



Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus

March 18th 2015 – 2:00 to 3:00 PM

In Attendance: Leslie Saunders (Chair), Amanda Kissel, Dan Peach (Events Committee), Joyce Leung, Mike Hrabar (GSS rep), Matt Holl (Events committee), Antonia Musso (TSSU rep), Jen Scholefield (Member at Large), Paul MacDonald (TSSU rep), Kyle Bobiwash (Events Committee), Dan Greenberg, Fiona Francis (Assoc. Chair), Jayme Lewthwaite (Treasurer), Adrienne Berchtold, Jo Swain, Samineh Deheshi (GSS rep), Nicola Smith (DGSC rep), Pascale Gibeau (Secretary).

Absent: Lindsay Davidson (DSC rep), Heather Coatsworth (TSSU rep), Marlene Wagner (TSSU rep), Karen Lo (Faculty Mole), Sarah Thomsen (DGSC rep), Leon Li (TSSU steward), Marinde Out (Webmaster), Luis Malpica Cruz (DSC rep), Sebastian Ibarra (International Students Rep).

1. **Welcome** – meeting starting 2:00
 - a. Attendance
 - b. Additions to Agenda
 - i. TSSU Science BBQ (Phil)

TSSU is having a strike vote next week, and early voting is opened as of Mid-March. TSSU science is organizing a BBQ to encourage people to vote; happening on March 25, 11:30-2PM, close to the Science building. TSSU is asking for small support from caucus, plus participation and volunteers. TSSU is providing: everything for burgers + organization. They need help from caucuses with advertising the event (and vote) to grad students, BBQs, people to help grill the food, and to bring sides for caucus members.

Any TA, Sessionals, and TMs in either Summer 2014, Fall 2014, or Winter 2015 semesters are allowed to vote; vote is happening only on physical paper ballot. There are two color ballots to indicate whether or not the grad student is working this term. Only votes from TSSU members working this semester will count toward the job actions due to BC labour board laws. However, votes for those working during the Summer 2014 and Fall 2014 semesters will be reported internally.

Why is this vote so important? This is a vote to authorize job actions (but not picket lines, that will need a second vote). Job actions could include (but are not limited to) putting stickers on papers, taking 5 mins at beginning of class to inform people, etc. TSSU is mentioning that there is no traction at the bargaining table, there have been 15 meetings, and employers failed to bring all their proposals to the table. TSSU is trying to get some movement and put pressure on the employer, trying to show that the membership is unified, and that TSSU needs to be taken seriously.

For more questions, grad students are invited to come to the TSSU table by Renaissance.

ii. Grad Hosted Speaker wrap up and reimbursements

The visit of the Grad Hosted Speaker was a great success, workshop and talk were good, and it was a nice visit. Dr. Hayes was happy with his visit too.

Motion to reimburse from the core account Amanda Kissel the amount of 84.57\$ for the gift and card to guest speaker.
Moved by: Jen S.
Seconded by: Dan P.
Decision: Motion carries with abstention from Amanda Kissel.

Motion to reimburse from the core account Leslie Saunders the amount of 60\$ for per diem for Dr. Tyrone Hayes for Wednesday and Thursdays of his visit (March 11-12).
Moved by: Dan G.
Seconded by: Pascale
Decision: Motion carries with abstention from Leslie S.

Motion to reimburse from the core account Leslie Saunders the amount of 95.74\$ for Dr. Hayes' dinner on Wednesday night (March 11).
Moved by: Antonia
Seconded by: Jen S.
Decision: Motion carries with abstention from Leslie S.

Motion to reimburse from the core account Jayme Lewthwaite the amount of 101.83\$ for the drinks at Club Ilia following the visit of Dr. Hayes (March 11).
Moved by: Paul
Seconded by: Fiona
Decision: Motion carries with abstention from Jayme L.

Motion to reimburse from the core account Jayme Lewthwaite the amount of 21.06\$ for the refreshments before workshop on Thursday (March 12).
Moved by: Dan P.
Seconded by: Dan G.
Decision: Motion carries with abstention from Jayme L.

iii. Grad Symposium

The Grad Symposium is happening on March 27th, at the Highland pub. It starts at 2:30 PM -- please be on time!

