



**Biology Graduate Caucus, letter to the SFSS
Board of Directors
Tuesday August 22nd, 2006**

We, the membership of the SFU Biology Graduate Caucus, are concerned that (1) members of the current Board of Directors may not have followed Society Procedures, Standing Orders and By-Laws, not only in dealing with the current staff issue, but also in previous business (e.g., Rule R-6:2b); and (2) graduate students cannot be confident that the SFSS is currently able to represent their interests.

Due to these concerns, we have passed a motion of no confidence in the Board of Directors of the SFSS. We request that the Board take immediate action to restore the trust of the membership and the confidence of graduate students. In particular, we request that the Board of Directors satisfy the Biology Graduate Caucus on the following points.

1. We request that a committee, independent of the Board of Directors, be created immediately to formulate recommendations to prevent future procedure-related crises such as this one.
2. We request that all Directors work to foster adequate graduate student representation on standing and ad-hoc committees.
3. We request that the group directly involved with grievance negotiations with CUPE 5396 include a Director who was not involved in the main investigation of the recent staff issues, and preferably include the Graduate Issues Officer and/or the Graduate At Large Representative.
4. We ask that the Treasurer meet her commitment to research both the expenses to-date and those expected to be incurred in future as a result of this staff issue.
5. We request that the information from points 1 and 4 be distributed to the membership through the Peak newspaper and through the SFSS listserv as was the case of the prior SFSS formal response to this incident.

cc: Graduate Issue Committee
Department Graduate Caucuses
Sam Bradd, Shop Steward, CUPE 5396