



## Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus

August 18<sup>th</sup> 2015 – 3:00 to 4:00 PM

**In attendance:** Dan Greenberg (Chair), Heather Coatsworth (Assoc. Chair), Tanya Procyshyn (Webmaster), Jennifer Bigman (DSC Rep & acting secretary), Rachel Walls (Events committee), Marinde Out (Events Committee), Lauren Macfarland, Eveling Tavera, Abigail Feresten, Josh Pol (TSSU steward), Paul MacDonald (Events committee), Marlene Wagner (International student rep).

**Absent:** Joyce Leung (GSS rep), Michael Hrabar (Faculty Mole & GSS rep), Jayme Lewthwaite (Treasurer), Luis Malpica Cruz (DSC rep), Leslie Saunders (DGSC rep), Pascale Gibeau (Secretary), Laurélène Faye (GSS rep), Fauve Strachan (TSSU steward), Fiona Francis (Member at Large), Nicola Smith (DGSC rep), Adrienne Berchtold (TSSU steward), Leon Li (TSSU steward).

1. **Welcome** – Meeting called to order at 15:01 by Dan Greenberg.
  - a. **Attendance**
  - b. **Additions to Agenda**
    - i. **Welcome BBQ planning**

The BISC Grad Welcome BBQ is set for September 10<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm.

Discussion on how many people to plan for; there are 20 new grad students, and 40 people total went last year, therefore caucus decided to plan for 50-60 people.

Paul MacDonald obtained a liquor license so we can serve beer. He also mentions people have been complaining in the past about smell of BBQ going into vents so we need to make sure that this won't happen again. Matt Hall has the BISC t-shirts we can sell at BBQ, and the key to the BBQ.

Estimated liquor cost is \$297.60 for event and the license is \$35.49. We will charge per beer and open up boxes as beer gets sold. Anything else will be returned. The Highland Pub is booked from 6-9pm on September 10, and event committee needs to figure out the details in terms of tickets so people can go after the BBQ.

Motion to reimburse Paul MacDonald for the "special occasion" permit (35.49\$) for the BISC Grad Welcome BBQ on September 10, 2015.

Moved by: Dan Greenberg.

Seconded by: Tanya Procyshyn.

Decision: Motion carries with abstentions from Paul MacDonald and Dan Greenberg.

Motion to allocate \$450 from the core account to pay for food and drinks at the BISC Grad Welcome BBQ on September 10, 2015.

Moved by: Dan Greenberg.

Seconded by: Jenny Bigman.

Decision: Motion carries with abstentions from Dan Greenberg and Abigail Feresten.

## **ii. Grad hosted speaker update**

The first choice as determined by the polling last month is Jane Lubchenco from Oregon State University. No one has heard back from her since sending the invitation, and we are waiting to see if she is interested.

Dan Greenberg will get in touch with Jeff Hutchings at Dalhousie University if Dr. Lubchenko does not respond in the coming weeks.

The grad speaker is invited for March 2016.

## **iii. Grad mentoring program update**

Heather Coatsworth will send out an email to ask current grad student to volunteer as mentors for incoming new BISC grad student. Idea is that mentors will contact people before the start of the semester to offer help, and introduce themselves.

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

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

Moved by: Dan Greenberg.

Seconded by: Heather Coatsworth.

Decision: Motion carries with abstention from Dan Greenberg.

## **2. Treasury update**

Core account: \$354.02

Trust account: \$1337.24

## **3. Committee updates**

- A. DGSC (Leslie Saunders, Nicola Smith)

There were no meetings but Leslie Saunders communicated with Dan Greenberg via email and mentioned she has results of the grad satisfaction survey, that will be released in the Fall 2015.

- B. DSC (Luis Malpica Cruz, Jennifer Bigman)

No meetings since the decisions of the most recent awards (travel, university wide, GF, etc.) were released. The committee however has decided that it isn't feasible to give updates to each student personally about where they stand on receiving an award. The awardee will be notified in the GA3 system.

- C. GSS (Michael Hrabar, Joyce Leung, Laurélène Faye)

- i. The GSS has selected a new executive director that has been/will be shortly hired.

- ii. The GSS is already a non-partisan organization, however they are looking to draft a non-partisanship policy before the October federal election so staff and student leaders have a decision-making framework in place if they are faced with any decisions regarding partisan events. As part of the policy, during the August 11th council meeting, they discussed whether they should permit members to host partisan events in the GSS space.
- iii. The GSS is currently looking for electoral committee members, orientation volunteers and GSS photographer, so interested BISC grad students should look on the GSS website for details. The photographer position and the electoral committee member position are paid for.

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

- i. Course Supervisors must obtain prior approval from the TSSU Strike Committee in order to allow group marking outside of SFU's regular business hours of 8:30am-4:30pm Monday to Friday (email [strike@tssu.ca](mailto:strike@tssu.ca)).
- ii. When TAs are finished the grading for the summer semester, they must immediately email [strike@tssu.ca](mailto:strike@tssu.ca), and :
  - withhold grades as per the instructions here: <http://bargaining.tssu.ca/markings-for-education/>;
  - not accept overtime if working in the ELC/ITP program .
- iii. Don't forget about TA/TM day! It's being held on September 11 from 8:30-4:00 on Burnaby Campus, see details at: <https://www.sfu.ca/tlc/programming/tatmday/fall2015.html>. Advance registration is not required, and time spent at TA/TM Day counts toward your TA/TM work hours. PLUS there will be a free social afterwards at the Highland pub for all those who attended!

E. Faculty Mole (Michael Hrabar)

No faculty meeting this month, rep absent.

**4. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the August 18, 2015 meeting of the Biological Sciences Graduate Student Caucus at 15:35.  
Moved by: Dan Greenberg.  
Seconded by: Heather Coatsworth.  
Decision: Motion carries unanimously.