



## Biology Graduate Caucus

Friday January 25th, 2008, 3:30 pm

**In attendance:** Nicole Tunbridge, Erika Lok, Jayashree Shrivastara, Brendan Connors, Corey Watson, Jerry Ericsson, Emily Darling, Sarah Jamieson, Samantha Franks, Heather Major, Lina Perez, Suzanne Tank, Jeff Joy, Stephanie Green, Andreas Steimel, Melanie Hart, Devin Arbuthnott, Nell Hamilton, Lucy Harrison.

### 1. Welcome

- Nicole welcomes all to a new semester.

### 2. Claim our meeting expenses.

Motion to claim meeting expenses (\$50) by Jerry Ericsson, seconded by Brendan Connors.	Carried
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Motion to claim \$200 for the semester by Nicole Tunbridge, seconded by Brendan Connors.	Carried
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### 3. Funding Request for PEEC – proposal by Cory Watson

- SFU is hosting PEEC 3<sup>rd</sup> week of Feb. Members of the department are actively trying to fundraise for conferences suggested to approach the SFSS. This has to be done through the BISC grad caucus.

Motion for the caucus to help fund PEEC by Nell Hamilton, seconded by Devin Arbuthnott.	Carried
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Motion to dedicate \$100 of our core account to PEEC by Nicole Tunbridge, seconded by Lucy Harrison.	Carried
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- Caucus approves asking \$1500 for symposium and \$1200 for PEEC

### 4. Treasurer's report

- Sam Franks has nothing to report at this time

### 5. Social Coordinator's report

- We discuss plans for the grad student symposium and Kay Holekamp's visit.
- Sarah has volunteered to do the schedule for visit. Kay Holekamp is coming March 13<sup>th</sup>, coordinating with the symposium. She will do an informal lecture on Friday for lunch. We will provide food and such, maybe have payday coffee and sushi.

Motion to provide core funds for the symposium and approve the given budget by Nicole Tunbridge, seconded by Brendan Connors.	Carried
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- People will also be encouraged to bring mugs and plates or maybe sell plates? Provide little plates.

Motion to provide \$100 of core funding for the symposium by Nicole	
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Tunbridge, seconded by Devin Arbuthnott.	Carried
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- Nicole sent around a list of things that have to be done. Please try to help at some point. Heather Major volunteered to do posters, and Devin Arbuthnott will serve drinks.

6. News from other committees

i. Forum rep - Jerry Ericsson

- Nothing really happening.

Motion to take the profit from the Halloween Party and put its towards our BBQ fund by Nicole Tunbridge, seconded by Jerry Ericsson.	Carried
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- The undergraduate biology union is willing to pitch in to the BBQ fund. Jeff Joy also has a BBQ to donate.
  - Thank-you to everyone who helped out with the Spread the Net campaign. Our school placed 4th in the country.
- ii. GIC/ GSC rep –Andreas
- GIC will be holding a referendum to see if the SFSS will be part of the CFS in March. Email will be sent out closer to the date. The GSS does not want to be part of the CFS. The SFSS had a referendum last year, but the CFS will not accept it. Voting can help everyone, because we need to achieve quorum. Actively abstaining can also count towards quorum.
  - The GSS needs a logo. There is a design contest, and you could get \$200.
  - SFU has a \$13 million debt, therefore everyone has to save money. In our department we cancelled a hiring.
  - SFU will have a reading break during Olympics.
  - The Dean of Grad Studies finishes his term soon. There are two candidates for the position. The hearings will occur in March. Please attend them because graduate students get some kind of vote. This is a 4-year position.
  - Regarding the entrance exams to get into the university after high school, the province wants to reduce the exams needed to only English. UVic is for this change, UBC is against it, and SFU is undecided.
  - The GSS will hold a referendum in February for the benefits plan. The GSS Annual General Meeting will be held on February 21<sup>st</sup>.

Motion to extend the meeting by 5 minutes by Nicole Tunbridge, seconded by Devin Arbuthnott.	Carried
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iii. DGSC rep – Suzanne Tank & Jeff Joy

- The DGSC met on Tuesday. BISC 800 came up. Based on the comments given, it was decided that BISC 800 become a 1 credit pass or fail. The Dean of Science can give permission for this type of course.
- There is a discussion coming up regarding course requirements for a PhD: are they too high? Currently, PhD students require 15 credits without an MSc, and 8 credits with an MSc. Marlene will do a survey of similar universities around the country to see their requirements.

iv. Scholarship reps – Brendan Connors and Sarah Jamieson

- GF's are coming up and the departmental Travel Awards are due February 1st for this semester. Travel awards for this coming summer are due April 1st. You can apply again even if you have previously received one. Your supervisor has to show that they are supporting you and how much they are giving you. GF's are due in April.

v. TSSU rep – Mel Hart

- Meeting next week. Mel will send out an email.

7. Other business

- If you are not going to be using your SFSS Travel Award, please email Lina Perez (cperezor@sfu.ca)

8. Adjournment and next meeting

Motion to adjourn by Nicole Tunbridge, seconded by Brendan Connors	Carried
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