



Biology Graduate Caucus

Tuesday October 30th, 2007, 3:30 pm

In attendance: Nicole Tunbridge, Raul Ursic, Emily Darling, Rachel Mayberry, Alex Chubaty, Heather Major, Daniel Duan, Lina Perez, Suzanne Tank, Jeff Joy, Dawn Cooper, Nell Hamilton, Jerry Ericsson, Devin Arbuthnott, Carson Keever, Paul Mages, Geoff Bradley, Lisa Neame.

1. Welcome

- Nicole Tunbridge welcomes all.

2. Claim our meeting expenses

Motion by Raul Ursic to claim \$50 for chips and beverages. Seconded by Jerry Ericsson.	Carried.
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3. Treasurer's report (via e-mail from Theingi Aung)

- We have \$1766.86 in our trust account including \$400 for the directory, \$321.54 in our core account, and \$203 cash.
- Our treasurer Sam Franks will be gone until January, so Theingi will be acting as treasurer until then.

4. Social Coordinator's report

- We still need one. If interested, please e-mail Nicole (ntunbri@sfu.ca).
- Jerry Ericsson gave a run down of the Halloween Party with MBB. It was a big success, everyone had fun, and MBB is keen on hosting a joint party again. All that is left is to reimburse the students who spent money.

Motion by Nicole Tunbridge to claim \$15 for associated Halloween party expenses. Seconded by Raul Ursic.	Carried.
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- There was an issue with the janitors not cleaning the room after the party despite the work-order. There were complaints made and now it looks like we might not be able to use the meeting room for future events. Also had an incident with some party crashers from chemistry, but that is currently being taken care of.
- Emily Darling and Lisa Neame are co-organizing the Christmas party. We need to pick a theme for the party. Emily and Lisa suggested two options:

1. Survivor Ice storm: An ice storm traps the department on campus for the Christmas break. Barb realizes that there are not enough supplies to keep everyone going. The labs have to prove their fitness in order to survive.
2. Lab Survivor: Over Christmas, the government runs out of money and SFU becomes privatized. Labs have to show how they will make money doing the research that they do.

Vote to choose either theme 1 or theme 2. The majority picked theme 1.	Carried.
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- It was suggested that we give a certificate to the winning lab as incentive to get labs to participate.

Motion by Nicole Tunbridge to spend \$100 in door-prizes for the Christmas party. Seconded by Jerry Ericsson.	Carried.
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- It was also suggested that we could have people bring in food-donations for the SFU-food bank or another food bank.
- The Christmas party will be held December 7th in the Chem/Bio lounge. Buy your tickets early, since they are \$2 until 48h before the event. After that, tickets will be \$5.

5. News from other committees

i. Forum rep

- Jerry Ericsson mentions that the last meeting was the AGM. We have a grad student society, and quorum was lowered.
- The Sustainability Fair was a success, and Forum will be using the school theater to show films. This November, they will be showing *Animal House*.

ii. GIC rep

- No meeting this month yet.

iii. DGSC rep

- Suzanne and Jeff report that there is nothing new. They will be handing in a report on BISC 800 soon. So far, only 25% of the grad students have signed the petition. It will be left on the message board in the grad lounge with a pen if anyone still wishes to sign it.

iv. Scholarship reps (Note from Brendan Connors read by Nicole Tunbridge)

- NSERC applications have been ranked by the department and have been sent to the university. Ranking at this level should be done by December.
- The departmental travel awards have been ranked.

v. Grad Student Council Rep.

- Andy Steimel reports that the new GSS has an online referendum for the next 2 hours about services. Results will be available in the grad lounge in the Maggie Benson Building at 6:30pm today.
- The SFSS is asking anyone who had a negative experience with the interim Ombudsperson to contact them.
- There have been cuts in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, which have resulted in TA cuts. The grad students have written a letter and are asking caucuses for their support.
- The GSS has passed the budget, and are hoping to get started in the summer, depending on the health plan provider and the referendum.

7. Other business

- Sam Franks sent out an e-mail regarding the directory. There will be a logo contest as well. The winner gets \$10.
- SFSS Travel awards: Thanks to everyone who entered the draw. This year we had 41 people entered. The following people have made the A-list and will get information on claiming their awards:
 1. Andreas Steimel
 2. Jennifer Gregg
 3. Paul Mages
 4. Kendra Foster
 5. Jason Peterson
 6. Emily Meuser
 7. Dua'a Riyal
 8. Jordy Thomson
 9. Bradley Davis
 10. Gholamreza Babajani
 11. Jerry Ericsson

- The following people have made the B-list and are eligible for an award if and when it becomes available in the following order:
 1. Matthias Schuetz
 2. Conan Phelan
 3. Marie-Helene Burle
 4. Maxence Solomon
 5. Scott Pavey
 6. Dan Guertin
 7. Marc Travers
 8. Rosie Wijenberg
 9. Nell Hamilton
 10. Brendan Connors
 11. Alex Chubatty
- With regards to the seminars, Kathleen wasn't able to come, but she sent a 2 page e-mail. Gist is that the speaker is dependent on the lab that is hosting them. She does send them information, including a reminder that the department has broad interests. She is open to the idea of hosting a speaker with UBC. Emily Darling expressed interest in being a UBC liaison for speakers. She will be helped by Dawn Cooper. There was talk of moving the seminar to a different time, such as lunch or 4:30pm although this would interfere with daycare. Kathleen also mentioned that she needs someone to go and get beer for after the seminars, but this person needs a car. Maybe we can use the departmental vehicle.
- Alex Chubatty lets people know that he has some spots for anyone who needs a ride to the retreat.
- If you are interested in helping out with the rooftop garden contact Geoff Bradley.

8. Adjournment and next meeting

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