

Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus Meeting Agenda

June 21st, 2013 – 3:30 to 4:30 PM, 7000 level lounge



Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus August 21st 2013 – 3:30 to 4:30 PM

In Attendance: Jen Scholefield (Chair), Chris Mull (Associate Chair), Janie Dubman (Treasurer), Jesse Taylor (GSS Rep), Michael Hrabrar (GSS Rep), Marinde Out (International Students' Rep), Rowan Treblico (Faculty Mole), Antonia Musso (TSSU Steward), Emily Helmer (Secretary), Annie Ellison (Events Committee Officer), Daniel Peach, Franz Simon, Lindsey Button, Yasmine Norouzi

Absent, Catherine Scott (TSSU Steward), Mike Beakes (DGSC Rep, Sarah Thomsen (DGSC Rep), Lindsay Davidson (Scholarship Committee Rep), Amanda Kissel (Member at Large), Mohamed Sherifdeen (TSSU Steward), Kyle Artelle (Scholarship Committee Rep), Tim Forrester (TSSU Steward), Marlene Wagner (Events Committee Officer), Matthew Hepp (Events Committee Officer), David Hope (Webmaster).

1. Welcome

- a. Attendance
- b. Meeting called to order at 15:33.
- c. Additions to Agenda
 - i. Welcome BBQ & social – Annie
 1. Marlene and people on the events committee are away until September 5th. The pub has been emailed in regards to booking after the BBQ although the individual who usually books is away. Confirmation of booking will be found out next week. Receipts from last year's BBQ will be used to estimate how much money is required for food etc.
 2. Ideas for an ice-breaker (paintball, bingo etc.) were discussed. It was decided to not have any at the BBQ.
 3. Two volunteers are needed for set-up and take down at the BBQ. Dan volunteers for set up and Antonia for take down.
 4. GSS gives extra money/funding for special events, it is recommended to ask about special event funding. We are expecting around 50 people to attend the BBQ and receipts from last year will be looked at to determine how much funding is needed.
 5. It is recommended that two BBQs be used given anticipated number of students.
- d. T-shirt update – Antonia
 - i. We will be selling t-shirts at the Welcome BBQ. Shirts are a choice of black or forest green with white print and will be sold for \$10. We ordered 120 Gildan-2000 unisex t-shirts (40 small, 50 medium, 20 large and 10 extra large) and 30

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Gildan-2000L Ladies cut tshirt (20 small and 10 medium). The x-small size for t-shirts is on backorder.

e. Reimbursements

Motion to reimburse Antonia Musso \$500 from the Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus Trust Account for deposit made on t-shirts.

Moved by: Jen

Seconded by: Lindsay

Decision: **motion carries with 20 in favour, 1 abstention (Antonia Musso)**

f. Grad hosted speaker update – Chris, Mike & Jen

- i. On March 13th Marc Mangel will be in town for the week. We are hoping to get him for Thursday 13th for a seminar and have him attend the graduate symposium. IRMACS has been contacted, but have yet to get back to Jen. IRMACS can only seat 100 people and a larger room may be needed. Marc said he will give a talk about his work with whale conservation. It is suggested the talk be kept to graduate students and the talk on whale conservation be aimed at a larger audience. It is possible Marc could give a workshop on an introduction to Bayesian statistics or have hour long slots for meeting people. Marc has offered to do a second talk. It is suggested to make talk departmental for funding from the BISC department. If there are any questions regarding the grad hosted speaker, direct them towards Jen, Chris or Mike.

g. Suggestions for screening a documentary

- i. Marlene is happy to organize a documentary screening. It is suggested to start screening early October and show around 2 movies per semester. Additional screenings may be made in the spring if it is successful.
- ii. Suggestions for movies may go to Jen until Marlene is back.

h. Brackendale conference - Franz

- i. The conference is \$155, which is less expensive than last year. This year single day registration options are also available which costs around \$50. This conference is a good opportunity for students to interact and see what students from UBC and other institutions are doing and is recommended for new students.

i. Motion to approve minutes from last month's meeting.

Motion to approve minutes from the July 10th, 2013 Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus meeting.

Moved by: Jen

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Seconded by: Franz

Decision: **motion carries unanimously**

2. Treasury update

1. \$1225.24 in trust account, \$592.55 in the core account.
2. Additional money in the trust account is due to a reimbursement from the pub after charging us twice.
3. At the end of the month, \$592 should roll into the account to not be erased and we should get some amount allocated.

3. Committee updates

1. DGSC - None
2. DSC – Absent
3. GSS
 - i. New funding model passed which is more preferable to BISC. Last year we should have gotten \$1650, Next year there should be \$2100. BISC should have gotten \$400 more, however was underfunded.
4. TSSU
 - i. When applying for a TA position, make an additional comment that you want to be considered to TA other courses if none of your top 4 options are available.
 - ii. The child care bursary can be applied for if you are a TSSU member who is currently TAing.
 - iii. International healthcare – international students are automatically enrolled into costly healthcare and it is difficult to opt out as a care card is needed and there is a delay in obtaining it. Any new international students should contact the TSSU so they can opt out. We will have someone from TSSU at orientation to address healthcare issues.
5. Faculty Mole
 - i. Absent from last meeting

4. Adjournment at 16:29.

Motion to adjourn this August 21st, 2013 meeting of the Biological Sciences Graduate Student Caucus at 16:15.

Moved by: Jen

Seconded by: Lindsay

Decision: **motion carries unanimously**