

FES Coffees – Organization notes

The department will begin to organize the coffees in a new way starting with the next one on **April 19 from 9:30-10:30 in RH 115**. All graduate students, faculty, and staff are welcome to attend.

FES personnel (e.g., faculty) rather than the FES administration will manage the agenda. The new goals are to use these coffees to:

- invigorate the intellectual environment and morale in FES, and
- increase our connections and camaraderie.

Whether this new effort succeeds or not will depend on the degree of involvement and effort; we hope you participate actively and choose to play a major part to make these coffees the best they can be and something we all enjoy and look forward to attending!

As stated in Troy's email below, the three of us (Steve Strauss, Mark Needham, Matt Betts) are acting as an informal organizing committee to help get things moving. We met on April 5 and decided to try the following format, at least for spring term. We feel this format closely matches most of the preferences discussed at the last meeting (and as outlined by Troy below):

- 15 mins. of social time / networking around drinks and snacks.
- Then two x 7-8 mins. short presentations / blurbs. Two individuals will do this for each coffee session. Each individual will introduce themselves and explain an area of work, new or completed, they consider of interest, exciting, or otherwise worthwhile (hopefully about 4-5 mins. delivery and about 2-3 mins. discussion per person). We hope all members in FES will get a chance to do this over time. PPTs or other visual aides are optional; the goal is to present an idea or two, not to tell everything you are doing.
- Then, we will spend the final 30 mins. discussing an important and contemporary / cutting edge topic that an individual or a group propose and present / facilitate (or at least start the ball rolling). This might be based on a short reading or other document or website they circulate ahead of time, so people can come to the coffee prepared and ready for a lively, interesting, and enjoyable discussion!