



Biology Graduate Caucus

May 18th, 2011 – 3:30 – 4:30 PM

In Attendance: Jeanette Bruce, Thomas Unsoeld, Carmeu Sarnowski, Rob Greenland, Dhani Kalidasan, Danica Hogan, Sherri Elwell, Jenny Linton, Doug Braun, Joel Harding, Cassandra Carroll, Erica Jeffery, Franz Simon, Tanya Stemberger, Alex Chubaty, Noel Swain.

1. Discussion of Duties of Caucus members (described on the caucus webpage: http://www.sfu.ca/biology/grad_caucus/about.html).
2. Trust Fund Discussion/Vote
 1. Permanent projector for B9242
 - Brian Medford and Felix Breden are amiable to the idea of the department paying half of the projector cost if caucus provides other half.
 - Cost is \$1600 (\$1500- 2000 range) for projector without installation.
 - More research needed about installation cost.

Motion to keep this idea on the table

Motioned: Alex

Seconded: Rob

Carried (unanimous)

2. Biology T-shirt
 - Contest for logo/what they say on them
 - Jeanette will get an idea of how many people are interested
 - Suggested that caucus should look for sustainable/ ecofriendly/ sweatshop free shirts and charge \$5 to cover these costs.

Motion to keep this idea on the table

Motioned: Sherri

Seconded: Joel

Carried (unanimous)

3. Appliances for grad lounge
 - Coffee maker (\$60-200)
 - Toaster Oven (\$60-200)
 - Concerns about theft of such items from the grad lounge and who is going to clean these items.

Motion to keep this idea on the table

Motioned: Jeanette

Second: Noel

Not carried (unanimous)

4. E2O research derby funding (\$200)
 - Concerns expressed about exclusivity of this event (only open to E2O students).

Motion to keep this idea on the table

Motioned: Brett (via Doug)

Seconded: Jenny

Not carried (unanimous)

5. Randomly drawn travel grants
 - \$100 increments drawn randomly from the department

Motion to keep this idea on the table

Motioned: Alex

Seconded: Rob

Not carried (unanimous)

Caucus will remain open to new suggestions to spend this money until a new GSS grant is applied for.

3. Caucus meeting time: to be discussed in September.
4. Fall welcome BBQ/Orientation-
 - Suggested that a half hour of extra time should be added to orientation to allow more time for each speaker (7 mins/person).
 - BBQ could be moved to lunch to break up the day. Drinks/social could be planned for end of day after sessions.
 - BBQ planning needs to start in June at the latest to allow time for acquisition of liquor/serving licenses.
 - Cassandra is tentatively going to take over organizing the mentorship program from Alex.
5. Committee Updates:
 1. DGSC update
 - Researching Master's degree completion times further.
 - Reminder: grads can talk to Tanya to bring concerns to the DGSC.
 2. Faculty Mole
 - Discussion of Master's degree completion times continued.

3. GSS
 - GSS is going to be hiring an advocate for Grad students. Advocate duties will include assisting students to resolve conflicts with supervisors.
 - Student staff position available: 2 hrs/day, Mon-Fri.
 - Travel Grants: June 1st deadline.
 - U-pass referendum. *Vote June 1-2.*
4. Scholarships
 - Discussion of Graduate Fellowship (GF) allocation. Instead of the current criteria (grades, publications, stage of degree), guarantee MSc students 1 GF and PhD students 2 GFs throughout their degree. This is still in preliminary stages of development.
5. Other
 - Notes from publishing workshop will be available on-line shortly.

Motion to Adjourn Meeting

Motioned: Jeanette

Seconded: Alex

Carried (unanimous)