



Biology Graduate Caucus

Friday, April 30, 2010, 3:30 pm

In attendance: Janey Lam, Isabelle Raymond, Stephanie Green, Juliana Yeung, Dhani Kalidasan, Aleksandra Maljkovic, Alex Chubaty, Joel Harding, Rian Dickson, Brett Favaro, Matt Huntley, Lisa Rear, Jennifer Trowell, Thomas Unsoeld, Mike Wogin, Samineh Deheshi, Shannon Squires, Pamela Smith, Noel Swain, Andreas Steimel, Samantha Franks, Erica Jeffery, Rob Greenland, Muhammad Arashad, and Jenny Linton

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.
- ii) There are no additions to the agenda.

2. Claim meeting expenses:

Motion to reimburse Janey Lam \$8.91 [chips] from Bisc Grad Caucus funds. Motion made by Isabelle, seconded by Juliana.	Carried
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3. Constitutional Amendments

a) Clarification on the number of positions for DGSC and DSC

Lines 122 and 123: addition of '2'

To clarify that there are two (2) representatives elected from the Biology grad caucus for the DGSC and the DSC.

Motion to change lines 122 and 123 in the Biology Grad Caucus constitution to specify that two (2) people will be elected to represent the Biology Grad Caucus on the DGSC and DSC. Motion made by Isabelle, seconded by Aleks Majkovic.	Carried
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b) Specify that Graduate Council refers to the GSS Council (Line 151)

Motion to specify in line 151 in the text of the constitution that Graduate Council refers to GSS Council. Motion made by Isabelle, seconded by Samineh.	Carried
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c) Specify that DGSC and DSC rep positions are two-year terms (Lines 157-162)

Motion to specify in the Biology Grad Caucus constitution that DGSC and DSC representative positions are two-year terms. Motion made by Isabelle, seconded by Aleks Majkovic.	Carried
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d) Clarify in the Biology Grad Caucus constitution that single nominations for both officer and representative positions in the Biology Grad Caucus must be ratified by a majority at a Biology Grad Caucus meeting. (Lines 185-186)

Motion to clarify in the Biology Grad Caucus constitution that single nominations for both officer and representative positions in the Biology Grad Caucus must be ratified by majority in a vote at a Biology Grad Caucus meeting. This will also include the selection of the GSS council representative. Motion made by Isabelle, seconded by Noel.	Carried
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4. Elections:

- a) To appoint an electoral officer for the Biology Grad Caucus election.
- The electoral officer is appointed by a member of the Biology Grad Caucus.
 - The electoral officer will be responsible for ensuring that the process of electing new caucus executives will be carried out according to the constitution in a fair and unbiased manner.

Motion to appoint an electoral officer. Motion made by Isabelle, seconded by Janey.	Carried
Alex Chubaty appoints Isabelle to be the electoral officers. Appointment made by Alex, seconded by Jenn.	Carried

- b) Results of the present election will be in effect from close of AGM, May 1st, 2010 to April 30th, 2010.
- Voting will be done by secret ballot either by paper, electronic, or blind show of hands.
 - There will be no proxy votes.
 - Neither Chair nor Associate Chair can vote except in event of a tie.
 - Since candidates must be ratified by a majority, not acclaimed.
 - Win by majority of votes at quorum meeting (8 caucus members)

Motion to vote by blind show of hands. Motion made by Isabelle, seconded by Erica.	Carried
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- Electoral procedure:
 - Position and standing nomination(s) announced
 - Request for further nominations for that position
 - Vote by secret ballot
 - Report and record results.

- c) All positions, except for the Faculty Mole position, had only one candidate nominated. It is proposed by the electoral officers to combine the candidate elections for all the Biology Grad Caucus representatives and officers, except for the Faculty Mole position.

