



## Biology Graduate Caucus

Friday November 30th, 2007, 3:30 pm

**In attendance:** Nicole Tunbridge, Alex Chubaty, Heather Major, Daniel Duan, Lina Perez, Suzanne Tank, Jeff Joy, Stephanie Green, Andreas Steimel, Joyce Wang, Simon Goring, Melanie Hart, Devin Arbuthnott, Kyle Morrison, Jordy Thomson, Lucy Harrison.

### 1. Welcome

- Nicole Tunbridge welcomes all.

### 2. Claim our meeting expenses

Motion by Nicole Tunbridge to claim \$50 for chips and beverages. Seconded by Suzanne Tank.	Carried.
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### 3. Treasurer's report

- Theingi Aung (our acting treasurer) is away. Sam Franks will be away until January 2008.
- The new 2007/2008 BISC Directory is available in office

### 4. Social Coordinator's report

- The Winter BBQ was successful. All of the meat sold. We made \$33 in profit.
- We are planning on submitting a proposal for purchasing a new BBQ. The meat at the Winter BBQ took a long time to cook. We had a BBQ donated to us, but it was taken apart for parts to fix the other BBQ. We propose to take the profits from the Winter BBQ to buy a new BBQ and hold a fundraiser BBQ to pay for the new BBQ. It was mentioned that the undergrad biology caucus would also like to get a BBQ. Nicole will talk to them and make a proposal at next meeting.
- Christmas Party Update: Skit scripts due to Emily or Lisa by Monday morning at latest. There will be a run-through Wednesday or Thursday. An update email will be sent next week. We still need photos for The Tony Awards. Please send any photos to Mel Hart (mhart@sfu.ca). She will alter them. Please send her any ideas as well.

Motion by Nicole Tunbridge to add \$50 for door prizes for the Christmas party. Seconded by Devin Arbuthnott.	
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	Carried.
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5. News from other committees

i. International Student rep

- Danny Duan is leaving in a few days and will no longer be able to be our International Student rep.

Motion by Danny Duan to nominate Joyce Wang as the new International Student rep. Seconded by Nicole Tunbridge. No other nominations. Vote for Joyce to be our new rep.	Carried.
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- Joyce Wang is our new International Student rep.

ii. GIC/GSS rep

- Andreas Steimel reports that the GSS referendum went through. There are some new people on the exec committee. The SFSS is currently collecting signatures to oppose tuition increase in the AQ. There was a social on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November. The next meeting will be held Monday.

iii. DGSC rep

- Suzanne Tank and Jeff Joy report on the meeting from a few weeks ago. The BISC 800 petition that was presented had a total of 44 signatures, but they still manage to make a forceful case that the grad students want to see a change. The DGSC appeared to be impressed by the support to change BISC 800. The course will likely be sent to an upcoming departmental meeting to see if the faculty will agree to change it to a 3-credit course that is strongly recommended but not required. More information will be available in January. Rumor is that this year's class has given similar feedback: the issues center around lack of feedback from the profs on the given busywork. Some of the seminars were useful but the way that the course was run could be improved.

iv. Scholarship reps

- Brendan Connors and Sarah Jamieson sent an email. There is not much to report other than the private scholarships results are a littler slow in getting out. Please keep waiting if you have applied for one.

v. TSSU rep

- Mel Hart reports that they will be having a union meeting next Wednesday. The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary is next year, and the TSSU is planning on hosting a massive party in March. If you have any ideas for contest, or what you would like to see please e-mail Mel (mhart@sfu.ca).

6. Other business

- Stats group details – Simon Goring sent out an email. He booked the MPM room for Tuesday. He has received an number of e-mails expressing interest. Simon has envisioned a group where not only will there be students teaching techniques but also learning and discussing general topics. If interested, please contact Simon (sgoring@sfu.ca).

Motion by Nicole Tunbridge to donate the caucus empties to the departmental needy student. Seconded by Mel Hart	Carried.
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- The PEEC is in the process of gathering sponsors for fundraising. If you know of anyone who would like to sponsor the PEEC, please contact Stephanie Green (sjg7@sfu.ca) or Devin Arbuthnott (darbuthn@sfu.ca)
- An e-mail went around asking for volunteers for CSEE. Please contact the organizers if interested.
- We still need someone to do food and beverages after the departmental seminar. Please see Kathleen if you are interested.
- This pay-day coffee the Lowenberger lab is collecting donations for the Spread the Net Foundation. For more information or to sponsor the team, go to <https://secure.e2rm.com/registant/teamPage.aspx?EventID=13302&LangPref=en-CA&TeamID=50152> or visit the Lowenberger lab.

8. Adjournment and next meeting

Motion to adjourn by Nicole Tunbridge, seconded by Alex Chubaty.	Carried.
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