > \$6000 more per year than graduate students at UNC and NC State. Students feel that Duke generally has high stipend relative to the cost of living in and around Durham.
  - b. Other Funding: Duke Graduate School trying to raise money for fellowships.
  - c. Core Course Committee: Chair Gao expressed concern about the recent actions of the Core Course Committee based on idea that professors should have academic freedom.