



Biology Graduate Caucus

Friday July 27th, 2006, 3:30 pm

In attendance: Nicole Tunbridge, Carson Keever, Daniel Duan, Cesar Inducil (guest), Andreas Steimel, Geoff Bradley, Lucy Harrison, Lina Perez, Clea Moray.

1. Welcome

- Nicole Tunbridge welcomes all. We have a guest today, Cesar Inducil, from the Biology Student Union.

2. Claim our meeting expenses

Claim \$42.22 for meeting expenses. Motioned by Lucy Harrison, seconded by Geoff Bradley.	
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Carried.

3. Social Coordinator's report

- Had a meeting about the pig roast earlier this month. Decided to have the pig roast somewhere around campus, maybe on the field. Someone suggested having it near the greenhouse bee hive. Maybe we can run an extension cord. It would be preferable to have it here since it takes 5h to cook the pig. Geoff Bradley will talk to Matthias Schuetz about it. Pig roast will take place Friday August 17th, around 4 to 5pm. We will need volunteers to help. E-mails with more information and calling for volunteers will be sent closer to the date.

4. News from other committees

i. GIC rep

- The new health plan has been approved. The rate will go up by a few dollars per year, but will remain under \$300 per year. The maximum dental claim will decrease to \$600 a year. Also, the benefits card will disappear. We will have to mail prescription receipts from now on. The benefit card can be added later if grads so wish. It will however increase our fees by \$30. We have switched health care providers to studentcare.net. The change will take effect September 1st. More information will be available closer to the date.

ii. Faculty mole

- Dr. Jenny Cory will be starting with us September 8th. There is a new animal care position opening up. BISC 800 will not be taught this fall, as it is too late to add it. A letter of support from the students and faculty would help for when BISC 800 gets put back on the table for courses for next semester.

iii. Grad Student Council Rep.

- First meeting was today. It was mostly administrative stuff. A referendum to decide on things like fees will happen soon. We will need someone to be an electoral officer. A caucus funding rule committee will be forming soon as well. If you want to get involved, contact Andreas Steimel (andreass@sfu.ca) or Clea Moray (cmoray@sfu.ca). The results of this committee should be out by next month. Andreas will vote at this meeting, but maybe someone could go and take part in writing the funding budgets.

5. Other Business

- Roof-top Garden Project: Earlier this year, Geoff Bradley started talking about setting up a rooftop garden. He now has the support of Sustainable SFU, and the proposed budget will be passed at their meeting next Monday. The rooftop garden will be on the north side of the AQ, outside of Education and Archeology. The money provided by the proposed budget and fundraising should be enough to make a decent garden. The garden can also be used for small-scale projects and educational purposes, such as biocontrol and plant-insect interactions. Geoff will be the main contact person until a club can get started. He was hoping that the Biology Caucus could be one of the forces behind it, and can help by volunteering or helping set-up projects. If you are interested in helping, please contact Geoff (ggb@sfu.ca).
- Clea Moray would like everyone to know that the SFSS Annual General Meeting (AGM) is coming up this fall. Right now, every grad student is a member of both the Grad Student Society and the SFSS. The referendum in the spring only gave us the go ahead to start setting things up. We can not legally leave the SFSS unless there is a change in the bi-laws that say that only undergrads are members. Since they need 500 members at the AGM to meet quorum, it is important that everyone try to go, at least for the beginning of the meeting, until changes to the bi-laws have been made. The changes will then take place starting May 2008. If the bi-law is not changed, we will have to pay fees to both the SFSS and the GSS. A survey will be sent out in the next few weeks to help the GSS determine what services we would like to keep, and for any other suggestions.
- Lucy Harrison is organizing the Mentorship Program this year.

Motion to give \$200 to the Mentorship Program for food and other expenses by Lucy Harrison, seconded by Nicole Tunbridge.	Carried.
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- The number of volunteers needed will be determined later in August. Expect Lucy to come knocking around that time. More information will be available closer to the date.
- Cesar Inducil from the Biology Student Union is here to let us know about the SFU Pond Restoration Project. Along with Bruce Leighton, REM, and Envirosoci, the Bio Student Union is out to turn the ponds from SFU (like the one at the AQ and the reflection pond near the classroom building) into a healthier wetland ecosystem. They're hoping that members in biology will like to get involved as well. There is a page on Facebook if anyone would like more information. If you would like to get involved or have any suggestions, contact Cesar (cinducil@sfu.ca) or Nicole Tunbridge (ndtunbri@sfu.ca).
- Meetings in the past have gone on for a long time (over an hour). Therefore, Nicole would like to institute a meeting length.

Motion by Nicole Tunbridge to keep the meetings 1h in length, barring any votes for extensions at 1/2h increments. Seconded by Clea Moray.	Carried.
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6. Adjournment and next meeting.

- Next meeting will take place in August ☺