



## Biology Graduate Caucus Meeting Minutes Friday November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2006, 3:30 pm

**In attendance:** Keith Tierney, Nicole Tunbridge, Clea Moray, Brendan Connors, Suzanne Gray, Suzanne Tank, Lucy Harrison, Erika Lok, Melanie Hart, Geoff Bradley, Dawn Cooper, Raul Ursic, Jason Catterson, Theingi Aung, Lina Perez.

1. Welcome.

- Keith Tierney welcomes all. No additions to our agenda were needed.

2. Claim our meeting expenses.

Motioned by Clea Moray, seconded by Suzanne Gray.

Carried

3. Treasurer's report.

- Theingi Aung reports that we made about \$200 from Halloween Party, and have around \$347 cash. We also have a \$400 check from the publisher from the grad directory, but currently we can't put it in our account.
- It was suggested that maybe we should get a separate bank account away from the SFSS. Mel Hart has volunteered to look more into this after Christmas.

4. Social Coordinator's report

- Nicole Tunbridge reports that she still has around 17 beverages left over from the Halloween party, some of which will go to beer garden
- The planning for the Christmas party is coming along. The theme this year is based on Lemony's Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events. If labs will like to contribute a skit, please send an abstract to Nicole (ndtunbri@sfu.ca) by this Thursday November 30<sup>th</sup>. Rehearsals will begin the week after. The Tony Awards are being put together by Mel and Sarah, and they need pictures, so please send them some (mhart@sfu.ca). There will be a Price is Right themed prize draw, but we need gag gifts. To give you some inspiration on what to contribute, here are the prizes we have so far; a shoe, a Ricky Martin fan-book, and a Chinese cd. Keith is also working on getting us donations, which he reports is coming along nicely. Tim is taking care of the pizza this year. He's getting them from the on-campus pizza place. Nicole is also happy to report that we are within the budget. For more information, please refer to Nicole's email sent out on Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup>.

5. SFSS Travel award draw.

- This year we have 11 travel awards to give out. Here are the people on both the A-list and B-list in order:
  - A-list
    1. Paul Mages
    2. Erica Jeffery
    3. Daniel Duan
    4. Emily Darling

5. Jennifer Gregg
6. Erika Lok
7. Raul Ursic
8. Marc Travers
9. David Redding
10. Heather Major
11. Suzanne Tank
- B-list
  1. Joel Heath
  2. Nicole Tunbridge
  3. Dong Han
  4. Lucy Harrison
  5. Zaid Jumean
  6. Carlos Palomera
  7. Kyle Morrison
  8. Samantha Vibert
  9. Jason Catterson
  10. Dan Guertin
  11. Mel Hart
  12. Jennifer Gregg
  13. Agnes Kwok
  14. Eric Davies
  15. Dawn Cooper
  16. Nigel May

- The travel awards can be claimed for any conference that was attended between May 1<sup>st</sup> 2006 and April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007 (the SFSS 2006/2007 fiscal year). You can get claim forms at the SFSS main office, or from Lina Perez (cperezor@sfu.ca).
- Since the April 30<sup>th</sup> deadline is coming up soon, please let Lina know if you are not going to be using your award, so that it can be passed on to the next person on the B-list. This is very important since these awards work on a use-it-or-loose-it basis.

6. New DGSC rep

- We only have one candidate, Suzanne Tank, for the new DGSC rep.

Suzanne Tank is nominated to be the next DGSC rep by Suzanne Gray, seconded by Raul Ursic. Suzanne Tank was acclaimed as the new DGSC rep.	Carried
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- Suzanne Tank will be one of our 2 DGSC reps beginning January 2007. The other rep is Jeff Joy.

7. News from other committees

i. Search Committee

- The microbiology candidate CV's are in review right now, and being made into a short list. However, there won't be a meeting until after February because of budget issues. The committee in-charge of the biocontrol candidates have sent out the posting, but the deadline isn't until next month or possibly January. The applications are currently coming in. No news for the molecular toxicologist rep.

