



Biology Graduate Caucus

November 17, 2010 – 3:30PM, B9242

Chair: Brett Favaro (absent)
Associate chair: Stephanie Green

Attendance: Steph Green, Matt Huntley, Alex Chubaty, Rob Greenland, Jesse Taylor, Juliana Yeung, Emily Meuser, Sebastian Pardo, Thomas Unsoeld, Lisa Rear, Jennifer Trowell, Birgit Schwarz, Emily Whatton, Anna Drake, Jenn Sunday

1. Scholarship issues (2 motions to be voted on)
 - a. Discussion about the GF letter to the Dean of Graduate Studies

Two issues:

- taking too long to inform students
- is there any payment flexibility?

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| Motion: The caucus supports submitting the letter regarding the tardy distribution of graduate fellowships to the dean of graduate studies, Wade Parkhouse, before the end of the year (2010) | Carried- Unanimous |
| Motioned by Emily | |
| Seconded by Juliana | |

- b. Discussion about PPD letter to the Dean of Graduate Studies
 - issues about PPD and mandatory TAships
 - should probably be brought up as a Department issue

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| Motion: The caucus supports submitting the letter regarding the Provost Prize of Distinction (PPD) to the dean of graduate studies, Wade Parkhouse. | Carried- Majority in favour, 2 abstain |
| Motioned by Steph | |
| Seconded by Emily | |

- c. Institution of a sub-committee on scholarship issues, to begin in January and to be chaired by Rian Dickson and Samantha Franks
 - email will be sent out after Christmas

2. Should caucus manage payday coffee? – Anna Drake

- low volunteership, Techs have done it a few times in the past and want the tradition to continue but we might need a change in the way it's done
- decided on bringing it up at Departmental Seminars

3. Holiday party (Dec 10)

-need a Master of Ceremonies (a prof?)

-need a Santa

a. Caucus is in charge of the “theme” and the entertainment.

b. We need a group of volunteers to help

c. Labs to volunteer for entertainment

Sub-committee: Emily, Matt, Emily, Sebastian

4. Claim workshop expenses

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| Motion to reimburse Steph \$263 [food, gifts, liquor] from BISC Grad Caucus funds. Moted by Alex Seconded by Thomas | Carried |
| Motion to reimburse Brett \$35 [Serving it Right] from BISC Grad Caucus funds. Moted by Alex Seconded by Emily | Carried |
| Motion to reimburse Jenn Sunday \$35 [Serving it Right] from BISC Grad Caucus funds. Moted by Alex Seconded by Emily | Carried |

5. Workshop feedback

- Recordings to be made available
- Presentations to be made available

Suggestions:

Thomas-revisions weren't completely addressed

Part 2 seminar in the Spring

-cover letter tips, choosing a journal, etc.

Alex - suggested making it a permanent Workshop feature

Chemistry and other Departments have shown interests in getting involved

6. Reports from committees

a. GSS – Thomas Unsoeld

- GSS Referendum questions will be emailed out shortly for online vote
one question: adding an alternate councilor position (in order to improve chances to make quorum at council meetings)

- Bullfrog Power decision passed

- GSS council voted on in favor to create specific portfolios for GSS

Executive Committee members:

- Outreach Coordinators (2)
- Graduate Student Life Coordinator
- Graduate Services Coordinator
- Professional Development Coordinator

- Nominations for GSS Executive Committee have started, two positions for general members (= any grad student) are available; time commitment: minimum of 20 hours/month; compensation: stipend of \$400/month

more details:

<http://www.sfgradsociety.ca/Elections.html>

b. TSSU – Brian LaBore

- collective bargaining for new TSSU collective agreement is going slow
- Workload Reviews: Any TA has the right to a workload review if they are being overworked

c. Faculty Mole – Samineh Deheshi

- single credit course for attendance to Departmental Seminars to be put on the books

- Monday feb 7 or tues feb 8 for inviting prospective grad students, overlap with grad symposium?

- GSS grant allocation deadline on Jan 28, need a budget in for grad symposium before that

7. Grad Hosted Speaker Voting deadline change

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| Motion to change deadline for grad hosted speaker voting to Monday, Nov 22 Motioned by Alex Seconded by Emily | Carried |
| Motion to have next Biology Grad Caucus Meeting on Wed, Dec 8 Motioned by Emily Seconded by Steph | Carried |

8. Adjournment

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| Motion to adjourn | Carried |
| Motioned by Alex | |
| Seconded by Emily | |