



Biology Graduate Caucus

Friday August 31st, 2006, 3:30 pm

In attendance: Nicole Tunbridge, Raul Ursic, Matthias Schuetz, Mike Silvergieter, Rachel Mayberry, Emily Darling, Sarah Jamieson, Alex Chubaty, Heather Major, Simon Goring, Daniel Duan, Theingi Aung, Mel Hart, Lina Perez, Suzanne Tank.

1. Welcome

- Nicole Tunbridge welcomes all.

2. Claim our meeting expenses

Motion by Alex Chubaty to claim \$20.30 for chips and juice. Seconded by Suzanne Tank.	Carried.
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3. Acceptance of the minutes.

Motion by Alex Chubaty to accept the minutes from the last caucus meeting. Seconded by Nicole Tunbridge.	Carried.
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4. Treasurer's report

- Theingi Aung reports that we currently have \$136 in the core account, \$1634 in trust, and \$400 in petty cash.

Motion by Mel Hart to claim \$24 for her TSSU Membership fee. Seconded by Nicole Tunbridge.	Carried.
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5. Social Coordinator's report

- Matthias Schuetz lets us know that the Annual Bar-B-Q and pig-roast will be held on Friday the 14th of September. Mel Hart will be organizing a scavenger hunt. The main meal will be the roast pig, but veggie options will be available as well. It was decided to sell entrance tickets in order to help cover costs. Drinks will be pay as you go.
- Matthias would like everyone to know that he will not be able to continue as Social Coordinator. Anyone who is interested in this position is asked to contact Matthias (mschuetz@sfu.ca) or Nicole (ntunbri@sfu.ca).
- It was decided to do the Christmas party planning as a group, like in years past.

Motion to sponsor a willing party to get another licensee for Serving It Right by Nicole Tunbridge. Seconded by Alex Chubaty.	Carried.
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6. News from other committees

i. GIC rep

- Raul Ursic would like everyone to know that the previous extended health care plan has expired and that we have signed a new contract with a new provider. The deadline to opt out of the health plan is September 30th. He is not sure if previous opt outs will carry over, but because it is a new care provider, it would be advisable for people to resubmit the opt out form (available online) just in case. The new plan is slightly more expensive but still under \$300. It will last for only a year because of the new grad society that is forming. Something that is new is that we will have to pay for prescription drugs and send in receipts to claim money. The amount that we can claim for dental has also dropped.
- There will be a grad social on September 7th at the pub.
- Raul reminds people that he will be resigning and that a new GIC rep is needed. The position is for a year, and there is a \$75 month stipend. Obligations are attending the monthly meetings and being part of one working group. It is recommended that the person who applies does not do field work, because you are only allowed to miss 2 meetings per year. If you are interested, please contact Raul (rursicbe@sfu.ca) for more info.

ii. DGSC rep

- Suzanne and Jeff have sent out an e-mail regarding the petition for BISC 800. The petition is on the board by the grad lounge. The 3 options in petition come from the meeting that we had in the spring (see minutes from April 27th, 2007). One grad student raised concerns that there was no option for an optional 3-credit course. From the meeting, there was talk of making the new course optional and see if it survives. The optional option was taken out of the petition to stop it from becoming too complicated. If you care about this course, please sign the petition. The goal is to present the petition at the next DGSC meeting, so it can get on the books in time. Dr. Elle has retooled the 1-

credit course a bit and has offered it this semester. The deadline for the petition is in 2-3 weeks.

iii. Scholarship reps

- Sarah Jamieson reminds everyone that an e-mail went around with information for a travel grant. The deadline is October 1st. The money can be used for conferences attended this summer as well. They are given based on merit and need. There are no restrictions on it, and can be used for research to some extent. It was given by the Dean of Grad Studies based on the number of GF's given this year.

iv. TSSU rep

- Mel Hart reports that the TSSU is getting geared up for fall semester. There was no summer meeting. Handbooks to help keep track of hours will be available soon.

v. Grad Student Council Rep.

- Andreas Steimel is currently in a meeting. He sent a note to remind people to fill in the grad student survey. It doesn't take long, and it will give the new grad society information about grad student experiences. For more info check out their page on Facebook. The deadline for the survey is September 15th.

7. Other business

- Sarah Jamieson and Brendan Connors are organizing the PEEC this year. They are approaching caucus for any donations, if available. They may do some fundraising as well. More information will be available later.
- Alex Chubaty is currently in charge of the mentorship program. The welcome party is scheduled for Thursday, September 6th at 4pm, in the garden between physics and bio. A reminder to all of the mentors to show up 15min early. We are welcoming 14 new grad students into the department this year. Pizza will be available.
- Danny Duan lets us know that we will be welcoming 4 international grad students into the department.

8. Adjournment and next meeting

Motion to adjourn by Nicole, seconded by Raul Ursic.	Carried.
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- Next meeting will be on the last Friday of next month ☺.