

Project: Sustainability Welcome Pack

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Role: Staff

Description: We are proposing a project in which incoming graduate students in the Biology department receive a sustainable gift set comprised of travel mugs and USB ports, both carrying the Tufts Biology Department logo. This would be a great way to welcome students into the department and help create a culture of sustainable living and working. The students would be able to use these gifts regularly, and bring the mugs to our weekly seminars so that we can work towards zero-waste seminars. The USB drives would let us go paperless for our welcome packets, as we could load them onto the drives that we give to the students, along with other resources that could come in handy during their career as graduate students.

People Involved: This project involves the staff of the main office.

Budget: The costs of the proposal are the costs of all the gifts (purchased one-time, in bulk). Attached to this proposal is the current spreadsheet of all the possible gift options. Currently, our plan is to buy 175 of each gift, which would cost roughly \$1,160. To break it down, the travel mugs would cost \$610, the USB drives would cost an estimated \$350, and we want to allow \$200 for shipping costs and any unexpected costs that may arise (the latter being unlikely, but we want to be prepared).

Timeline: We would purchase approximately 175 of the travel mugs and USB drives, which is enough for the current graduate students and roughly 5 years of incoming graduate students. The gifts will be distributed to each incoming class until we run out.

Benefit to Tufts Community: This project would help incoming Biology graduate students feel welcomed to the Tufts community by giving them practical, usable gifts that they can bring to work with them. It can help students realize that small, environmentally-friendly changes aren't always difficult to make, and sends the message that the Biology department cares about sustainability and acts on it.