

**Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus Meeting Minutes (draft until approved)
October 19, 2011 – 3:30 to 4:30 PM, 7000 Level Graduate Student Lounge**



BISC Graduate Caucus

October 19, 2011 – 3:30 to 4:30 PM

In Attendance: Natascia Tamburello (Associate Chair), Elly Knight (Secretary), Sherri Elwell (Member at Large), Nicole Gerbrandt (Events Committee Officer), Jenny Linton (Treasurer), Doug Braun (Scholarship Committee Rep), Leslie Saunders (TSSU Steward), Erica Jeffrey (DGSC Rep), Rob Greenland (GSS Rep), Joel Harding (DGSC Rep), Corinna Lichota, Matt Huntley, Jesse Taylor, Carmen Sarnowski.

Absent: Jeanette Bruce (Chair), Sacha O'Regan (Events Committee Officer), Marlene Wagner (Events Committee Officer), Erfan Vafaie (Webmaster), Chris Mull (International Students' Rep), Samantha Franks (Scholarship Committee Rep), Cassandra Carroll (Faculty Mole).

1. Welcome

- The meeting was called to order by Natascia at 3:33 PM.
- Additions to agenda:
 - Approval of minutes from previous meeting.

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes from the September 21, 2011 BISC grad caucus meeting.

Moved by: Natascia Tamburello

Seconded by: Elly Knight

Decision: **motion carries unanimously**

3. Treasury Update – Jenny

- We made \$655 back from BISC t-shirt sales.
- Current account balances (with t-shirt deposit and projector withdrawal):
 - Cash box: \$201.63
 - Core account: \$684.00
 - Trust account: \$1298.84
- Although we receive \$500 for advertising in the graduate directories, we should investigate whether we distribute the directories electronically next year, as the paper booklet is a bit out of date and not many directories are used.
- We should consider putting a cap on the amount of a single withdrawal from the cash box. The contents usually hover around \$150.
- Previously, withdrawals from the cash box also had to be signed by two member of the executive committee.

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Motion to set an amount limit on withdrawals from the BISC Grad Caucus cash box at a maximum of \$50 per withdrawal.

Moved by: Jenny Linton

Seconded by: Matt Huntley

Decision: **motion carries unanimously**

Motion to require signatures from two BISC Grad Caucus executives on all cash box withdrawals.

Moved by: Jenny Linton

Seconded by: Sherri Elwell

Decision: **motion carries unanimously**

4. Committee Updates

a. **DGSC** – Erica

- New chair: Arne Mooers
- MSc completion times: need to review this discussion with Isabelle Cote.
- Discussing reviewing admittance requirements. Should admittance requirements differ from those of the university? Should there be a limit on number of students involved? Please contact Erica Jeffrey at ejeffery@sfu.ca if you want to offer input.
- Discussed changing the terminology “work industry” on the referee form for applicants to “work ethic” due to confusion.

b. **TSSU** – Leslie

- The TSSU is looking to do more online and are looking for feedback from TMs that have used WebCT. Please get in touch with Leslie Saunders at lisaunder@sfu.ca if you can offer feedback.
- The TSSU is currently still in contract bargaining. As a result, TSSU proposals are not going through. Q & A sessions about this will be hosted this Friday. Details to come.
- General Membership meeting next week.

c. **Faculty Mole** – Absent

d. **GSS** – Rob

- Lots of upcoming events:
 - The GSS is hosting movember! There will be a gala at the end of the month.
 - Social on Nov 23rd.
 - Town hall about grad services on Nov 9th.
- Disbanded the childcare committee and task force for students for disabilities due to lack of productivity in accordance with their mandate. Both committees are now part of a larger, more active committee. A motion was passed that the GSS executive will examine the functioning of this committee in the future to ensure the interests of these two groups are being met.

e. **Scholarship Committee** – Doug

- President’s research stipends:
 - There is much confusion about the eligibility of students who started an MSc prior to Jan 1 2009, and then switched to a PhD program after said date. Doug will send an email soliciting names of those students who are in this eligibility limbo and forward to Ron Ydenberg, who is looking into the

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situation.

5. Grad-Hosted Speaker Update – Sherri

- Daniel Pauly was sent an invitation on October 18, 2011 and we await his reply. There is only one more candidate after Daniel.
- Many of the candidates nominated this year had high speaker fees, or reside overseas. More restrictions should be made for nominees in the future.

6. Halloween Event Update – Nicole

- BBQ and social starts at 4:30 PM next Wednesday October 26th in the 7000 level courtyard between Bio and Physics. Beer/wine/coolers will be available for \$2 each. Pumpkin carving judging will take place, and then a scary movie will be shown at 6:30 in B9242!
- Nicole is looking for help to run the Halloween event. If you can offer your services on the day, please get in touch: nicole_gervan@sfu.ca. Help with the following duties would be much appreciated:
 - Run the doors: as this will be a liquor licensed event, we need to ensure the area is sectioned off and no minors are admitted.
 - Cooking on the BBQ
 - General assistance
- Pumpkins will be purchased and available for carving from Joel. If your lab would like to carve a pumpkin, get in touch with Joel: joel_harding@sfu.ca. Judging will occur at the BBQ. There will be prizes!
- Cassandra will help with purchasing food. Natascia will help purchase alcohol and run the bar. Matt will help set up the movie.

Motion to reimburse Nicole Gerbrandt and Natascia Tamburello up to \$600 to purchase alcoholic beverages for the upcoming BISC grad Halloween Event on Oct. 26, 2011.

Moved by: Nicole Gerbrandt

Seconded by: Leslie Saunders

Decision: **motion carries with abstentions by Nicole Gerbrandt and Natascia Tamburello**

Motion to reimburse Nicole Gerbrandt and Cassandra Carroll up to \$250 to purchase food and prizes for the upcoming BISC grad Halloween Event on Oct. 26, 2011.

Moved by: Nicole Gerbrandt

Seconded by: Leslie Saunders

Decision: **motion carries with abstention by Nicole Gerbrandt**

Motion to reimburse Joel Harding up to \$75 to purchase pumpkins for the pumpkin carving contest at the upcoming BISC grad Halloween Event on Oct. 26, 2011.

Moved by: Nicole Gerbrandt

Seconded by: Leslie Saunders

Decision: **motion carries with abstention by Joel Harding**

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7. **Intellectual Property Workshop** – Natascia (for Brett Favaro)
 - Patents Canada offers a program for science students where they come to universities to discuss patenting intellectual property. An email will be sent to the caucus to gauge interest.

8. **SFU/UBC Mixers: Ideas & Opinions** - Matt
 - Curling Club Revival: should have a curling social between UBC and SFU next semester sometime. Plans will be discussed with UBC at the Eco/Evo retreat in Brackendale.

9. **Meeting location change** - Natascia
 - Requests have been made to hold caucus meetings in an alternate location as the grad lounge is cramped. Natascia will explore. Options include:
 - B9242 (often booked)
 - SSB lounge

10. **Christmas Party** - Erica
 - The Grad caucus is usually in charge of entertainment. We should start thinking about this before next meeting.

11. Adjournment

Motion to end this Oct 19th meeting of the Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus at 4:24
Moved by: Natascia Tamburello
Seconded by: Jesse Taylor
Decision: **motion carries unanimously**