Motion to combine all the candidate elections, except for the Faculty Mole position. Motion made by Isabelle, seconded by Aleks Majkovic.	Carried
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d) Candidates for caucus positions (Incumbent)

- 1) Chair – Brett Favaro (Isabelle Raymond)
- 2) Associate Chair – Stephanie Green (Janey Lam)
- 3) Treasurer – Dhani Kalidasan (Incumbent)
- 4) Secretary – Matt Huntley (Juliana Yeung)
- 5) Member at Large – Janey Lam (Erica Jeffery)
- 6) Webmaster – Alex Chubaty (Incumbent)
- 7) GSS Rep – Thomas Unsoeld (Incumbent)
- 8) TSSU Steward – Mike Wogin (Brian Labore)
- 9) DGSC
 - i. Jenn Sunday, 1yr-term (Incumbent)
 - ii. Erica Jeffery, 2 yr-term (Chantale Begin)
- 10) DSC – Samantha Franks (Lindsay Farrell)
- 11) International Student’s Rep – Muhammad Arashad (Incumbent)

Motion to ratify all of the above mentioned candidates. Motion made by Isabelle, seconded by Janey.	Motion carried by a majority vote
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e) Events Committee Officers (3): the positions have not been filled.

- i. _____ (Anna Drake)
- ii. _____ (Justin Suraci)
- iii. _____ (Brendan Connors)

f) Election for the Faculty Mole position

- Candidates: Juliana Yeung and Samineh Deheshi (incumbent: Simon Goring)

Motion to ratify Samineh for the position of the Faculty Mole. Motion made by Isabelle, seconded by Janey.	Motion carried by a majority vote
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5. Treasurer’s year-end report

a) State of finances:

- Balances of Trust account and Core fund (\$2400) and Petty Cash (\$140)
- Expenses incurred from Core fund from May 2009 – April 2010 (\$717 for travel awards)
- August 31st is the year-end of the fiscal year
- Some expenses have yet to be deducted

- The exact amount of travel awards for next semester will be set at the next caucus meeting.

6. Reports from committees

a. GSS - Thomas Unsoeld

- i) A new president, a new secretary, and a new treasurer have been elected.
- ii) The participation in the election was very low. As well, the participation in the referendum questions did not reach 10%; therefore the motions could not be passed. However, for some of the questions there was a majority vote, and the GSS council passed the motion for two of the three questions.
 - 1. 84% voted for the executive director to have signing authority. The council believed that this was a strong enough decision and the motion was passed by the GSS council.
 - 2. 83% voted in favor for two positions on the GSS council to be available for all members of the GSS. The vote was strong enough and the GSS council decided to put the decision forward.
 - 3. 53% voted in favor of stopping the GSS funding to the PEAK. The GSS council thought that this was not strong enough of a majority to pass the motion.

b. TSSU - Mike Wogin

c. Faculty Mole - Samineh Deheshi

- i. The decisions for the Graduate Fellowships (GFs) will be out in a month
- ii. The DGSC suggests the faculty to discourage students from going on 8 years for their PhD. It was suggested to charge students full tuition for 8 years. It was also suggested that some students should take a leave of absence from the program as opposed to paying tuition and having it count as a semester towards 8 years.

d. DGSC - Jenn Sunday, Chantale Begin

e. DSC - Lindsay Farrell, Rian Dickson

- i. GF applications will be reviewed in the coming month by the DSC.
- ii. There was an explicit discussion on supervisors NOT ranking their own students.

f. International Students Rep - Muhammad Arashad

- i. A workshop will be held for international students with family. The workshop will include some suggestions to help spouses get jobs.
- ii. A snowboarding trip to Grouse Mountain is planned for Feb

5th.

7. Housing Survey

- Alex Chubaty is going to put the survey together again this year. Like last year, the survey will be sent to MBB, BISC, MPM, and MET.
- It was suggested to send the survey to Chem and
Physics

8. Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 26th, 2010. B9242.

- It is proposed that Wednesday will be a better day and perhaps it can improve attendance.

9. Isabelle motions to adjourn the meeting.

- Seconded by Alex Chubaty
- Motion carried