



Biology Graduate Caucus

Wednesday, May 26, 2010, 3:30 pm

In attendance: Brett Favaro, Matt Huntley, Jennifer Trowell, Thomas Unsoeld, Holly Middleton, Rob Greenland, Emily Darling, Erica Jeffery, Aleks Maljkovic, Samineh Deheshi, Dhani Kalidasan, Samantha Franks, Emily Meuser, Amel Berrima, Noel Swain, Jenn Sunday

1. Welcome

a) Introductions/ Attendance

b) Additions to agenda

- housing survey deadline is June 20th
- Rian Dickson suggested directing the caucus to look into increasing stipends for grad students

c) Claim meeting expenses-reimburse Brett

motion- Thomas
seconded- Erica
motion passed

2. Clarification of DGSC representatives

-Jenn Sunday and Emily Darling currently, Erica Jeffery will take over when Jenn's term expires

3. Housekeeping

a. Reports from committees

i. DGSC-

- a supervisor-grad student conflict was discussed, a reminder that this is one of the purposes of the DGSC

ii. GSS-

- senate committee nominations still open until June 11th
- info on transferring caucus funds was brought up
- planning on moving to Halpern centre possibly as early as August

iii. TSSU- no update

iv. Faculty Mole-

- native education centre in Vancouver requested 3? Volounteers to run tutorials. More info in an email to come

- 498-499 issues with same supervisor. ie. Are they able to do 6 credits in one semester. Time commitment issues with professors as well as grad students.
- Jonathan Moore possibly coming into the E2O group as Assistant Professor means we might get more space for Biology labs/offices. Possibility of moving lab/analytical space around between the labs
- Implementing emergency power in Biology

v. DSC-

- graduate fellowships have been ranked and sent to office, students will be notified soon
- concerns were brought up about impartiality in ranking own students as well as standardizing ranking procedures. Both positives and negatives of each were discussed. Will be brought up at next DSC meeting

b. Barbecue equipment - Aleks will sort it out

c. Does the caucus need to buy anything else this semester? -No

4. Draw travel awards - 8 names

Winners: Brendan Connors, Lindsay Farrell, Thomas Unsoeld, Sebastien Pardo, HT Law, Doug Braun, Laura Gleeson, Ben Sandkam

2 subs: B1 Holly Middleton

B2 Carson Keever

Deadline for submitting claim is July 30th

5. Note the need for event planners

-nominated Ben Sandkam and Sebastien Pardo

6. Discussion- Objectives of the caucus

a. Review current mission statement, discuss whether updates are needed

-Brett discussed whether the objectives in the constitution are in line with current grad student goals. Possible tuition issues were discussed and whether the caucus is able to explore that avenue.

-Aleks - grad students in Biology need to be informed of the importance of Caucus, that it's not just a BBQ committee

-Erica suggested mentors should be bringing mentees to Caucus

-Jenn - too many nitpicky details may drive students away

-Aleks - grad students should be looking to the Caucus as a resource for help

7. Form tentative plan for year's event schedule-May 2010 to May 2011- bumped to next meeting

8. Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, June 30th at 3:30pm in B9242

9. Adjournment

motion, seconded