

Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus Meeting Agenda (draft until approved)
January 16th, 2012 – 4:30 to 5:30 PM, 7000 level lounge



Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus
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In Attendance: Lindsay Davidson (Chair), Amanda Kissel (Associate Chair), Emily McAuley (Secretary), Sebastian Ibarra (Events Committee Officer), Catherine Scott (Events Committee Officer/TSSU Steward), Tanya Stemberger (Events Committee Officer), Mike Beakes (DGSC Representative), Lindsey Button (Member at Large), Janie Dubman (International Student Representative), Mohamed Sheriffdeen (TSSU Steward), Julie Wray (GSS Alternate), Franz Simon (Webmaster), Antonia Musso, Lena Crummenerl, Jesse Taylor, Jen Scholefield, Yasmine Norouzi.

Absent: Corinna Lichota (Treasurer), Rob Greenland (GSS Representative), Jay Brogan (TSSU Steward), Kyle Artelle (DSC Representative), Jenny Linton (Faculty Mole), Leslie Saunders (TSSU Steward).

1. **Welcome** – Meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm by Lindsay.
 - a. Attendance
 - b. Additions to Agenda
 - i. Meeting time
 - ii. Activities for the semester
 - iii. TSSU Collective Bargaining Agreement
 - iv. Grad Lounge
 - v. Payday Coffee
 - vi. 3-minute thesis talk (BIG PRIZES – \$1500, \$1000, \$500)
 - vii. Pest management meeting
 - c. Motion to approve minutes from last month's meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes from the November 20th, 2012 Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus meeting.

Moved by: Sebastian Ibarra

Seconded by: Lindsey Button

Decision: **motion carries unanimously**

2. **Monthly meeting time**
 - a. Wednesdays at 3:30 pm
3. **Activities for the semester** – Lindsay
 - a. Movie – Details TBD
 - b. Grad Hosted Speaker: Nancy Baron (March 28 2013)
 - c. Grad Olympiad (March 29 2013)
 - i. Meet with Felix – Sebastian, Lindsey, Catherine
 - ii. Decide on new format:

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1. Using existing divisions in the department, have each group create a display that people can walk by
2. Message box (Nancy Baron technique)
3. Other suggestions welcome

4. TSSU Collective Bargaining Agreement – Melissa Roth (TSSU Organizer)

- a. New agreement
 - i. 2% raise (including Fall and Summer 2012 – retroactive deposit coming to your bank account). Plus another 2% in May 2013.
 - ii. Sessionals – Right of first refusal: this has been around for a long time, but you have to apply for it, which no one was being informed about. Long-term, experienced sessionals will be asked if they want to teach a course again that they have taught in the past before someone else can be asked to teach it.
- b. Deadlines for TSSU members:
 - i. MSP coverage: 100%
 - ii. Childcare bursary: no deadline (but best to apply before Jan 18 2013)
 - iii. General membership meetings (exact dates and times online at www.tssu.ca or <https://www.facebook.com/TSSU.ca>). Free dinner! If you can't stay the whole time, just come for a bit!
 1. Jan 24 4:30-6:30 – Burnaby
 2. Feb – Vancouver
 3. March - Surrey
- c. Letter of solidarity – Elimination of equivalencies (Sociology & Anthropology Department).
 - i. Equivalencies were started as a trial 30 years ago and continued for the past 30 years; they have now been eliminated by SFU and TSSU, but the Sociology & Anthropology Department is still using equivalencies. Their TAs are working 7.17 base units (BU) but being paid for only 5.84.
 - ii. Base units on contract (1 BU = 42 hours)
 - iii. They are asking the BISC grad caucus (and other caucuses) to write a letter of support indicating that we support the Sociology/Anthropology students and employees in their request for the removal of Equivalencies, and for payment according to the Collective Agreement;
- d. Next bargaining session – May 2014

5. Grad Lounge – Jesse

- a. The BISC grad lounge gets cleaned, but not the fridge.
- b. Fridge police: Antonia Musso
 - i. Will label and remove spoiled items from the BISC grad lounge fridge.

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- ii. Will advise BISC grad students of this policy through a posted sign.

6. Payday coffee – Jen Scholefield

- a. No one has signed up lately.
- b. Large labs tend to do this as one unit, but it should probably be split up a bit more so that we can cover all the paydays. Caucus execs should approach PIs, their own lab, spread the word and set an example.

7. 3-minute thesis talk – Lindsay

- a. SFU-wide, between all departments
- b. Each department will first have its own “talk-off”. The winners are then sent to the SFU-wide contest which has HUGE CASH PRIZES:
 - i. \$1500 (1st), \$1000 (2nd), \$500 (audience favourite)
- c. Final talks: March 6 2013 (sign up as a spokesperson for BISC by approx. end of Jan?)
- d. Lindsay to send around email with info and event link

8. Treasury update – Lindsay for Corinna

- a. Everyone should be reimbursed now (or in the process). Contact Corinna (cla9@sfu.ca) if you still need money.
- b. Current BISC grad caucus balances:
 - i. Trust Account: \$2379.99
 - ii. Core Account: \$467.20

9. Committee updates

- a. DGSC – Mike
 - i. The DGSC committee agreed unanimously to propose to the department to increase BISC grad student salaries from \$18k to \$21k (to match the level obtainable from NSERC). They are split on whether to pay PhD students more than Master’s students or not. Salary to increase by \$500 this spring, then by \$1000 per year for the next two years.
- b. DSC – absent
- c. GSS – Jesse for Rob
 - i. U-Pass referendum upcoming (May 2013):
 - 1. Increase to per semester U-Pass fees.
 - 2. Voting options: agree to the fee increase, or to no U-Pass at all (i.e. students would have to buy adult passes).
- d. TSSU – See above (4)
- e. Faculty Mole – absent

10. Professional Pest Management Association Annual meeting – Sebastian

- a. Feb 25 2013 – Changing face of pesticides in our society
- b. Call for papers – 15 min presentation (including questions)

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- c. You must be a member to attend (\$25 membership fee). This includes coffee, lunch, etc. at the meeting. However, all can attend the McCarthy lecture for free (after lunch).
- d. Alternatively, the BISC grad caucus fund could contribute some funds to the meeting. Generally we fund events that are open to everyone in the Biology Dept. For a \$200 contribution, the organizers would allow all BISC grad students to attend for free! The funds would be put towards coffee, food, and the IRMACs booking fee.
- e. Dr. Roitberg is paying for the speaker, and the department is also already contributing to the meeting costs.

Motion to fund the Professional Pest Management Association of British Columbia up to \$200 from the Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus Core Account towards the cost of coffee, food, and room booking for their 2013 annual meeting, so that graduate students in the Department of Biological Sciences can attend the event for free without buying a membership.

Moved by: Catherine Scott

Seconded by: Tanya Stemberger

Decision: **motion carries with 13 in favour, none against, and 4 abstentions**

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn this January 16th 2013 meeting of the Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus at 5:24 pm.

Moved by: Lindsey Button

Seconded by: Mike Beakes

Decision: **motion carries unanimously**