



## **Biology Graduate Caucus**

**Friday, August 28, 2009, 3:30 pm**

**In attendance:** Janey Lam, Isabelle Raymond, Erica Jeffery, Juliana Yeung, Dhani Kalidasan, Thomas Unsoeld, Chantale Begin, Justin Suraci, Simon Goring, and Mike Wogin

### 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?

- Rick Mercer - Sept 10, 2009

### 2. Events

#### a) Welcome/ Mentorship party/ BBQ

i) The department has approved the \$200 for food and non-alcoholic beverages for the event. The money will be reimbursed after the food and drinks are purchased.

ii) Justin Suraci will be getting the liquor license and serving the alcohol instead of Brendan Connors.

### 3. Steering committee meeting:

#### a) Meeting: Thursday, August 20, 2009

i) We approved Justin Suraci getting a cash advance from the caucus core funds to purchase alcohol. A total of \$625 was approved for Justin to purchase alcohol for the Mentorship party and future Bisc Caucus events.

As of August 28, 2009:

- Justin has already purchased the alcohol, liquor license, and completed serving it right. The receipts total \$620 (\$560 [alcohol] + serving it right + liquor license)
- Justin will submit the receipts to GSS

b) Some travel award winners are in the field and can't get their award before the deadline.

i) We approved Dhani Kalidasan in getting a cash advance in the amount of \$500 (remainder of travel awards) from the core funds account until winner can claim their award. Any unclaimed travel awards will be deposited into the caucus trust account to be used for caucus operations.

As of August 28, 2009

- GSS is not able to provide a cash advance with meeting

minutes. However, they are able to do a funds transfer with an e-mail. \$500 will be transferred into our caucus trust account.

#### 4. Water cooler

- i) No one is sure who is responsible for the machine and it has not been maintained for many years. It was decided by the caucus that it was not worth it to fix the machine.

#### 5. Rick Mercer - Spread The Net Campaign

- i) The Spread The Net Campaign launch will take place at SFU on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Rick Mercer and his camera crew will be on campus filming the launch. SFU was chosen to be this year's campaign launch site because SFU raised over \$25,000 in the past 2 years for the cause. The Lowenberger Lab spearheaded this campaign at SFU for the past 2 years.
  - Jerry Ericson asked for some suggestions of TV worthy ideas from the department:
    - Archer fish, Tarantula, Mosquito in a box, Banana DNA extraction, Fish out a fish

#### 6. Reports from committees

##### a. GSS - Thomas Unsoeld

- 1) AV equipment is now set up in the GSS lounge. A specific list of movies that can be played due to copyright reasons. There are no protocols for the use of the room and any grad student can borrow the room. Student will need to contact the GSS to learn how to set up the machine to use the room
- 2) Suggestion: Biology movie night?

##### b. TSSU - Mike Wogin

No news

##### c. Faculty Mole - Simon Goring

- 1) The last faculty meeting was cancelled
- 2) Departmental 3 yr plan: funding distribution and new hires will relate to the hot topics at the moment (ie. toxicology and neurobiology). This is to benefit the long-term growth of the department.
- 3) A web vote was completed by Biology faculty members on the types of new hires.
  - a. The suggested new hires: conservation (CWE), behavioral ecology/evolution biology, environmental/toxicology, neurobiology (linked with psychology, kinesiology, and health sciences)
  - b. All these specialties can be joint hires across several departments, which will make them easier to hire.

- 4) Research grants: Difficult to maintain all the stipends (President's research stipend for PhD's) therefore they will be changed to GFs. This decision will be finalized in May. President's stipend is confirmed for people who started before a specific date.

d. DGSC - Jenn Sunday, Emily Darling

- 1) Emily is in the field and will be back in 9 months.
- 2) Chantel Begin has volunteered to replace Emily as one of the DGSC reps.

Motion to approve Chantel Begin to replace Emily Darling as a Biology Grad Caucus rep on the DGSC. Motion made by Isabelle, seconded by Janey.	Carried
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e. DSC - Lindsay Farrell, Rian Dickson

No news

f. International Students Rep - Muhammad Arashad

No news

7. Next Meeting: End of September. The specific date will be confirmed via e-mail.

8. Isabelle motions to adjourn the meeting

- Seconded by Juliana
- Motion carried