



## **Biology Graduate Caucus**

**Friday, June 12th, 2009, 3:30 pm**

**In attendance:** Isabelle Raymond, Thomas Unsoeld, Tim Gray, Dhani Kalidasan, Rian Dickson, Jennifer Trowell, Erica Jeffery, Janey Lam, Juliana Yeung, HT Law, Anastasia Kuzmin

### 1. Welcome

#### a) Introductions/ Attendance

i) Isabelle requests all questions to be directed accordingly at the end of the meeting, with the limit of 3 minutes for questions.

b) Any additions to agenda? None

### 2. Claim meeting expenses.

Motion to reimburse Isabelle Raymond \$ 19.66 [chips and drinks] from Bisc Grad Caucus funds made by Erica, seconded by Janey.	
--	--

Carried

### 3. Housing Survey:

- The housing survey is a Biology Grad Caucus initiative intended to provide information on the living environment, cost of living (e.g. rent), transportation requirements, and etc. for different neighborhoods in the lower mainland. The results from the survey will hopefully benefit new incoming graduate students to search for a place to live.
- The survey will be closed on June 21<sup>st</sup>. Information from the survey will be sent to the faculty and Dave Carmen will post the results on the Biology website ([http://www.sfu.ca/biology/grad\\_caucus/Active/housing\\_survey/housing.html](http://www.sfu.ca/biology/grad_caucus/Active/housing_survey/housing.html)).
- Erica suggests sending the survey to GSS and to the MBB department.

### 4. Bisc Grad Mentorship Program and September BBQ Planning Committee

- The event will be organized just like last September.
- The Events Committee will be organizing the BBQ
- Alex will recruit mentors sometime in August and match-up the new students with a mentor

### 5. Summer BBQ

- Janey suggests having a summer BBQ.
- Janey will plan the event if there are other people willing to help with buying food and drinks, BBQ, and clean up. Also, we will need to confirm a location

- that will not affect the ventilation system.
  - An e-mail will be sent out the Bisc-grads to see if there are any interests for such an event.
6. Nomination for Grad Hosted Speaker
- Nominations will start in August
  - Previous nominations will also be considered
7. Events committee
- No one on the Events Committee has Serving It Right at the present moment and completion of the course is needed to serve alcohol.
  - The course costs \$35.

Motion to approve funding from the Bisc Caucus funds to pay for a member of the Bisc Caucus Events Committee to complete the Serving It Right course. Motion made by Isabelle, seconded by Jenn.	Carried
--	---------

8. Reports from committees
- a. GSS - Thomas Unsoeld
- The fee increase to the graduate benefits plan is to keep the same level of service in the coming year. The increase was approved at 69% based on an online vote completed by SFU graduate students. Our graduate benefits plan will continue to be provided by Sunlife Financial.
  - New video equipment is being installed in the GSS lounge (2000 level, Maggie Benston Centre). This opens up the potential of having Bisc Grad movie nights in the fall; potential movie options include Planet Earth.
- b. TSSU - Mike Wogin  
No news
- c. Faculty Mole - Simon Goring  
No news
- d. DSC - Rian Dickson  
No news
- e. International Students Rep - Muhammad Arashad  
No news
9. Election for the new Biology Grad Caucus Treasurer:
- Erica motions that the caucus appoints Janey Lam as the Electoral Officer. The Electoral officer will be responsible for ensuring that the process of electing new caucus executive member(s) will be carried out according to the constitution in a fair and unbiased manner.
- Second by Jenn

-Motion carried

- Candidate nominated for the Biology Grad Caucus Treasurer position (May 1, 2009 - April 30, 2010):
  - Dhani Kalidasan (Kermode Lab)
- Election results: 8 votes for Dhani to be the new treasurer. There were no opposed or abstained votes.
- Candidate elected for Biology Grad Caucus Treasurer position (May 1, 2009 - April 30, 2010):
  - Dhani Kalidasan

10. Questions? No

11. Next meeting: End of July/ beginning of August

12. Isabelle motions to adjourn the meeting

- Seconded by Juliana
- Motion carried