

Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus Meeting Agenda (draft until approved)
February 20th, 2012 – 3:30 to 4:30 PM, 7000 level lounge



Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus
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In Attendance: Lindsay Davidson (Chair), Amanda Kissel (Associate Chair), Janie Dubman (Substitute Secretary/International Student Representative), Corinna Lichota (Treasurer), Franz Simon (Webmaster), Rob Greenland (GSS Representative), Sebastian Ibarra (Events Committee Officer), Julie Wray (GSS Alternate), Tanya Stemberger (Events Committee Officer), Mike Beakes (DGSC Representative), Jennifer Linton (Faculty Mole), Mohamed Sherriffdeen (TSSU Steward), Jen Scholefield, Brett Favaro, Jesse Taylor, Nathan Derstine, Antonia Musso.

Absent: Emily McAuley (Secretary), Kyle Artelle (DSC Representative), Catherine Scott (Events Committee Officer), Lindsey Button (Member at Large), Jay Brogan (TSSU Steward), Leslie Saunders (TSSU Steward).

1. Welcome – The meeting was called to order by Lindsay at 3:32 pm.

- Attendance
- Additions to Agenda
 - i. Nancy Baron
 - ii. Symposium planning
 - iii. Documentary screening
- Motion to approve minutes from last month's meeting.

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

Moved by: Sebastian Ibarra

Seconded by: Jesse Taylor

Decision: **motion carries unanimously**

2. Nancy Baron update – Lindsay

- Tentatively planning five one-hour slots for lab meetings with Nancy (so labs are encouraged to amalgamate and sign up as one), and a one hour (paid – for 17 ppl) lunch for which labs can sign up, and lucky winners will be drawn at the next caucus meeting out of a hat. Suggestion: people who don't get into one of the 5 lab slots should be in the first pool for the lunch draw.
- We will give her an SFU t-shirt as a thank you gift.
- We'll be selling her book at the talk
- Lindsay will send out the announcement

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3. Grad Symposium – Sebastian

- The department booked a room in the Halpern Center for the grad symposium (and will pay for it). Need to clarify if room booking cost included a bartender, and if there are any extra costs which the department doesn't cover that will fall on the caucus.
- To limit the alcohol bill, we will need to have a finite number of drink tickets at the reception (Halpern center). Discussed having about 80.
- Format: On April 12, will have a 'message box workshop' at the Halpern Center. This will build on Nancy Baron's guest lecture and will teach people (as lab groups) to build message boxes. We will make the (hand-made) message boxes on posterboards that day, either in the Halpern Center (which we have from 3:30-6pm) or in our own labs. Then we will all come together and share and look at each other's message boxes, drink, mingle, etc.
- Suggestion: Issue a single drink ticket to each person and only give it out once they've participated. Also, allocate the rest of the money to buying beer at the Highland Pub afterwards. This idea was enthusiastically supported by the caucus.
- There is \$100 in the budget for materials.

4. Documentary movie update – Amanda

- 49 Megawatts: A documentary on run-of-the-river dams, focusing on the Ashlu River.
- Suggested date: April 4, 2013. We need to ask Wendy Palen if she will be able to make the panel, given it's the week of the external review of the BISC department.
- Location: B9242
- Time: Evening (~5:30 pm)
- Refreshments: Potluck-style.
- Need to look into booking it soon.

5. Treasury update – Corinna

- Current balances:
 - i. Core Account: \$467.20
 - ii. Trust Account: \$2379.99
- \$1000 is committed for Nancy Baron and workshop
- \$200 is committed to the pest management conference

6. Committee updates

- DGSC – Mike
 - i. DGSC has agreed to raising grad student salaries: \$500 in Fall 2013, \$1000 in Fall 2014, \$1000 in Fall 2015
 - ii. Faculty voted with strong support
 - iii. This will be coming out of the supervisor's funds.
- DSC – Absent

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- GSS – Rob
 - i. U-Pass referendum will occur March 11-14th. If approved, the price of the U-Pass will go up by \$5/month for this year, and by another little increase next year. If not approved, there will be no U-Pass (i.e. students would need to pay regular fares or buy adult passes).
 - ii. GSS Officer elections coming up within the next month. Voting will be online.
 - iii. GSS Professional Development grant approvals are being reassessed. Previously, international conferences were prioritized over local and regional. Now, they will be given proportionally based on the number of applicants (some departments don't have international conferences)
 - iv. February 26th is the AGM (Maggie Benston Centre). Free lunch, first-come, first-served. Need 100 members present to vote.
 - v. Reached agreement with unionized staff (2 full-time, 1 part-time). Not many changes; the agreement has been trimmed, putting a cap on childcare money, and a limit of 8 weeks has been put on vacation time for senior employees.
 - vi. Another referendum is coming up on how the GSS accepts money. Currently, this is based on student fees and got split up into 'operating' and 'capital' fees - \$45 and \$15, respectively. We now have \$1.2 million in the capital levy, which goes towards maintenance, renovation of grad student space or creation of graduate space. The referendum would propose changing the distribution of money between the operating and capital fees. The most likely proposal will aim to shift almost all of the money from the capital fee towards the operating fees (~\$60 for operating instead of \$45). The purpose would be to use this money to maintain current graduate student services.
- TSSU – Mohamed
 - i. The TSSU wants to have a couple of socials soon – an acknowledgement night at the Diamond Alumni Center for the recent job action, and a meet-and-greet for sessionals at SFU.
 - ii. The TA 2% backpay should have gone out by direct deposit to student accounts by now.
- Faculty Mole – Nothing to report

7. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn this February 20th 2013 meeting of the Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus at 4:26pm.

Moved by: Lindsay Davidson

Seconded by: Brett Favaro

Decision: **motion carries unanimously**