



Biology Graduate Caucus

Friday, June 27, 2008, 3:30 pm

In attendance: Erica Jeffery, Jerry Ericsson, Devin Arbuthnott, Melanie Hart, Suzanne Tank, Simon Goring, Andreas Steimel, Jason Catterson, Mathias Schuetz, Rachel Mayberry, Emily Meuser

1. Welcome

- Erica welcomes everyone to the meeting.
- Any additions to agenda?

2. Claim our meeting expenses.

a) Food

Motion to reimburse Erica Jeffery \$5.53 for chips by Simon Goring, seconded by Andreas Steimel.

Carried

3. GSS Travel Grants

a) Explanation of summer situation

i) First-come, first-served basis to GSS (allotment of \$367); May 1st- Aug 31st, 2008

ii) What is the fairest way of splitting this money? First three get full \$100 and forth gets \$67, or just divide \$367 by 4? Decision to divide the funds equally.

Motion to approve the following Travel Grant applications:

- Stephanie Green (stephanie.green@sfu.ca) — International Coral Reef Symposium, July 7-11; requesting \$100
- Suzanne Tank (suzanne_tank@sfu.ca) -- American Society for Limnology and Oceanography, June 8-13; Ecological Society of America, Aug 3-8; requesting \$100
- Lauren Kordonowy (lkordono@sfu.ca) — American Ornithologists Union Conference, Aug 4-8; requesting \$100
- Sofi Hindmarch (shindmar@sfu.ca) — American Ornithologists Union Conference, Aug 4-8; requesting \$100

Motion to approve \$91.75 for each of these four people by Erica Jeffery, seconded by Devin Arbuthnott.

Carried

b) Discussion of future situation

i) \$1100 allotment for entire fiscal year (Sept 2008- Aug 2009)

ii) We will do the draw in the fall and then if people on the 'a' list don't use the award they have been allocated, the award can go to someone on the 'b' list.

4. Signing Authority:

a) 2006 constitutional amendment means that we don't have to approve signing authority, it just transfers automatically to caucus steering committee

b) Reimbursement protocol: need form, minutes, and two signatures from signing authorities

5. Other committees:

a) GSS—Andreas Steimel

i) There will be a GSS social on the 3rd of July
 ii) GSS wants to start up with a car co-op (Vancouver Auto Network—
 www.cooperativeauto.net), so they want to deposit \$2000 (which is refundable) and people have to pay \$50 one-time registration fee, plus a monthly fee if you use a car (gas, insurance and maintenance are included). Seems like a good deal, there are currently two co-op cars at SFU but we want to increase the numbers. SFSS is currently a member but GSS is not. Can also get vans, pickups, various other types of vehicles through this service. Would people be interested in this? For more information contact Andreas Steimel at andreass@sfu.ca

b) GIC?

c) TSSU—Melanie Hart

i) People that are members of TSSU can apply for funding for members of their family (to help with living expenses, etc.)

-ii) You get 42 hours for preparation when you're a TA, regardless of how many base units you have. If you have been ripped off about this, let Mel know. Departments are trying to get more work out of TA's, and this stipulation is in our contract so we should be firm with it.

iii) Entitled to up to a month of sick time per semester, paid. The department is responsible for paying you and the department. People have not been aware of this and are not using this, so in our next collective agreement may lose this.

iv) We now have a grievance officer, so you have problems, let Mel know. Since the grievance officer has been here, there have been three different incidences in which the university has been found to be in violation of the collective agreement. This can be useful in situations where another TA needs to be hired because of heavy workload.

v) There are usually only about 5 people that hand in their TA logbooks each semester for the draw

vi) Watch how much time you spend on email for correspondences, etc. having to do with classes

d) Faculty mole—Carson Keever

i) Not present

e) DGSC—Suzanne Tank, Jeff Joy

i) No news

f) Scholarship committee—Sarah Jamieson, Brendan Connors

i) Graduate Fellowship announcements have gone out; make sure that you send your acceptance to the Dean of Graduate Studies on time

6. BBQ/AGM Follow-up:

a) Successful—Thanks for coming out!

7. Next Meeting

i) We might have another meeting before the end of the summer.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Erica Jeffery, seconded by Jerry Ericsson.	Carried
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8. Meeting adjourned.