



Biology Graduate Caucus

Wednesday, September 23, 2009, 3:30 pm

In attendance: Janey Lam, Isabelle Raymond, Erica Jeffery, Juliana Yeung, Dhani Kalidasan, Simon Zappia, Chantale Begin, Justin Suraci, Jenn Sunday, Aleks Maljkovic, Alex Chubaty, and HT Law.

1. Welcome

a) Introductions/ Attendance

i) Janey 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?

- Terry Fox Run - Oct 1

- HT Law noticed that there wasn't a Biology team entered for the Terry Fox Run and he suggests that Biology should enter a team. HT has agreed to get in touch with Steve Halford, the Biology organizer for previous Terry Fox Runs.

2. Claim meeting expenses:

Motion to reimburse Juliana Yeung \$ 8.38 [chips] from Bisc Grad Caucus funds. Motion made by Janey, seconded by Aleks.	Carried
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3. Events

a) Welcome/ Mentorship party/ BBQ

i) Feedback: There was a great turn out at the event and everyone seemed like they had a great time. It was fortunate that we were able to move the party to 4:30pm, as we were able to include the people attending the department seminar.

ii) Finances:

Motion to reimburse Isabelle Raymond \$ 57.99 [new propane tank for BBQ] from Bisc Grad Caucus funds. Motion made by Janey, seconded by Simon.	Carried
Motion to reimburse Alex Chubaty \$ 16.54 [name tags] from Bisc Grad Caucus funds. Motion made by Janey, seconded by Chantel.	Carried

iii) GSS requires a new motion to clarify the funds to be reimbursed to Justin Suraci for Serving It Right and alcohol purchase.

Rescind Motions: Motion to rescind motion #4 made on July 29, 2009 (0907 Bisc Caucus Minutes) and motions #1 and #3 made on August 20, 2009 (0908 Steering committee meeting minutes). Motion made by Janey, 2 nd by Alex	Carried
Motion to reimburse Justin Suraci \$ 634.87 [Serving it Right, liquor license, alcohol for Bisc Grad Caucus events] from Bisc Grad Caucus funds. Motion made by Janey, seconded by Jenn.	Carried

b) Symposium/ Grad-Hosted Speaker – Justin Suraci

All nominations for the Grad-Hosted Speaker are in and Justin will compile a list. Justin proposes to make an online survey to tally the votes. A total of 5 speakers were nominated this year. The Bisc Grad caucus agrees to only present the newly chosen candidates and ignore the list from previous years.

c) X'mas Party

i) Planning meeting in October, two reps (skits and door prizes)

- Two reps from the Bisc Grad Caucus are needed to coordinate with the department planners (mostly the Techs) to help pick the themes, coordinate duties, food, entertainment, and etc.
- Grad students in previous years have been in charge of dealing with food (pizza), entertainment, and door prizes. Three people are needed to deal with each of the aforementioned items.
- One person from the events committee needs to go to the meeting and we hope to have another volunteer to join in the meeting.
- The events committee will e-mail the Bisc Grad students to get new volunteers. Optimally, we should have 3 events committee members and 3 volunteers organizing the event.

ii) Ideas for theme(s)?

- Talent show theme. This concept is easily understood by all and we can get everyone involved. Jenn Sunday suggests 'SFU's Got Talent' (mirroring: America's Got Talent)

d) Halloween Party?

- i) There have been problems in the past with security (a fight broke out a few years ago). MBB usually organizes one, so they might approach us.

e) Biology Movie Night:

- i) Alex suggests having a Halloween movie night instead of a party. The GSS movie room can be easily booked and the Wednesday evening before Halloween will be a good time to have it.
- ii) The Grad Caucus should provide beverages and food (pizza) during the movie. We should order (~\$200) worth of pizza. Pizza and pop should be provided free of charge, and we should charge for alcohol.
- iii) Organizers will need to ask GSS for the procedure for serving alcohol in the GSS lounge
- iv) Showing a double feature is an option: 5pm – 7pm; and 8pm-10pm.

Allow people to arrive/leave/ socialize in the middle.

v) Janey and Isabelle will e-mail for assistance. The events committee and execs will organize this event.

3. Reports from committees

a. GSS

- i. Car Coop: The GSS has previously paid a membership fee that allowed grad students access to the coop without paying additional fees, however this was not renewed. It is possible that the coop was not frequently used by students. Erica will find out more on why this program was dropped.

b. TSSU – Mike Wogin

- i. Contract negotiations: A committee is being formed to negotiate the new contract for grad students. There is still room on the committee for interested students.

c. Faculty Mole – Simon Goring

- i. No news

d. DGSC – Jenn Sunday, Chantale Begin

- i. Isabelle Cote is the new chair of DGSC on a one year term.
- ii. Western Dean's agreement: Grad students are allowed to take courses at other universities and get credit at SFU, but there is a max number of credits that can be transferred.
- iii. Faculty requests that graduate courses to be more organized: This will allow pre-requisites to be offered in sequence before the subsequent course(s). DGSC is going to bring this issue up at the next faculty meeting. The BISC grad caucus agrees that this will be good for grad students.

e. DSC – Lindsay Farrell, Rian Dickson

No news

f. International Students Rep - Muhammad Arashad

No news

5. Finances – Treasurer's report

- i) We hit our budget for the mentorship party

6. Getting more people out at caucus meeting:

- a) Brainstorming ideas on how to get more BISC grad students involved/ be present at grad caucus:
 - Announce/ invite grads at department talks/ events
 - Have several caucus members present when announcing
 - Explain to students that events and important decisions (DGSC/ DGS) are announced/ made during caucus meeting
 - Reps should be responsible for coming to all caucus meetings

- Suggested to have a rep from each lab present at the caucus meetings. Everyone in caucus needs to spread the word on the importance of our grad caucus.
7. Next Meeting: End of October. The specific date will be confirmed via e-mail.
 8. Janey motions to adjourn the meeting.
 - Seconded by Erica
 - Motion carried