

**Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus Meeting Minutes (draft until approved)
September 21, 2011 – 3:30 – 4:30 PM, 7000 Level Graduate Student Lounge**



BISC Graduate Caucus

September 21, 2011 – 3:30 to 4:30 PM

In Attendance: Natascia Tamborello (Associate Chair), Elly Knight (Secretary), Nicole Gerbrandt (Events Committee Officer), Rob Greenland (GSS Rep), Cassandra Carroll (Faculty Mole), Chris Mull (International Students' Rep), Samantha Franks (Scholarship Committee Rep), Erica Jeffery (DGSC Rep), Sebastian Pardo, Janey Lam, Brittany Wilmot, Leslie Saunders, Emma Leach, Jesse Taylor, Juliana Yeung, Noel Swain, Simon Zappia, Corinna Lichota, Corey Phillis, Michael Beakes, Sean Anderson, Brett Favaro.

Absent: Jeanette Bruce (Chair), Jennifer Linton (Treasurer), Sherri Elwell (Member at Large), Sacha O'Regan (Events Committee Officer), Calen Ryan (Events Committee Officer), Erfan Vafaie (Webmaster), Brian LaBore (TSSU Steward), Marlene Wagner.

1. **Welcome** – The meeting was called to order by Natascia Tamborello at 3:34 PM.
 1. No additions to the agenda.
2. **Treasury Update** – by Natascia Tamborello (for Jennifer Linton)
 - After the minutes are submitted for this meeting, the caucus will receive \$684 for this semester.
 - We have approximately \$4000 in our trust account right now, with \$2000 coming out soon as our contribution to the projector in B9242 (motion made during a previous meeting).
 - There are a couple minor outstanding reimbursements from the BBQ, which will come out of petty cash.
3. **Projector Update** – by Natascia Tamborello
 - Projector installed!
4. **Biology T-Shirt Update** – by Natascia Tamborello
 - Success! We have approx. 20 shirts left: half women's, half unisex with two or three of each size.
 - Suggested to keep one for the Grad hosted speaker, and bring the rest to the Fall department social on Friday for sale.
5. **Grad-Hosted Speaker Update** – by Natascia Tamborello (for Sherri Elwell)
 - First two candidates for speaker have not worked out.
 - Our 3rd candidate is Kevin Gaston, is currently checking his schedule against our available dates and will get back to Sherri by the weekend. We will move on to our next candidate if Kevin Gaston does not work.

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6. Committee Updates

1. **DGSC** – Erica Jeffery
 - DGSC has their first meeting on Monday Sept 26th, so nothing to report yet.
2. **TSSU** – absent
3. **Faculty Mole** – Cassandra Carroll
 - First meeting on Monday Sept 26th, so nothing to report yet.
4. **GSS** – Rob Greenland
 - The GSS will soon be offering a bursary for students in financial need to cover the cost of the medical benefits plan (will be worth approx. \$400). The application form is online already. Bursary will be assigned by random draw of all eligible applicants. Rob will send out an email to the caucus with more information.
5. **Scholarship Committee** – Samantha Franks
 - Lots of upcoming deadlines:
 - NSERC: internal deadline Oct. 13th
 - Travel & minor research awards: Friday Sept 23rd
 - Vanier Scholarship: Sept 28th
 - President's research stipends: there are some left! Email Debbie for info (bisc-ugrad-pa@sfu.ca). Deadline is Oct. 24th.
 - The discussion on amending graduate fellowship (GF) allocation will likely continue this semester. Talk to Samantha if you want to get involved (sfranks@sfu.ca). The proposed new model would guarantee every MSc and PhD student one GF. The remainder of the GFs would be awarded based on scholarly achievement.

7. Committee By-Election

- Holly Middleton has dropped out of the running for GSS Alternate, so each candidate is running unopposed. The candidates are as follows:
 - TSSU Steward – Leslie Saunders (lisaunders@sfu.ca)
 - GSS Alternate – Noel Swain (nswain@sfu.ca)
 - 3rd Events Committee Officer – Marlene Wagner (absent - mawagner@sfu.ca)

Motion to approve Leslie Saunders as the acclaimed TSSU Steward for the Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus for the 2011-2012 academic term.

Moved by: Nataschia Tamborello

Seconded by: Rob Greenland

Decision: **motion carries with abstention by Leslie Saunders**

Motion to approve Noel Swain as the acclaimed GSS alternate for the Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus for the 2011-2012 academic term.

Moved by: Nataschia Tamborello

Seconded by: Rob Greenland

Decision: **motion carries with abstention by Noel Swain**

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Motion to approve Marlene Wagner as the acclaimed 3rd Events Committee Officer for the Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus for the 2011-2012 academic term.

Moved by: Natascia Tamborello

Seconded by: Rob Greenland

Decision: **motion carries unanimously**

8. Possible Mid-Autumn Event Discussion

- The ecology & evolution conference is not on Halloween this year, so we could host a Halloween event.
- Could have another BBQ. Always easy to throw together.
- Scary movie socials have been done before. The GSS lounge with projector can be booked, but there is a limited list of approved movies we can show.
- The events committee will meet to discuss hosting an event.

9. Adjournment

Motion to end this Sept 21st meeting of the Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus at 3:49.

Moved by: Natascia Tamborello

Seconded by: Brett Favaro

Decision: **motion carries unanimously**