Heather advertised the event with posters. Paul is searching for judges (so far four PIs have committed: Elizabeth Elle, Isabelle Cote, John Reynolds, Erin Barley, Tony

Williams; trying still to have PIs representing all fields of department (e.g. molecular ecology)).

Format of the event will be slightly different than last year; still has goal to foster collaboration between students from various research groups, using common themes, but this year, there will be an added challenge that each group will need to address (limited funding, difficult relationships with industry, etc.).

Budget is of 500\$ for food, and 500\$ comes from GSS; BISC Grad Caucus will only be paying for alcohol and prices.

iv. Upcoming grad caucus elections

Elections for BISC Grad Caucus for year 2015-2016 will be at next caucus meeting (mid April). Email Leslie or any caucus members with questions -- feel free to volunteer!

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

Motion to approve the minutes from the February Biology grad caucus meeting
Moved by: Leslie S.
Seconded by: Antonia
Decision: Motion carries unanimously.

2. Treasury update

Trust account: 1337.24\$

Core account: 1608.12\$ (probably around 1000\$ after Pest management, CCV, and grad hosted speaker expenses go through)

3. Committee updates

1. DGSC (Nicola Smith, Sarah Thomsen)

No updates (Nicola couldn't be at last meeting)

2. DSC(Lindsay Davidson, Luis Malpica Cruz)

Rep absent, no updates.

3. GSS (Mike Hrabar, Samineh Deheshi, Jesse Taylor)

If needed, deadline for caucuses to apply for grants is April 1.

There is a curling night organized by the GSS on March 21, as well as the food education day.

GSS and SFU will officially endorse the Louis Riel housing foundation, which supports low-income housing for students, and is fighting the evicting of tenants.

Over the summer, the GSS is looking for someone to fill new position -- Samineh has the job description, grad student invited to talk to her for details.

GSS is also looking for volunteers to promote the "Yes" side in the transit referendum.

Motion to go *in camera*.
Moved by: Samineh
Seconded by: Dan P.
Decision: Motion carries unanimously.

Motion to end *in camera* session.
Moved by: Samineh
Seconded by: Pascale
Decision: Motion carries unanimously.

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

Good summary of negotiations given at beginning of caucus meeting by Phil, no need to revisit.

Clarification: in collective agreement, there is nothing saying that TSSU members cannot come to school to do research. In other words, TSSU members can go through the picket lines to conduct research, but not to teach. But again, the ongoing vote is not for a strike, but for other job actions, and to give legitimacy and bargaining power to TSSU. Email will be sent to all BISC grad students to explain the democratic process, and reasons behind the vote so that everyone gets information, not just TSSU members.

There has been informal discussion between TSSU and BISC department regarding a problem in BISC 102 about discrepancy between the numbers of hours worked compared to the numbers of hours paid for; caucus will be updated when agreement is reached.

Motion to spend 100\$ from the core account to provide sides for the TSSU BBQ of March 25th.
Moved by: Paul
Seconded by: Leslie S.
Decision: Motion carries with three abstentions.

5. Faculty Mole (Karen Lo)

Rep absent.

4. Others

The event Coastal Connection Vancouver is happening on March 31st at Science World. It is the 5th edition of the event that is a networking opportunity for all grad students with local NGOs, industry, consulting, and universities. It starts at 6pm, and features three speakers for one hour, and then networking with food and alcohol. The theme is "Crossing boundaries".

Registration is open; 5\$ donation fee for students (pay at the door). A reminder email will be sent. All BISC grad students are welcome.

Motion to spend up to 200\$ from the core account depending on CCV needs.

Moved by: Leslie S.

Seconded by: Jen S.

Decision: Motion carries unanimously.

5. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn March 18, 2015 meeting of the Biological Sciences Graduate Student Caucus at 15:15.

Moved by: Leslie S.

Seconded by: Pascale

Decision: Motion carries unanimously.