SEAC, + Grad meeting   
June 2016  
  
Mtg. to increase participation of LUQ community, specifically grad students.

* Aaron Hogan has transitioned out as grad rep. Omar Gutierrez del Arroyo is the new grad student rep
* Aaron sent a survey to students to identify areas where there could be improvements
  + Out of 38 people on the grad list, only 7 responses
* Question: Major barriers that block participation in LTER?
  + #1 response: Time constraints
* Q: How can the LTER help?
  + #1: $$, more opportunities
* Q: Do you see yourself participating in LTER in the future?
  + #1: Yes
* Q: Do you feel part of LUQ?
  + #1: Yes (but not by much)
* Additional comments: Would be a good idea to try to coordinate field campaigns. Try to utilize social media more

Challenge: How to link people who are spread out geographically?  
  
- Aaron said that the LTER newsletter seems to work well for distributing information – could encourage graduate students to submit information about themselves and updates on their projects  
- Whendee – Differences between CZO and LTER   
 - National network for CZO is new and still forming -> more active  
 - More integration across projects and institutions – visit field sites, help each other in field  
 - LTER could benefit by having some sort of mechanism to communicate when people will   
 be at the site  
= Bob/Alan: Social media is useful (Twitter, FB) but everyone needs to be on the same platform  
- Alan: ESA did a contest to create a YouTube video and offered a cash prize. LUQ could hold a similar contest for grad students  
- Tamara: Should include more field trips during the meetings -> creates more opportunities to get to know other people. Could visit students’ field sites  
- Christine: LTER in Minnesota – PIs made sure to bring all their students to the field site once or twice a year. May not be cost effective for LUQ. Could add an area in the field station dedicated to the grad students where they could share pictures/notes to each other over time to feel connected  
- Alonso/Tamara – Should make sure that people who receive little or no direct funding from LTER still feel like they are part of the group  
- Bob: Need to keep PIs informed about the information that is going to the graduate students so that they can follow up with their students about participating  
- Whendee – Should try to include post-docs more as well. Sometimes they come from other LTER sites and may have good insight from their experience there  
- Tamara/Whendee – Encourage more grad student involvement for the monthly meetings. Several shorter talks from students instead of one longer one. Good place to present proposals   
-Bob – May be beneficial to have a meeting on the mainland sometime so that it is more cost effective. Could possible visit another LTER site  
- Tana – At the beginning of the year, should include all the new students in the newsletter with information about the projects and who they are working with. Encourage them to post photos and stories on the FB page  
- Tim – Make the annual meeting longer. Cornell meetings are 5 days. Encourages more interaction and more people to come to the site.  
- Bob – “Speed dating” style icebreaker – 3 minutes to talk one-on-one with everyone  
- Bob/Omar – More field trips before/after meeting. Grad students can stay an extra day to go on the trips to each other’s field sites  
- Alan – Could do a mini-ASM for LUQ with graduate lead workshops  
- Tim – Try to schedule the annual meeting at the same time every year so people can plan ahead. More field trips in the middle of the meeting so people aren’t tempted to skip out  
- Tana – Have graduating students give an exit talk about their final work  
- Omar – Graduate students are busy and need incentive to participate  
 - Tana – opportunity to get to know your future collaborators  
 - Bob – tropical ecologist community is small, participation is good to build connections  
- Noelia – Should make the grad student rep position more formalized. Send out list of upcoming events at the beginning of the year to students  
- Whendee – Talk to other LTER sites about what their grad involvement is like  
- Alan – Need to update the list of graduate students. Could possibly make a second list for alumni who are no longer active but would like to stay informed