

Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus Meeting Agenda

January 15th, 2014 – 3:30 to 4:30 PM, 7000 level lounge



Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus January 15th 2014 – 3:30 to 4:30 PM

In Attendance: Jen Scholefield (Chair), Emily Helmer (Secretary), Mike Beakes (DGSC Rep), Janie Dubman (Treasurer), Jesse Taylor (GSS Rep), Mike Hrabar (GSS Rep), Rowan Treblico (Faculty Mole), Chris Mull (Associate Chair), Marlene Wagner (Events Committee Officer), Annie Ellison (Events Committee Officer), Matt Hepp (Events Committee Officer), Franz Simon, Paul MacDonald, Olga Lansdorp, Bekka S. Brodie, Karen Lo, Matt Holl, Leslie Sanders, Jayme Lewthwaite, Grant Fitzpatrick

Absent: Catherine Scott (TSSU Steward), Mohamed Sherifdeen (TSSU Steward), Kyle Artelle (Scholarship Committee Rep), David Hope (Webmaster), Sarah Thomsen (DGSC Rep), Lindsay Davidson (Scholarship Committee Rep), Amanda Kissel (Member at Large), Marinde Out (International Students' Rep), Antonia Musso (TSSU Steward), Tim Forrester (TSSU Steward)

1. Welcome

- a. Attendance
- b. Meeting called to order at 3:36 by Jen.
- c. Additions to Agenda
 - i. Biological Sciences department hiring faculty position
 1. The Biological Sciences department will be hiring a new faculty member. An email will be sent if anyone is interested in attending the research seminar and teaching demo. Grads must commit to a full 3 weeks to attend lunch. MET grads take priority.
 - ii. Grad Hosted speaker – Mike, Chris, Jen and Janie
 1. Budget
 - a. Budget has been finalized and comes to \$2000. Department covers flights and accommodations (~\$1000), and we will see if they can cover any more of the budget.
 - b. We want to ask the dean of graduate studies for funding and the dean of science for the professional development seminar.
 - c. Graduate caucus will provide \$220 to cover food, thank you gifts and buffer funds. \$400 max will be taken from core account.

Motion to take \$400 from the core account to fund the grad hosted speaker.

Moved by: Jen Scholefield

Seconded: Franz Simon

Decision: **motion carries unanimously**

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2. Schedule update

- a. We will have the speaker for ~2 days, activities will start after lunch Wednesday. Speaker has offered to run a professional development seminar/workshop. Will include diversity of career choices, what to expect academic, government and industry, time management etc.
- b. A limited number of students can attend (up to 20 people in IRMACS) and students will be chosen on lottery basis.
- c. Wednesday evening there will be drinks/social, and Thursday will be main social at Club Illia.
- d. Students will receive an email if interested in volunteering and if lab groups and/or students want to meet with the speaker.
- e. On Friday faculty will be given a chance to meet in the morning, also the speaker could attend a fab lab meeting.
- f. This will all take place March 12th, 13th and 14th

iii. Grad student symposium- Marlene, Karen & Marinde

1. Suggestion to avoid SFU events and hold it at Highland Pub for food etc.
2. Will be held at the end of March or early April, a date still needs to be set.
3. We can apply to the GSS for funding. Budget needs to be in by Feb 3rd, food/drink costs will be the same as last year.
4. Activity ideas include having every lab makes a short activity relating to the research (experiment etc.), having an activity/poster similar to last year, bringing people from different labs together and come up with research questions that pools different areas/techniques together, or making an elevator pitch of research from different labs.
5. Please contact Marlene or Karen if you have additional ideas.

iv. Professional development events coming up – Jen

1. Demystifying publishing workshop - Will focus on how to make figures, open access journals, dealing with reviewer comments etc. This will be added onto end of professional development seminar. Presentations are available to use from last year. This is being organized by Elizabeth Elle and the caucus.

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- v. Documentary screening this semester
 - 1. Anyone who wants to run one early in semester in February is encouraged.
 - 2. Movies:
 - a. Black Gold – About tar sands, will be screened later this semester.
 - b. Boys Gone Bananas – About pesticides in industry and impact on workers/environment.
 - c. Midway – The impact of plastic on sea birds.
 - d. Salmon confidential - Fish farming in BC.

- vi. Professional Pest Management Association of B.C. meeting - Jen
 - 1. Will be held in February in IRMACS. Last year the caucus funded \$200 and made it so biology grad students could attend. This year's focus will be integrated pest management and the impact of invasive species.

Motion to fund the PPMABC \$200 from the core account for sponsorship of their annual meeting

Moved by: Jen Scholefield

Seconded: Mike Beakes

Decision: **motion carries unanimously**

- d. Motion to approve minutes from last month's meeting Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from the November 20th, 2013 Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus meeting.

Moved by: Jen Scholefield

Seconded: Franz Simon

Decision: **motion carries unanimously**

2. Treasury update

- 1. Current BISC grad caucus balances:
 - i. Core Account: \$1335.96
 - ii. Trust Account: \$1307.70

3. Committee updates

- 1. DGSC – none
- 2. DSC - absent
- 3. GSS – none
- 4. TSSU – absent
- 5. Faculty Mole – absent

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4. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn January 15th, 2013 meeting of the Biological Sciences Graduate Student Caucus at 4:18pm.

Moved by: Jen Scholefield

Seconded by: Emily Helmer

Decision: **motion carries unanimously**