

Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus Meeting Agenda

October 16th, 2013 – 3:30 to 4:30 PM, 7000 level lounge



Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus October 16th 2013 – 3:30 to 4:30 PM

In Attendance: Marinde Out (International Students' Rep), Jen Scholefield (Chair), Tim Forrester (TSSU Steward), Mike Hrabar (GSS Rep), Emily Helmer (Secretary), Amanda Kissel (Member at Large), Tim , Lindsay Davidson (Scholarship Committee Rep), , Iva Popovic, Fionia Frances, Jesse Taylor (GSS Rep), Mike Beakes (DGSC Rep), Nathan Derstine, Annie Ellison (Events Committee Officer), David Hope, Lindsay Button, Janie Dubman (Treasurer), Rowan Treblico (Faculty Mole), Matt Hepp (Events Committee Officer), , Sarah Thomsen (DGSC Rep), Paul MacDonald

Absent: Chris Mull (Associate Chair), Antonia Musso (TSSU Steward), Catherine Scott (TSSU Steward), Mohamed Sherifdeen (TSSU Steward), Kyle Artelle (Scholarship Committee Rep), Marlene Wagner (Events Committee Officer)

1. Welcome

- a. Attendance
- b. Meeting called to order at 15:32 by Jen.
- c. Additions to Agenda
 - i. Documentary screening
 1. "Bear Witness", a documentary about bear hunting in the Great Bear rainforest, will be screened October 23rd in B942.
 2. A poster is being made and there will be a web link sent around via email.
 3. This will be a potluck, notify us what you will bring so there are no duplicate items.
 4. 3 panel speakers and 2 people from the First Nations communities will be present to answer questions.
 5. Our goal is to have 3 different individuals organize a different documentary each month. If anyone has suggestions for documentaries and is interested in volunteering, let us know.
- d. Halloween event planning
 - i. There will be pumpkin carving, so we will need to order pumpkins.
 - ii. Motions for BBQ

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Motion to reimburse up to \$250 for food to Annie Ellison from the core account for the Halloween BBQ

Moved by: Jen Scholefield

Seconded by: Janie Dubman

Decision: **motion carries unanimously, 1 abstention (Annie Ellison)**

Motion up to reimburse up to \$100 from core account to Annie Ellison for pumpkins.

Moved by: Jen Scholefield

Seconded by: Mike Hrabar

Decision: **motion carries unanimously, 1 abstention (Annie Ellison)**

e. Winterfest

- i. Any lab or research group are encouraged to participate
- ii. We are looking for fun theme suggestions, for example last year the theme was Mayan end of the world. There will be a vote closer to the event.
- iii. If anyone has serving it right and can serve alcohol at the event, they should contact Brian Medford. Anyone who wants to sign up for serving it right is encouraged.

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

Motion to approve minutes from the September 18th, 2013 Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus meeting.

Moved by: Jen Scholefield

Seconded: Jesse Taylor

Decision: **motion carries unanimously**

j. Grad hosted speaker

- i. There has been verbal confirmation that we have IRMACS booked for the speaker, but no confirmation via email. We are also unclear whether there is cost involved in booking.
- ii. We need to start applying for funding for the grad hosted speaker (flights, food, beverages etc.).
- iii. Last year the Olympiad was tied in with the grad hosted event.
- iv. We need to brainstorm group activities related to the speaker
 1. Posters that line the bio corridor are likely outdated, we could make posters for our department to improve it.

2. Treasury update

1. Current BISC grad caucus balances:
 - i. Core Account: \$1867.52
 - ii. Trust Account: \$1307.70

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3. Committee updates

1. DGSC – no update
2. DSC – no update
 - i. NSERC applications have been submitted.
3. GSS
 - i. Benefit bursary plan –voted to do a one-time withdrawal from \$3490.90 from unrestricted net assets to provide funding for 12 bursaries. Bursaries will cover extended health.
 - ii. It was tabled and moved to adopt a GSS transfer from RBC to GIC at Canadian Western Bank.
 - iii. International students are double paying for health coverage on guard.me, the GSS should be against auto-enrollment.
 - iv. Coordinator elections are coming up at the GSS, for anyone interested in running.
 - v. There is a clothing exchange happening in the GSS lounge today. These are held once a semester, food and beverages are provided.
 - vi. We are still trying to frame a motion to be reimbursed for \$400 due to underfunding in the budget last year.
4. TSSU
 - i. The TSSU general meeting will be held at the Harbour Centre at 4:30pm on October 24th. If you are a TA (or have been in the last 3 semesters), you should attend. Food and beverages will be provided.
 - ii. Currently there are TSSU 4 stewards, but we could have 5. We will be advertising for a paid steward position either for an undergrad or sessional.
 - iii. A survey will be sent around regarding what are important topics to bring to the bargaining table. Please respond to the survey.
 - iv. Work load review with instructors - talk to yours if you have not.
 - v. If you weren't paid by first pay period, contact TSSU.
5. Faculty Mole – no updates

4. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn October 16th 2013 meeting of the Biological Sciences Graduate Student Caucus at 16:10.

Moved by: Jen Scholefield

Seconded by: Lindsay Button

Decision: **motion carries unanimously**