



Biology Graduate Caucus

Friday, January 30th, 2009, 3:30 pm

In attendance: Erica Jeffery, Jerry Ericsson, Jenn Sunday, Andreas Steimel, Mike Wogin, Janey Lam, Simon Zappia, Nicole Tunbridge, Sarah Jamieson, Carson Keever, Devin Arbuthnott, Lindsay Farrell, Anna Drake, Rachel Gardener, Isabelle Raymond, Jennifer Trowell, Brian LaBore, Jeff Joy, Jayashree Shrivastava, and Clea Moray.

1. Welcome

- a) Erica welcomes everyone to the meeting.
- b) Any additions to agenda?
 - i) Nicole adds Darwin Cake Contest to the agenda.

2. Claim GSS core funds.

Motion to claim \$500.00 in core funds for Spring 2009 semester from GSS made by Erica, seconded by Jeff.	Carried
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3. Claiming meeting expenses delayed until Jerry arrives.

4. Events

- a) Darwin Cake contest:
Will be held in conjunction with the weekly departmental seminar on Thursday, Feb 12th. Bring your evolution/Darwin themed cake into SSB7172 from 3-3:30pm for judging after the seminar. Details available at the Vancouver Evolution Festival website www.vanevo.ca/contests.html.
- b) Christmas in January Party
 - i) Erica thanks everyone for their hard work and a very successful event.
 - ii) Claim reimbursement to Jerry for "Darwin Awards" book prize.

Motion to reimburse Jerry \$14.55 from caucus funds made by Erica, seconded by Sarah.	Carried
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c) SFU-UBC Coffee House

- i) ANZA club is booked for Thursday April 16th. Cost of booking approximately \$725.
- ii) Suggestions for cost recovery include:
 - Cover Charge \$10, Drinks \$2.50
 - Cover \$5, Drinks \$3

Advance tickets \$5, Cover at Door \$10, Drinks \$3.00

iii) Ideas for profit sharing:

Split profits equally between SFU and UBC.

Keep record of attendance from each school and split profits accordingly.

Donate profits to charity.

iv) If you are interested in volunteering contact Erica at SFU biology. Aleeza is the UBC contact and Tyson is the SFU REM contact.

v) Discussion was held with regard to performers from outside the SFU/UBC community participating. General consensus seemed to be that it should be only members of SFU/UBC participating in the entertainment.

vi) Performers should be encouraged to volunteer asap so we can include them in advertising for the event. Contact Erica if you are interested in performing.

d) Symposium:

i) Food will be acquired from outside sources to keep costs down.

ii) Brian LaBore will be in charge of the Liquor Licence.

iii) Several alternatives to having lab posters were discussed to reduce costs of the event.

- Mini-Talks

- Electronic Posters: Would cycle through posters on 2-3 projectors.

- 3 slides/lab

- Write a poem describing another lab.

- Impressions of other lab members/faculty

The Electronic Posters was favoured by the majority.

iv) Tracy volunteered to get the door prizes.

v) Erica & Jerry have found volunteers to judge the posters.

vi) Space Booking: Jerry is looking into the possibility of using space in TASCII rather than the generally unpopular space we have been using for the past several years.

vii) We will apply for funds from Dean of Science \$600, Biology Department \$1200, GSS \$500, and contribute \$200 from our core funds. Erica passed around the proposed budget based on last years figures for caucus approval.

Motion to dedicate \$200 in caucus funds toward the Grad symposium made by Erica, seconded by Devin.	
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	Carried
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e) Grad Hosted Speaker

i) Locke Row will be coming from March 18-21st 2009. Erica announced that we will be saving some money on his flight since he is already flying west. Costs should be around \$400. The saving in flight costs will make up for the cost of putting him up an extra night at Simons – the hotel on campus.

ii) We need a volunteer to pick him up from the airport on Wed. and to drive him back on Sat.

iii) Discussed costs for dinner and snacks at the talks and seminars. Costs of the hosted speaker were included in the seminar budget Erica passed around.

iv) Erica informed the caucus that a print had been purchased from a local artists for us to present Dr. Rowe as a thank-you present. Caucus discussed having it framed and possibly giving him an SFU t-shirt as well.

5. Treasurer Position – Simon Zappia is the only nominee. He trained as an accountant in Italy.

Motion to declare Simon Zappia as our new treasurer made by Erica, seconded by Mike.	Carried
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6. Secretary opening; future Chair and Co-chair openings.

- a) Jullianna has agreed to act as secretary at the next caucus meeting.
- b) Chair and Co-chair positions will be open at the end of April.

7. Reports from committees

- a) GSS – Andreas Steimel
 - i. GSS has met 3 times since his last report.
 - ii. GSS budget has been approved.
 - iii. Home theatre system has been set up in the grad lounge and movie nights start this semester. Caucuses could hold events there and have use of the system.
 - iv. We have a new ombudsperson.
 - v. Wade Parkhouse Dean of Grad Studies was at GSS meeting talking about GFs and Ph.D president research stipend. He advised that there will be less GFs when there are more Ph.D students because Ph.D stipend is guaranteed. They are considering changes that would allow departments to get rid of the President stipends and offer but more GFs. Ph.D students would be eligible to apply for these GFs. There will be a vote next week. The problem identified by Sarah Jamieson is that GFs have time limits for degree completion whereas President stipends do not. This allows students to get funds while they are writing up regardless of GF degree progress requirements.

Motion to declare accept circulated budget proposal for Grad Symposium and Hosted Speaker events made by Erica, seconded by Sarah.	Carried
Motion to reimburse \$58.00 for meeting expenses made by Erica, seconded by Devin.	Carried
Motion to extend meeting to 5pm made by Erica and seconded by Simon Z.	Carried

- b) TSSU – Mike Wogin
 - i. General meeting Wednesday
 - ii. York University strike. Ontario has passed back to work legislation for

Monday. This is important for us because York is meter stick for our union negotiations and we go back to bargaining table next year.

- iii. Looking for people to march to Michael Stevenson, university president, to support York strikers.
- iv. SFU has taken funds from child care burseries. A grievance is in the works. Email Mike if interested.
- v. Feb 4th 2:30 rally for funding.
- vi. As TAs must get 42 hours prep time. Report to TSSU if you don't get this.

c) Faculty mole – Carson Kever

- i. No news.

d) DGSC – Jenn Sunday, Jeff Joy

- i. No reps present at report time.

e) DSC – Sarah Jamieson, Lindsay Farrell

- i. Committee met once to assess undergrad award applicants.
- ii. Spring travel awards were due today. Travel awards to a maximum of \$500 for international or domestic travel can be applied for in the semester of travel.
- iii. Decisions will be announced soon.
- iv. GF application deadline April 15th.

8. 'Graduate Student Survival Guide' update – Isabelle Raymond

a) Sections that require updating:

- i. Funding information.
- ii. Workplace harassment policies.
- iii. Change from SFSS to GSS membership needs to be addressed.
- iv. Lots of little adjustments are required. Isabelle will send her full report to the caucus executive.

9. Next meeting – Feb. 27th, 2009

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Erica, seconded by Janey.	Carried
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