What you need to know about Group Projects, right now

JAMES FREW, GP committee chair

SATIE AIRAME, Assistant Dean
Group Project Schedule

- **Fall 2014**
  - students/clients: write proposals

- **Winter 2015**
  - students/clients: submit proposals by 5 pm Fri 23 Jan
  - GP Committee: select projects
  - students: bid on projects
  - faculty: assign students to projects

- **Spring 2015–Spring 2016**
  - do it
What you need to know right now

• How the GP proposal process works
• How to write a GP proposal
• Resources for writing GP proposals
How GP Proposal process works

• GP Committee role
• GP Committee membership
• Project selection criteria
• Committee timeline
• Bidding on projects
GP Committee Role

- Review GP proposals
- Select winners

Easy, right?
GP Committee Membership

• (2) staff (non-voting → no point in bribing...)
  – Casey Hankey, Academic Programs Coordinator
  – Satie Airame, Assistant Dean

• (3) faculty (voting → ...)
  – James Frew, Chair
  – Roland Geyer
  – David Tilman
  – Steve Gaines (ex decano)

• (3) 1st year MESM students (voting)
  – Thank you to 9 students who were nominated
  – Vote by Monday, November 10 for 3 of them
    • Respond to SurveyMonkey this week from Casey Hankey!
GP Selection Criteria

• $\leq 3$ clear achievable objectives
• sufficient available data
• committed client

• interesting to students
• do-able by 4–5 students in 1 year @ 25% time
• multi-disciplinary
• science + technology $\rightarrow$ actionable solution(s)
• balance across specializations
• client funds extraordinary expenses
• client provides GP-related internship(s)
GP Selection Process

• early Jan
  – Casey informally polls 1st-year MESMs’ specializations

• 5 pm Fri 23 Jan
  – Proposals submitted to proposals@bren.ucsb.edu

• Jan–Feb
  – GP Committee reviews proposals (~6 confidential meetings)

• early March
  – GP Committee students present selected projects to class

• mid-March
  – Students bid on projects
Bidding on Projects

• You each get **100 chips**

• You can bid ≤ 80 chips on any 1 project

• You must bid on ≥ 4 projects.
  – **Exception:** ≤ 2 students named in a project proposal may bid all 100 chips on that project

• You won’t know who the faculty advisor is.
Assigning Students to Projects

• Bids are Costello-ized to satisfy:
  – 4-5 students per project
  – minimize number of worse-than-2\textsuperscript{nd} choices assigned

• We try to give you your 1st or 2nd choice

• We guarantee nothing

• It’s All Good!
  – the topic is less important than the process
  – you’ll learn something in spite of yourself
  – the journey is the reward
  – \{yada\}\textsuperscript{3}...
How to Write a GP Proposal

• START NOW!

• read RFP

• read some proposals (current projects)

• talk to Satie: sanity check!

• get a client
  – one that wants answers, not justifications
  – alert the client that selection is not guaranteed
    • e.g. 2013: 49 proposals, 17 selected (~35%)
    • maybe other options if proposal doesn’t become a GP

• START NOW! (did we already mention this?)
How to Write Anything

repeat {
    write/update draft
    get it reviewed
        peers
        client
        faculty
        writing tutors
} until \(|\text{draft}_i - \text{draft}_{i-1}\| \leq \phi\)

where $\phi =$ fiddle coefficient

i.e. the point at which you’re only messing with fonts...
• $1,300 per group (managed by students)

• $200 for printing

• If you need more, client must provide
Getting Money from Client

• Meet with Satie to discuss

• Proposal must include
  – budget
  – letter of commitment from client

• Managing the money
  – Best: client manages
  – OK: gift to Bren (6% overhead)
    – Worst: grant or contract (53% (!!) overhead)
      • and needs prior approval & faculty sponsor
Internships

• Client may provide ≥1 GP-related internship(s)

• Need letter of commitment from client specifying:
  – number of internships
  – location
  – paid or volunteer

• Do not include internship(s) in the proposal if they are not confirmed!
Resources

• Request for Proposals (RFP)
  – bren.ucsb.edu/research/gp_submit.html

• Example Proposals
  – bren.ucsb.edu/research/current_gp.htm

• Group Project Guidelines
  – bren.ucsb.edu/services/student/index.html

• Past Reports and Briefs
  – bren.ucsb.edu/research/gp_past.html
## GP Selection Process

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Group Project Schedule (detailed)

- **Spring 2014**
  - meet with clients
  - meet regularly with faculty advisors
  - learn about problem
  - gather and analyze data
  - form advisory committees
  - write work plans
  - host spring review meeting

- **Summer 2014**
  - work on GP or other internships
  - gather and analyze data
Group Project Schedule (detailed)

• Fall 2014
  – meet regularly with faculty advisor(s)
  – gather and analyze data
  – create products
  – begin writing paper
  – host fall review meeting

• Winter 2015
  – write draft papers
  – defend projects
  – submit final reports, briefs, posters

• Spring 2015
  – present project results to Bren community