



## Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus

June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2015 – 3:00 to 4:00 PM

**In attendance:** Heather Coatsworth (Associate Chair), Adam Blake, Emily McAuley, Philina English, Paul MacDonald (Events Committee), Leslie Saunders (DGSC rep), Jennifer Bigman (DSC rep), Joyce Leung (GSS rep), Marlene Wagner (International student rep), Michael Hrabar (Faculty Mole & GSS rep), Jayme Lewthwaite (Treasurer), Pascale Gibeau (Secretary), Laurélène Faye (GSS rep), Nico Munoz, Luis Malpica Cruz (DSC rep), Josh Pol (TSSU steward), Tanya Procyshyn (Webmaster), Dan Greenberg (Chair).

**Absent:** Fauve Strachan (TSSU steward), Rachel Walls (Events Committee), Marinde Out (Events Committee), Fiona Francis (Member at Large), Nicola Smith (DGSC rep), Adrienne Berchtold (TSSU steward), Leon Li (TSSU steward).

**1. Welcome** -- Meeting called to order at 15:02 by Dan Greenberg.

a. Attendance

Quick round of introductions of all present members.

b. Additions to Agenda

i. BISC logo contest update

Still only one submission for the logo contest. Dan Greenberg spoke with Elizabeth Elle (Department Chair), who is very supportive of the initiative. Plan is to start the contest again in mid-late August when people are back on campus, and run through falls semester so the merchandise would be ready for the Christmas party. Contest, production, and distribution/sale will be run by caucus, and profits will return to caucus.

Idea is to form a small committee to run contest, and figure out logistics (how to produce items, manage orders, payments, etc.). Joyce Leung volunteered to join Dan Greenberg; more people could volunteer as well – contact Dan (dgreenbe@sfu.ca) if interested.

Two categories of logos (contest runs for both at the same time):

- Small logo: for Department official use on website, letters, etc. Idea is to have a clean, crisp design that integrates all aspects of the Department research (e.g. "molecules to ecosystems"). Prize for winner is 100\$ MEC gift card.

- Large logo: for T-shirts, coffee mugs, water bottles, etc. Also 100\$ MEC gift card for winner (50\$ contributed by the Caucus, as motioned at the last meeting).

Whole department will vote online.

ii. Grad hosted speaker update

The deadline for nominations is July 1st, which is next week! We have only one nomination so far. Dan Greenberg will send another email to ask for nominations.

iii. Use of BBQ

Kevin Lam asked to use the caucus BBQ for 2h on August 10 to cook for his undergrad students in his course.

Motion to allow the use of the caucus BBQ by Kevin L. on August 10.

Moved by: Marlene Wagner.

Seconded by: Paul MacDonald.

Decision: Motion carries with abstention from Dan Greenberg.

iv. Historical ecology meeting

SFU is hosting the second annual historical ecology meeting in November 13-15, 2015. Historical ecology studies the influence of humans on landscape ecology/ecosystems (typically with long-term datasets, interdisciplinary focus). Talks on November 13 apply to large audience in Biological Sciences. Students on organizing committee are looking for minor contributions from REM, BISC, and archeology departments and grad caucuses to help run the event; the three departments and REM and archeology caucuses have committee funds.

Motion to support the Historical Ecology Annual Meeting in SFU in November 2015 with 200\$ from the core account.

Moved by: Pascale Gibeau.

Seconded by: Heather Coatsworth.

Decision: Motion carries with abstentions from Dan Greenberg, Jayme Lewthwaite, Philina English, and Emily McAuley.

v. Others

Elizabeth Elle (Department Chair) reminds graduate BISC students to never hesitate to come to her about any issues/problems they might encounter through the course of their graduate studies in biology department.

Suggestions from caucus to have a meeting amongst students in the fall to discuss potential problems within the department, and forward a list to her through our student rep (if needed). Dan Greenberg will follow up in the fall.

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

Motion to approve the minutes from the May Biology Grad Caucus meeting.  
Moved by: Dan Greenberg.  
Seconded by: Heather Coatsworth.  
Decision: Motion carries unanimously.

## **2. Treasury update**

Core account: 394.02\$  
Trust account: 1337.24\$

## **3. Committee updates**

1. DGSC (Leslie Saunders, Nicola Smith)

No real update, since there hasn't been a meeting for a while.

Mention again that Leslie and Nicola are there to help students with issues with supervisors, committee, or anything related to funding. Grad students should feel free to talk to them if they need help.

2. DSC (Luis Malpica Cruz, Jennifer Bigman)

Busy month with ranking the Graduate Fellowships and Private Awards. Official confirmations should come through the summer.

3. GSS (Michael Hrabar, Joyce Leung, Laurélène Faye)

Advance U partnership: there was an agreement to spend 5000\$ to have consultant company draft an action plan, based on the GSS mission statement, to help direct GSS business decisions in the future. Controversy was to bring in an outside group rather than hire students as usual, but motion passed.

There was also an agreement to put together a hiring committee for a GSS director, and there should be a new director by September. Application will go out soon.

Also, it was approved that the GSS should send a letter to President Petter, regarding university negotiations with TSSU.

4. TSSU (Adrienne Berchtold, Leon Li, Josh Pol, Fauve Strachan)

Reps absent to caucus meeting, but Fauve Strachan sent email to Dan Greenberg with following updates:

- Outgoing and incoming stewards should contact [tssu@tssu.ca](mailto:tssu@tssu.ca) to let them know of the status of their role.

- The TSSU is distributing stickers to be placed on graded items being returned to students (some were dropped off in the BISC office printing room - more available at TSSU office).
- Quarter-sheets are being provided to explain grade withholding (again, some dropped off in the BISC office printing room with more at TSSU office and online). That means that anything due after June 19th at midnight will have their grades withheld. It is very important to show a united front and withhold grades as per the recommendations of the TSSU.
- Any questions can be sent to Fauve Strachan or to the TSSU (tssu@tssu.ca).

#### 5. Faculty Mole (Michael Hrabar)

Nothing to report; next meeting is scheduled for the end of June.

#### 4. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the June 23rd, 2015 meeting of the Biological Sciences Graduate Student Caucus at 15:51.

Moved by: Dan Greenberg.

Seconded by: Leslie Saunders.

Decision: Motion carries unanimously.