



Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus

April 15th 2015 – 2:00 to 3:00 PM

In Attendance: Leslie Saunders (Chair), Paul MacDonald (TSSU rep), Leon Li (TSSU steward), Jayme Lewthwaite (Treasurer), Jenny Bigman, Philina English, Marinde Out (Webmaster), Jesse Taylor, Nicola Smith (DGSC rep), Pascale Gibeau (Secretary), Sebastian Pardo, Sarah Thomsen (DGSC rep), Dan Greenberg, Mike Hrabar (GSS rep), Joyce Leung, Sam Wilson, Adrienne Berchtold, Jen Scholefield (Member at Large), Heather Coatsworth (TSSU rep), Amanda Kissel.

Absent: Dan Peach (Events Committee), Matt Holl (Events committee), Antonia Musso (TSSU rep), Kyle Bobiwash (Events Committee), Fiona Francis (Assoc. Chair), Samineh Deheshi (GSS rep), Lindsay Davidson (DSC rep), Marlene Wagner (TSSU rep), Karen Lo (Faculty Mole), Luis Malpica Cruz (DSC rep), Sebastian Ibarra (International Students Rep).

1. Welcome – Meeting called to order 14:03 by Leslie.

- a. Attendance
- b. Additions to Agenda
 - i. Grad symposium wrap up and reimbursements

The event was successful, although the turnout was slightly lower than last year.

Feedback:

- Bonus challenge (the constraint imposed to each team) was nice, and made things interesting.
- Judges were hard to hear (need a microphone for them).
- Enough advertising? Event was at the same time as the joint seminar (MBB and Bio), so some people couldn't come. Being on a Friday afternoon might be an impediment. One possibility would be to bring back posters per lab (but that means extra work needed before the event, which will likely not be popular).
- Could send out a survey in the weeks before, to ask people for what they want or not want (or send it now for feedback from this year's event).

Motion to reimburse the amount of 491,21\$ to Jayme Lewthwaite for the food, from the GSS grant.

Moved by: Pascale Gibeau.

Seconded by: Dan Greenberg.

Decision: Motion carries with abstention from Jayme Lewthwaite.

Motion to reimburse the amount of 650,88\$ to Jayme Lewthwaite for the alcohol, from the core account*.

Moved by: Jayme Lewthwaite.

Seconded by: Leslie Saunders.

Decision: Motion carries with abstention from Jayme Lewthwaite.

* Money from core account is lost if not spent by the end of the year due to new rules from GSS, so that is why we spent more on the alcohol for this event compared to previous ones.

ii. BISC Swag contest

Antonia got one design back for the contest, but would be nice to get more designs. Ideally for next caucus meeting, so we can discuss them and decide.

iii. Grad caucus executive elections

The nominees for the 2015-2016 BISC Graduate Caucus executive are running unopposed for all positions and are as follows:

- Chair: Dan Greenberg
- Associate Chair: Heather Coatsworth
- Events Committee: Rachel Walls, Marinde Out, Paul MacDonald
- Treasurer: Jayme Lewthwaite
- Secretary: Pascale Gibeau
- Member at Large: Fiona Francis
- Webmaster: Tanya Procyshyn
- Departmental Graduate Studies Committee (DGSC): Nicola Smith, Leslie Saunders
- Departmental Scholarship Committee (DSC): Luis Malpica Cruz, Jennifer Bigman
- Faculty Mole: Michael Hrabar
- Teaching Support Staff Union (TSSU) Steward: Adrienne Berchtold, Leon Li, Fauve Strachan, Josh Pol, (one person missing)
- Graduate Student Society (GSS) Council Representative: Joyce Leung, Laurélène Faye, Michael Hrabar
- International Students Representative: Marlene Wagner

Motion to approve the above listed students as the relevant acclaimed positions listed for the Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus for the 2015-2016 academic term.
Moved by: Leslie Saunders.
Seconded by: Jesse Taylor.
Decision: Motion carries unanimously.

Leslie S. is encouraging everyone that is leaving the caucus to contact the new person replacing them to discuss the tasks, etc. She will send a reminder email.
Thanks to Leslie S. and all other 2014-2015 grad caucus executives for a great year!

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

Motion to approve the minutes from the March Biology grad caucus meeting.
Moved by: Leslie Saunders.
Seconded by: Jen Scholefield.
Decision: Motion carries unanimously.

2. Treasury update

Trust account: 1337.24\$

Core account: 1485,21\$

3. Committee updates

1. DGSC (Nicola Smith, Sarah Thomsen)

Discussing possible modifications to the rules to transfer from Masters to PhD. Currently, DGSC is requiring the candidacy exam to happen within two semesters of rolling up; considering switching to having to do the candidacy exam before rolling up, so that it happens earlier in the program, and is more similar to what PhD student go through.

More discussion to come at next DGSC meeting. Student consensus is that we generally agree that it is better to switch earlier than later, ideally between third to sixth semesters.

2. DSC (Lindsay Davidson, Luis Malpica Cruz)

Rep absent, no updates.

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

No updates.

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

Results from job action vote: overwhelming yes in favor (~87%). Thanks extended to all who voted. Next meeting is happening April 16th (bargaining meeting).

5. Faculty Mole

Rep absent, no updates.

4. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn April 15, 2015 meeting of the Biological Sciences Graduate Student Caucus at 14:47.

Moved by: Leslie Saunders.

Seconded by: Nicola Smith.

Decision: Motion carries unanimously.