ii. Forum rep

- Clea Moray
- For those who have job-postings (either work-study or volunteer positions) for undergraduates, Clea and Robert Gene (the Biology DSU president) are in the process of setting up a job-posting board in the undergrad common room, or something like that. For more information, please contact Clea (cmoray@sfu.ca) or Robert.
- The SFSS bank accounts have been unfrozen, thanks to a court order. The court dates for hearing for the SGM validity trial are Thursday November 30<sup>th</sup> and Friday December 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:45 am in a currently unknown location. People can come out to the courts for support. More information will be posted as it's made available.
- Douglas College Student Union bought an expensive property in New Westminster along with other things, and couldn't pay their health plan. The provincial and national CFS appears to have paid the health premiums for Douglas College via undocumented loans. All of this was covered in a news series by Global. The students at Douglas are currently trying to impeach their board of directors. There have also been some financial irregularities recently at the BC-CFS, with their financial reports being off by thousands of dollars, due to errors in reporting income from universities; universities are resubmitting their information and the report is being redone to correct this. The national CFS meetings are starting, however, the SFU delegation was canceled by the SFSS Board since some of the delegates have been impeached, and because there is so much work for the SFSS right now with the court challenge. The SFSS requested that Capilano College vote for us (by proxy), but the CFS has rejected this, and now we have no vote. SFU pays roughly \$400 000 to the CFS (\$16 per student) per year, who are lobbying to reduce tuition fees and such. The CFS also owns other business services like Travel Cuts, but don't use the money we give them to pay for them.

iii. GIC rep

- Raul Ursic
- Was not able to attend the GIC meeting this month, however lots of things are going on. The highlight of this meeting was GIC voting to start to look at officially separating from the SFSS and forming a graduate student union. Until now, there have been people looking into this, but it hasn't been official. This committee (GIC AS) will eventually need a lot of help and volunteers, so if you are interested, please contact Raul (rursicbe@sfu.ca) for more information.
- For those who are interested in running for the unofficially vacant SFSS offices, nominations packages are available from November 20<sup>th</sup> until December 4<sup>th</sup>. Campaigning will take place from December 11<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup>, and voting will take place on Monday December 18<sup>th</sup>. There will be pre-polling stations set up the week before in an as of yet unknown location. Someone suggested that maybe there should be more pre-polling stations, or voting taking place all week, but there are some restrictions on hiring people to man the polling booths and such that have to be discussed with CUPE. Someone suggested online voting, which

has been talked about, but couldn't be implemented for some reason (maybe security issues). So far, 5 people have picked up applications. If you are interested, please contact Raul for more details.

iv. DGSC rep

- The DGSC will be discussing BISC 800 at the next meeting on December 12<sup>th</sup>. It was suggested that BISC 800 become a 3-credit class, taught by one person. Isabelle Côté is considering teaching it, and Suzanne is looking for any suggestions or ideas that people may have. Please e-mail her (smgray@sfu.ca) with your ideas by December 12<sup>th</sup>.
- For students considering transferring from the MSc to a PhD: the DGSC policy has been that you must have an article published in a peer-reviewed journal. However, the official policy states that transferring depends on evidence of scholarly work, which may include the submission of a paper for publication or presentations at national or international conferences. The full support of your committee is essential and decisions by the DGSC to recommend transfer will be based on the individual case (it is not automatic). However, from now on the DGSC will not require an accepted/published manuscript but will now consider other scholarly work as well.

v. Scholarship reps

- Brendan Connors
- The private scholarships have been ranked. Information maybe will be sent out before Christmas.
- Those who applied for NSERC scholarships should be hearing back from SFU in the next couple of weeks in December.

vi. TSSU rep

- No news.

vii. Faculty mole

- No news.

8. Other business

- Food and gift donations are being collected for our soon to be sponsored family. If you would like to nominate a family, please contact Keith (ktierney@sfu.ca). Everything is kept confidential, except the absolute basic family make-up so that we can figure out what kind of presents to buy.
- The current caucus constitution does not include the forum rep position. It has been suggested that we correct this. Our Webmaster will mend the webpage to state that we have a forum rep position, and the duties that the position entails.

Motion to update the constitution to include the forum rep position by Suzanne Gray, seconded by Brendan Connors.	Carried
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- A reminder that a lot has to be done by GIC ASC in the 5 months before the spring referendum. Those interested in volunteering should contact Raul after Christmas.

9. Adjournment and next meeting

Motion to adjourn by Suzanne Gray, seconded by Brendan Connors.	Carried
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- There will be no caucus meeting in December. The next meeting will take place on the last Friday of January.
- Classes start January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007.
- Have a great winter break ☺!