



Biology Graduate Caucus

August 24th, 2011 – 3:30 to 4:30 PM

In Attendance: Jeanette Bruce (chair), Sacha O'Regan, Lindsey Button, Julie Wray, Brian LeBore, Thomas Unsoeld, Carmen Sarkowski, Rob Greenland, Corinna Lichotz, Brett Favaro, Doug Braun, Elly Knight, Shierra Elwell, Tammy Baylis, Nicole Gerbrandt, Janey Lam, Cassandra, Carroll, Joel Harding, Erica Jeffery, Jenny Linton, Emily Darling, Steph Green, Jenn Sunday.

1. Welcome – Jeanette
 - No additions to the agenda.
2. Summer BBQ wrap-up - Rob
 - Total success! Reimbursements need to be made.

Motion to reimburse Rob Greenland \$126.19 & Jesse Taylor \$23.52 from core fund.

Motioned – Jeanette

Seconded – Brett

Carried: unanimous

3. Projector update – Brett
 - Brett & Doug have been looking into contributing caucus trust fund to having a permanent HD projector mounted in B9242.
 - Have talked to Brian Medford & Felix Breden. The department is interested in contributing to the projector as well.
 - The university requires that the projector can only be one model that has been approved for installation, which costs \$6000 from SFU's vendor. Installation will cost \$2000. Thus 3 options:
 - a. Abandon the project.
 - b. Work with the department and offer what we can contribute. Brett suggests encouraging the department to explore other vendors, if possible.
 - c. Buy our own projector and manage as a student body, but will not be mounted.
 - Having the mounted projector is important to everyone, especially as this is intended as a legacy project.

Motion to commit up to \$2000 from trust fund to have a new projector permanently mounted in B9242.

Motioned – Brett

Seconded – Rob

Carried: unanimous

4. Biology T-shirts update – Jeanette & Joel

- Almost ready to order! Design is done.
- Shirts will be free for incoming grad students (n = 25), \$5 for current students (supply priority goes to grad students), and \$10 for all others.
- Hope is to have by fall BBQ to give new students their shirts & show them off to current students. Sales will then be open to grad students for a week or two, and then opened up to others. Sales will be restricted to one per person.
- 150 shirts will be ordered.
 - Half (75) will be women's cut in the following sizes:
 - 20 S
 - 20 M
 - 20 L
 - 10 XL
 - 5 XXL
 - Half (75) will be unisex cut in the following sizes:
 - 10 S
 - 24 M
 - 26 L
 - 10 XL
 - 5 XXL
 - Two colours will be ordered (slate and beige), with equal distribution among the styles and sizes. All graphics will be black.

Motion to order 150 shirts in the aforementioned sizes and colours for a total cost of \$1741.60, with \$1000 to be paid to Joel Harding for the deposit and \$741.60 to be paid to ARTEE Custom Screening and Embroidery when we pick up the t-shirts. Funds to be withdrawn from the trust account.

Motioned: Jeanette

Seconded: Brett

Carried: unanimous

Motion to pay Greg Gillespie \$350 from the trust fund for designing our biology t-shirts.

Motioned: Jeanette

Seconded: Brett

Carried: unanimous

Motion to extend the meeting to 4:40 PM.

Motioned: Jeanette

Seconded: Rob

Carried: unanimous

5. Fall welcome BBQ & orientation discussion

- Mentorship: still need 2 mentors! Everything else going well.

- Can't get a liquor license because the event is on a Thursday. Originally planned to have a dry BBQ and then go to Club Ilia for drinks, but Club Ilia's liquor license requires that we also have food. Cost will be \$15 per person for a drink and appies. This far exceeds our budget.
 - Sasha will contact the Highland Pub to see if we can reserve the patio.
 - Could also have the social the next day (Friday).
- Department is contributing \$200 for the BBQ. Caucus would like to contribute \$200 for the social.

Motion to reimburse Sasha O'Regan, Nicole Gerbrandt, and Cassandra Carroll up to \$200 for the Fall orientation social from the core fund.

Motioned: Jeanette

Seconded: Brett

Carried: unanimous

6. Fall by-election discussion

- 3 positions opening up!
 - a. TSSU rep
 - b. GSS alternate
 - c. 3rd events committee member
- Nominations open Sept. 1st for 2 weeks. Campaigning week will be Sept 14th – 21st. Election will happen at the meeting on the 21st.
- Jeanette will announce the positions soon.

7. Grad hosted speaker discussion

- First choice speaker (Greg Graffin) has not responded to our invitation.
- Invitations should be opened up to our 2nd & 3rd choices: Randy Olsen & Kevin Gaston, respectively. Need volunteers to contact, perhaps those who nominated them.

8. Treasury Update – Jenny

- Currently:
 - Core fund: \$775.15
 - Trust fund: \$3935.00
- Projected balances after t-shirts, BBQ reimbursements, and other comings & goings (not including Fall BBQ):
 - Core fund: \$684
 - Trust fund: \$2878.84

Motion to extend the meeting to 4:50 PM.

Motioned: Jeanette

Seconded: Rob

Carried: unanimous

9. Committee Updates:

- a. DGSC
 - No summer meetings

- b. TSSU
 - Prep hours: discussion with the University over the interpretation of how prep hours should be used ended late July. Should hear back from the arbiter in October about the conclusion.
 - Strike vote: a September vote is likely. This does NOT mean a strike is guaranteed; but gives the union the legal positioning to strike if they need to. TSSU and the University have not been at the bargaining table since May. Collective agreement expired April 2010.
 - TA/TM day coming up! Attendees can log time spent at TA/TM day as hours.
 - TSSU currently looking for volunteers.

- c. Faculty Mole

- d. GSS
 - UPass: passed.
 - Must now get 1 pass/month from machines on campus (in Maggie Benson).
 - Look into the exemptions if you need!
 - Payments are still for the full semester.
 - SFSS lockouts: some of the services we pay for (women's centre, Out on campus) are currently unavailable, even though we had no say in the lockout decision.
 - SFPIRG is potentially being kicked out of their current location in the rotunda at the end of their lease with the SFSS. GSS is also in a lease agreement with SFSS which will expire in 6 or 7 years. GSS is wary of losing their space as well.

Motion to Adjourn Meeting
Motioned: Brett
Seconded: Jenn
Carried: unanimous