



Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus

July 21st 2015 – 3:00 to 4:00 PM

In attendance: Heather Coatsworth (Associate Chair & acting secretary), Joyce Leung (GSS rep), Michael Hrabar (Faculty Mole & GSS rep), Jayme Lewthwaite (Treasurer), Luis Malpica Cruz (DSC rep), Tanya Procyshyn (Webmaster), Marinde Out (Events Committee), Karen Lo.

Absent: Paul MacDonald (Events Committee), Leslie Saunders (DGSC rep), Jennifer Bigman (DSC rep), Marlene Wagner (International student rep), Pascale Gibeau (Secretary), Laurélène Faye (GSS rep), Josh Pol (TSSU steward), Dan Greenberg (Chair), Fauve Strachan (TSSU steward), Rachel Walls (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 15:00 by Heather Coatsworth.

a. Attendance

b. Additions to Agenda

i. Grad hosted speaker voting results

41 grad students voted online. Caucus used a voting matrix to calculate results (5 points given for ranking first, 4 points for second, 3 points for third etc.).

Results:

1. Jane Lubchenco - 125
2. Jeff Hutchings - 107
3. May Berenbaum - 99
4. Ellen Ketterson - 86
5. Forest Rohwer - 79
6. Elizabeth Adkins-Regan - 76

Heather Coatsworth is in touch with the nominating students so they can contact and arrange plans with Dr. Lubchenco.

ii. Grad student orientation and mentorship program

Orientation for grad students is happening on September 10th, 2015. BISC has another year of low intake. Marlene asked if grad caucus wanted to continue the mentorship program?

Caucus decided that mentorship program was a good idea. Heather Coatsworth will be in contact with Marlene for details.

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

Motion to approve the minutes from the June Biology Grad Caucus meeting.

Moved by: Heather Coatsworth.

Seconded by: Joyce Leung.

Decision: Motion carries unanimously.

2. Treasury update

Core Account: \$354.01

Trust Account: \$1, 337.24

3. Committee updates

1. DGSC (Leslie Saunders, Nicola Smith)

No updates, have not met since May

2. DSC (Luis Malpica Cruz, Jennifer Bigman)

- i. Funding for international travel awards will be split so each term has funding available.
- ii. BISC grad students can apply for an international travel award up to 1 year in advance.
- iii. Clarification about GF notifications: the new online system shows no record of GFs being A-listed or not, which means that students are unaware of progress. Mention to reps that it would be nice to receive notification prior to the TA deadline; to be followed.
- iv. BISC grad students who received a GF should have been notified via SFU email that they can go into GA3 system and accept their award. Also, there was some confusion because all the awards said for Spring 2016 even if the students applied for Fall 2015, but that has been corrected.
- v. In regards of the possibility to inform students about those moved forward for second level (University Wide) awards (issue raised in June's Caucus meeting): DSC did not consider it appropriate given that the outcome is beyond the Department's decision and could be misleading for students. The DSC recommends to plan funding ahead and only make adjustments once the final decision on these awards is made.

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

Quorum was not met at last meeting, but still went ahead and had meeting.

- i. Kinder Morgan discussion: Kinder Morgan people have been offering money to people living along the pipeline, SFU wanted to re-state that they will not be accepting money.

- ii. GSS will be hiring an administrative assistant, and they are keeping the ombudsperson position intact. GSS will also be hiring a new executive director.
- iii. Emergency GSS meeting to be held on July 22.
- iv. SPICES grant given to two students in the SFU Education department for hosting a speaker series; organizers looking to obtain \$50 from Biology Grad Caucus to give to each presenter from the Biology Department. Admission to the speaker series is free. Objections from caucus regarding the fact that caucus should be giving money for equal opportunities, not just for one or two students, plus the fact that admission to the speaker series is free.

Motion to approve that the BISC Graduate Caucus pays a stipend of \$50 to each SFU Educator Talks presenter who is a student in the Department of Biological Sciences.
Moved: Joyce Leung.
Seconded: Heather Coatsworth.
Decision: Motion rejected with abstention from Joyce Leung.

- v. There are discounted BC Lions tickets available through the code SFUGSS. More details are at: <http://sfugradsociety.ca/?p=1462>.
- vi. Mobile dental clinic is here 1/week, covered by graduate medical plan, and discounted rates may apply.

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

Second strike vote results: 86% in favor of strike.

72hr strike notice given on July 17th.

Grade with-holding starts up again as of 11:59pm on July 21st (see latest TSSU distributed e-mail for details).

5. Faculty Mole (Michael Hrabar)

2 new hires: physiology professor (voting currently happening), and Faculty voted to hire a committee for another new position.

4. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the July 21st, 2015 meeting of the Biological Sciences Graduate Student Caucus at 15:35.
Moved by: Heather Coatsworth.
Seconded by: Michael Hrabar.
Decision: Motion carries unanimously.