



## Biology Graduate Caucus

Wednesday, March 3, 2010, 3:30 pm

**In attendance:** Janey Lam, Juliana Yeung, Dhani Kalidasan, Thomas Unsoeld, Isabelle Raymond, Justin Suraci, Samineh Deheshi, Erica Jeffery, Matt Huntley, Anna Drake, Christine Rock, Mike Wogin, Jenn Sunday and Muhammad Arshad

### 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.

#### ii) Additions to the agenda:

Symposium Cash advances

### 2. Claim meeting expenses:

Motion to reimburse Janey Lam \$9.85 [chips] from Bisc Grad Caucus funds. Motion made by Isabelle, seconded by Chantale.	
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Carried

### 3. Events!

#### a) Grad Symposium

##### i) Symposium/ Grad-hosted speaker:

Dates: March 18-19, 2010

Volunteers: Grad Symposium Committee

##### Speaker: David Conover

Time: - A special Les Ecol talk in SSB 7172; 12:30pm - 1:30pm

- He is open to meet with some groups separately

- Invite David to the department talk by Gordon Rintoul

- Grad student only talk in B9242; 5pm -6:30 pm

Food/ Beverages: Food and drinks will be provided at the Les Ecol talk and the grad student only talk

Speaker Gift: A cookbook from the C-restaurant that emphasizes sustainable seafood

##### Student Symposium: Biology Research Olympiad

Time: Friday, March 19, 2010; starting at 1:30pm and should end latest at 4:30pm, depending on the number of labs participating

Location: C9001 booked

Schedule: determined by Jenn; 2 breaks will be incorporated into the 3 hours of talks

Food/ Beverages: Snacks and tea/ coffee will be provided during the symposium

Symposium Social: 6000 level of the SSB

Food/ Beverages: Sandwiches, veggie trays, chips, cookies, and fruits will be served. Each attendee will receive one beer and the subsequent will be purchased. Pop will be free.

Approval of Budget:

i) BISC department: will cover the grad hosted speaker's travel and hotel costs and meals.

Barb has approved us to use the remaining beverages left over from the department Christmas party and use of the Biology Department vehicle to pick up the speaker/ food/ etc.

ii) DGSC: \$250

iii) DSC: none due to budget cuts

iv) GSS: our application is pending on approval; will be determined during the March 8th GSS meeting.

Reimbursements:

Motion to reimburse Brendan Connors up to \$350 for the purchase of alcoholic beverages and a liquor license for the Grad Symposium Social from the Bisc Caucus Core funds and the GSS grant. Motion made by Janey, second by Erica.	Carried
Motion to reimburse Jordan Thomson up to \$250 for the Biology Research Olympiad prizes from the DGSC grant. . Motion made by Janey, seconded by Erica.	Carried
Motion to reimburse Isabelle Raymond up to \$800 for the purchase of food/ non-alcoholic beverages for the Grad Symposium Social and the gift for the grad hosted speaker (David Conovor) from the Bisc Caucus Core funds and the GSS grant. Motion made by Janey, seconded by Erica.	Carried

4. Nominations for Caucus Representatives:

Since last year, the Bisc Grad Caucus has adopted to follow the GSS in their constitution for holding the terms of executive positions for one year ending in April.

- People can nominate themselves for executive positions.
- There will be at least one week for nominations and at least one week for campaigning.
- Isabelle will send out an invitation for biology grad students to send in nominations for these positions.
- The creation of the Events Committee for 2009-2010 year:
  - Deemed a success
  - 3 people is a good number; each person was in charge of organizing one major event.

- Organizers were able to find volunteers to assist with the planning and preparation of the events.
- DGSC/ DSC reps:
  - 2 year terms? This should be a good idea since this will allow volunteers to learn the system
  - Aim to introduce the 2 year term into the constitution
- Caucus Executives and Representatives - incumbent:
  - a) Chair - Isabelle Raymond
  - b) Associate Chair - Janey Lam
  - c) Treasurer - Dhani Kalidasan
  - d) Secretary - Juliana Yeung
  - e) Member at Large - Erica Jeffery
  - f) Webmaster - Alex Chubaty
  - g) Events committee - Justin Suraci, Brendan Connors, Anna Drake
  - h) GSS - Thomas Unsoeld
  - i) TSSU - Mike Wogin
  - j) Faculty mole - Simon Goring
  - k) DGSC - Jenn Sunday, Chantale Begin
  - l) DSC - Lindsay Farrell, Rian Dickson
  - m) International Student Rep - Muhammad Arshad

## 5. Reports from committees

- a. GSS - Thomas Unsoeld
  - i. Benefit Plan Endowment Fund: The motion for the Benefit Plan Endowment Fund has been carried. The set up of the fund for applicants will follow.
  - ii. The Peak Newspaper: The GSS has spoken with the Peak newspaper and they seemed rather unresponsive to the suggestion of introducing changes to their content to better include/ appeal to graduate students.
    - The Biology Grad Caucus supports the GSS in having a referendum to ask graduate students whether they want to discontinue supporting the peak with \$4.90/semester/student.
- b. TSSU - Mike Wogin
  - No new news

- c. Faculty Mole – Samineh Deheshi  
No new news
  - d. DGSC – Jenn Sunday, Chantale Begin
    - i. Budgets: Funding for bringing in an external examiner for PhD students will not be approved; conference calls only.
    - ii. There are no additional funds added to the GFs, however funds will be reallocated to allow for a greater number of GFs.
  - e. DSC – Lindsay Farrell, Rian Dickson  
Not present
  - f. International Students Rep – Muhammad Arshad
    - i. A workshop will be held for assisting international students in filing taxes: March 24th.
5. Next Meeting: March 26, 2010.
6. Janey motions to adjourn the meeting.
- Seconded by Isabelle
  - Motion carried