

Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus Meeting Minutes (draft until approved)
November 20, 2012 – 4:30 to 5:30 PM, 7000 level lounge



Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus
November 20th, 2012 – 4:30 to 5:30 PM

In Attendance: Lindsay Davidson (Chair), Amanda Kissel (Associate Chair), Emily McAuley (Secretary), Lindsey Button (Member at Large), Rob Greenland (GSS Representative), Julie Wray (GSS Alternate), Sebastian Ibarra (Events Committee Officer), Mike Beakes (DGSC Representative), Franz Simon (Webmaster), Janie Dubman (International Student Representative), Jen Scholefield, Jesse Taylor.

Absent: Corinna Lichota (Treasurer), Catherine Scott (Events Committee Officer), Kyle Artelle (DSC Representative), Jenny Linton (Faculty Mole), Leslie Saunders (TSSU Steward), Tanya Stemberger (Events Committee Officer).

1. **Welcome** – Meeting called to order at 4:32 by Lindsay
 - a. Attendance
 - b. Additions to Agenda
 - i. Halloween reimbursements
 - ii. Colorado River screening
 - iii. Nancy Baron update
 - iv. Winterfest party ideas
 - v. Date of next meeting
 - vi. Food & beverage storage
 - c. Motion to approve the minutes from last month's meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes from the October 16th, 2012 Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus meeting.

Moved by: Sebastian Ibarra

Seconded by: Lindsey Button

Decision: **motion carries unanimously**

2. **Halloween Party** – Lindsay
 - a. Reimbursements have been submitted
 - b. Having two BBQs worked way better, pumpkins were great, lots of participation this year.
3. **Watershed movie** – Amanda, Sebastian & Janie
 - a. Events committee watched the movie. It is relevant, but takes place relatively far away, and is lacking the scientific rigor appropriate for a departmental screening.
 - b. Maybe we should screen a different movie. The committee also watched “49.9 Megawatts”, a 30 minute documentary on run of the river projects in BC (Ashley, Squamish is featured, in particular). We

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could do a screening + panel discussion with experts from the department.

- c. Regardless of which movie we screen, how big of an event are we looking to do? Do we want to sign out B9242? IRMACs? eBERG can “rent” IRMACs for free, so that would be a possibility for a medium-sized screening.
- d. We are aiming to hold the event around February. By that time, we could also use the new arts theatre, if we wanted to do a really large screening.

4. Nancy Baron – Lindsay

- a. Grad hosted speaker event has been moved to the 28th of March. Nancy was not available on the original date (the 21st). However, IRMACs is not available on the 28th. We are currently trying to find somewhere else to hold the event (e.g. a room in Blusson Hall).
- b. REM is very interested in helping/attending. However, that could cut down on our one-on-one time with Nancy Baron. Options:
 - i. REM could attend, but not have one-on-one time with the speaker.
 - ii. REM could attend, and also come to the lunch, but not have their own one-on-one time
 - iii. REM could match our contribution and have their own day with her.

5. Winterfest – Lindsay

- a. Friday Dec 7 2012, Biophysics Lounge (usual location)
- b. Needed: door prizes, judges, Santa Claus (no drinking beforehand, but you get a free beer after!), theme, Serving-It-Right volunteers
- c. Possible themes:
 - i. ***Mayan end-of-the-world party***
 - ii. Zombies
 - iii. Hobbit/Tolkien, Middle Earth, Shire
 - iv. Nightmare before Winterfest
 - v. Beers of the world
 - vi. Narnia (aka Grad School)
 - vii. Peter Pan
 - viii. ***Nutcracker/Swan Lake/ballet***
 - ix. Monster High
 - x. ***PI who stole Christmas (Winterfest?)***
 - xi. Superheroes saving the holidays
 - xii. Nerdy Noel
 - xiii. Hawaiian
 - xiv. Breaking Grad School (taking grad students out of grad school and putting them in the middle of “real life”)
- d. Lindsay will create a 24-hour doodle poll
- e. Need to pick up door prizes: Club Ilia gift cards (\$50, \$75, \$100): Mike

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- f. Judges: David Green, Felix, Marlene: Noel to contact
- g. Santa: Sebastian
- h. Decorators (1:30 pm, day-of): Lindsey, Janie

Motion to reimburse Michael Beakes up to \$225 from the Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus Core Account for door prizes.

Moved by: Lindsey Button

Seconded by: Franz Simon

Decision: **motion carries with one abstention** (Michael Beakes)

6. Treasury update – Corinna

- a. Grad hosted speaker funds obtained:
 - i. Dean of Science: \$100
 - ii. Dean of Graduate Studies: \$250
 - iii. Dept. of Biology: \$1500
- b. We applied for \$500 from GSS which is pending (we could apply for \$750).
- c. Bank accounts: no change
- d. Extra \$400 from University Publishers. This is for the Biology grad student directory which features some advertisements. This is an annual tradition to get the caucus some extra cash. The updated student list (with contact info) has been sent in and the directories should be here by Christmas break.

7. Committee updates

- a. DGSC – Mike
 - i. How does the department encourage professional development:
 - 1. Grad hosted speaker event
 - 2. Brackendale retreat
 - 3. PEEC
 - 4. Travel grants
 - ii. Might be good to have the grad satisfaction survey annually, in order to see how we've improved, where we still need improvement, etc.
- b. DSC
- c. GSS – Rob
 - i. Clothing exchange November 28 2012 at 4:00 pm (GSS lounge).
- d. TSSU – Lindsay for Leslie
 - i. Still bargaining. Some progress but nothing finalized. Picket lines and withholding grades are still the current job actions. TSSU encourages all members to continue participating in these actions.
- e. Faculty Mole

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Motion to extend this Nov 20 2012 meeting of the Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus at 5:25 pm.

Moved by: Franz Simon

Seconded by: Mike Beakes

Decision: **motion carries unanimously**

8. Date of next meeting – Lindsay

- a. Our next caucus meeting is scheduled for December 17th, 2012. However, this is pretty late into the holiday season, and many people will be away. We are changing the date to December 11th, 2012.

Motion to change the date of the next monthly meeting of the Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus to December 11th 2012.

Moved by: Sebastian Ibarra

Seconded by: Franz Simon

Decision: **motion carries unanimously**

9. Food & beverage storage – Lindsay

- a. We need to find a freezer for our leftover food. Let Sebastian know if you are aware of a freezer that we can use.

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn this November 20th, 2012 meeting of the Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus.

Moved by: Rob Greenland

Seconded by: Janie Dubman

Decision: **motion carries unanimously**