



Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus

September 16th 2014 – 3:30 to 4:30 PM

In Attendance: Leslie Saunders (Chair), Dan Peach (Events Committee), Kyle Bobiwash (Events Committee), Antonia Musso (TSSU rep), Heather Coatsworth (TSSU rep), Jen Scholefield (Member at Large), Karen Lo (Faculty Mole), Sara Ali, Pascale Gibeau (Secretary), Fiona Francis (Assoc. Chair), Sebastian Ibarra (International Students Rep), Fauve Strachan, Janie Dubman, Dan Greenberg, Nathan Derstine.

Absent: Marlene Wagner (TSSU rep), Nicola Smith (DGSC rep), Lindsay Davidson (DSC rep), Luis Malpica Cruz (DSC rep), Matt Holl (Events Committee), Paul Macdonald (TSSU rep), Jayme Lewthwaite (Treasurer), Samneh Deheshi (GSS rep), Mike Hrabar (GSS rep), Marinde Out (Webmaster), Sarah Thomsen (DGSC rep), Melanie Pylatuk.

1. Welcome –

Meeting called to order at 15:31 by Leslie Saunders.

- a. Attendance
- b. Additions to Agenda
 - i. Welcome BBQ recap

Welcome BBQ was a success; 40-50 people attended, including several new students. Grad caucus sold 16 t-shirts (160\$), and almost all the food was eaten. Committee managed to spend a total of \$423, which is 75\$ under budget.

Important to note: Grad caucus BBQ is starting to lose pieces and caucus should start considering replacement. Suggested to at least replace the flame guard before the Halloween BBQ (Kyle and Dan to deal with it).

ii. Halloween Party

Leslie asking for suggestions. All agree that we should repeat the pumpkin carving contest, which is always successful.

Thursday, October 30th set as tentative date. There will be a grad caucus meeting the week before so more details can be figured out. Email will be sent before by Kyle and Dan so that labs can decide and prepare for the pumpkin carving contest.

iii. Update re. symposium of last year.

Janie Dubman (former treasurer) mentions that there is an outstanding charge from last year's April symposium that needs to be paid to MESC for the projector. A motion was passed in May for that purpose, but appears to never have been followed up on. Janie will talk to Jaime (current treasurer) and see that charge gets paid.

Motion to, if necessary, reverse the May meeting motion to pay MESC and pass a motion to pay full amount (28\$) for the projector (to be confirmed at October meeting).

Moved by: Janie Dubman

Seconded by: Leslie Saunders

Decision: Motion carries unanimously.

iv. Friday departmental party:

Leslie asking for help for selling t-shirt -- people to come and replace her at table.

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

Motion to approve minutes from August meeting.

Moved by: Leslie Saunders

Seconded by: Antonia Musso

Decision: Motion carries unanimously.

2. Treasury update

Given by Leslie because Jaime is at a workshop in UBC.

Trust account - \$1049.72

Core account - \$85.52*

*leftover funds from past semester, to be transferred to trust account within coming weeks. New installment to be deposited soon, once full enrollment in department is known; more details to be discussed at next meeting.

Money made by selling Biology T-shirt should be deposited into the core account; to be motioned at next meeting once all t-shirts are sold.

3. Committee updates

1. DGSC (Sarah Thomsen)

Absent, no update

2. DSC (Lindsay Davidson, Luis Malpica Cruz)

Absent, no update

3. GSS (Mike Hrabar, Samineh Deheshi)

Absent, no update

4. TSSU (Antonia Musso, Marlene Wagner, Paul Macdonald, Heather Coatsworth)

From meeting last week: asking if students were paid on time for TAing for the first week. Appears that everybody from our department has been paid. Make sure that all TAs have been paid, especially new students for the first week of work -- spread the word around department.

TSSU in bargaining today (1 meeting a month): employer proposed removing all benefits from TSSU, among other things.

75% of TAs in the Biology department are held by grad student in Bio, other 25% from undergrad and externals; grad students should have first choice to TA higher levels courses to add teaching experience and improve cvs. Biology situation

a little different than other departments since it offers more TAs than there are grad students in the department. Need to integrate into a priority system better -- actually rate criteria to grant TAs or not. Grad students in Bio should come to TSSU rep if any problems with TAs (getting them, priority system, etc.).

Bi-election: we currently have 4 TSSU stewards, but we're allowed to have 5 in Biology. Leslie to send out email two weeks before next caucus meeting to get nominees, and allow canvassing time a week before. There might also be a new alternate GSS position available, so we could do elections for both positions at October caucus meeting (Leslie to check and confirm).

5. Faculty Mole (Karen Lo)

Report from Elizabeth of the things that happened that worked well: new building for bio, workshops.

Announced that 2 PIs retired, which opens both positions for hire.

There is a new program coordinator.

BISC 298: new class opened for lower division undergrad to get technical experience (1-2 credits)

Scholarships: make sure students are applying, check deadlines well in advance.

4. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn September 16, 2014 meeting of the Biological Sciences Graduate Student Caucus at 4:01pm.

Moved by: Leslie Saunders

Seconded by: Dan Peach

Decision: Motion carries unanimously.