Graduate Student Seminar Policy starting Fall 2015

The Department of Biology has a strong tradition of graduate students giving talks to the department. Most importantly, these talks allow students to share their research with department members and get feedback, and allow us all to get to know each other and hear about the exciting research and discoveries taking place in our department. They also allow practice with presentation skills that we hope will serve students well in their careers.

The new policies aim to balance time for every student to give a talk, within the constraints of the number of seminar slots (Fridays 4:00-5:00 pm; Mondays 12:00-1:00pm backup time). To achieve this, more advanced students will give longer talks and less advanced students will give shorter talks, grouped on the same day.

Seminar policy for PhD students:
First years give a talk on their 1st rotation at beginning of the spring semester (~10 min + 2 for questions; 4 to 5 per day)
Second years give a “second year” talk in the fall semester. It can be on their 2nd rotation or on their research in their chosen lab (~15 min talk; ~4 per day)
Third years give a research talk (~20 min talk, 3 per day)
Fourth years give a research talk (~25 min talk, 2 per day if possible)
Fifth year talk optional (skip if within a year of graduation and the thesis defense)

Seminar policy for Thesis MS students:
First years give a rotation talk at beginning of the spring semester
Second years give a second year talk in the fall semester.
The thesis defense will normally take place at the end of the second year or in the third year, but if ready by mid-second year then this can replace the second year talk.

Catherine Freudenreich
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