Group Project Fall Kickoff

Sean Kerr – Group Project Coordinator
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October 23, 2019
Bren School of Environmental Science & Management
Group Project Timeline Overview

- **Fall 2019**
  - Students/clients: write proposals

- **Winter 2020**
  - Students/clients: submit proposals by 5 pm Fri January 24
  - GP Committee: evaluate and select projects
  - Students: vote and get assigned to projects

- **Spring 2020–Spring 2021**
  - Complete the project!
GP Selection Process

- **Friday, January 24**
  - Proposals due to projects@bren.ucsb.edu by 5:00 pm

- **February**
  - Informal poll of MESM specializations
  - GP Committee meets regularly to review and select proposals

- **Winter Quarter Week 9**
  - GP Committee students present selected projects to cohort

- **Winter Quarter Week 10**
  - Students vote on projects

- **End of March**
  - GP assignments announced, clients notified about proposal status
Group Project Courses (Required)

- **Spring 2020** ESM 401A (4 units)
- **Summer 2020** – internship (*does not have to be GP focused*)
- **Fall 2020** ESM 401B (4 units)
- **Winter 2021** ESM 401C (4 units)
- **Spring 2021** ESM 401D (2 units)

- **B or better** grades (like core)

- Peer/Self evaluations every quarter – influence grades!
  - Communication, Time Management, Problem Solving Skills, etc.
GP Committee Membership

- (4) faculty (voting)
  - Andrew Plantinga, Chair
  - Kelly Caylor
  - David Tilman
  - Steve Gaines (ex officio)

- (3) 1st year MESM students (voting)
  - Submit your self-nominations to Rebecca Webb by Fri, Oct 25;
  - Your cohort will vote for your representatives; outcome announced Nov 8

- (3) staff (non-voting)
  - Satie Airame, Assistant Dean
  - Sean Kerr, Academic Programs Coordinator
  - Beth Pitton-August, Director of Development
Representative Responsibilities

- Review all GP proposals and Eco-E Proposals
- Engage in discussion with faculty and staff about strengths and weaknesses of proposals
- Present accepted proposals to peers
- Write justification paragraphs for denial letters
GP Selection Criteria

- 3 clear achievable objectives
- Sufficient available data
  - Project does not rely on data collection
- Committed client
  - Funds expenses above $1,300
  - Provides related internship(s)
- Do-able by 4–5 students in 1 year @ 25% time
- Multi-disciplinary; matches interest and expertise of Bren faculty
- Science + management → actionable solution(s)
- Interesting to students
- Balance across specializations
Funding

- $1,300 per group + $200 for printing @Bren (managed by students)

- If the project requires more, your client must provide it!
  - Meet with Lotus Vermeer, Assistant Dean for Development
  - Proposal must include budget and letter of commitment
  - Gift (6% fee) vs. Grant (53% fee)
    - Best for client to manage additional funds
Internships

- Client should provide **at least 1** internship
- Need letter of commitment from client specifying:
  - Number of internships
  - Location
  - Paid or volunteer
- **Do not** commit internship(s) in the proposal if they are not confirmed!
Voting on Projects

- 100 points
- \( \leq 80 \) points on any 1 project
- Everyone must vote on \( \geq 4 \) projects
- **Exception**: \( \leq 2 \) primary student co-authors may vote all 100 points on that project
- You won’t know who the faculty advisor is or your other teammates
Project Assignments

- Optimization routine determines optimal grouping of students based on point allocation
- 4-5 students per project
- MESM 2020 GP Assignment Statistics
  - 1st choice: 82%
  - 2nd choice: 13%
  - 3rd choice: 2%
  - 4th choice: 3%
- Projects that do not receive enough votes drop out
- Not getting your top choice project is not the end of the world!
  - In a professional setting, your employer will assign your projects, teammates, etc.
How to Write a GP Proposal

- Read Request For Proposals
- Read some active proposals (current projects)
- Attend GP Speed Dating (Leombruni/Kerr): Friday, Nov. 15, 1:00 - 2:30 pm (1424)
- Attend GP Proposal Writing Workshop (Leombruni/Kerr): Friday, Nov. 22, 12:00 - 1:15 pm (1414)
- Read past reports and briefs
- Check in with Sean or Satie
- Eco-E: Attend kickoff Wednesday, Oct 30, 12:30 – 1:30 pm (1414)
- START NOW!
How to Write ... Continued

- **Find an ideal client**
  - Interested in the scientific process
  - Willing to engage with students
  - Understands timeline
  - Understands that selection is not guaranteed
    - e.g. 2019: 43 proposals → 15 Group Projects (~35%)

- **Write a draft**

- **Get it reviewed**
  - Peers
  - Client
  - Faculty
  - Sean or Satie