



Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus

October 22nd 2015 – 2:00 to 3:00 PM

In attendance: Heather Coatsworth (Assoc. Chair), Tanya Procyshyn (Webmaster), Jennifer Bigman (DSC Rep), Rachel Walls (Events committee), Marinde Out (Events Committee), Michael Hrabar (Faculty Mole & GSS rep), Jayme Lewthwaite (Treasurer), Luis Malpica Cruz (DSC rep), Pascale Gibeau (Secretary), Fiona Francis (Member at Large), Nicola Smith (DGSC rep), Pauline Deschodt, Colin Bailey.

Absent: Dan Greenberg (Chair), Josh Pol (TSSU steward), Marlene Wagner (International student rep), Leslie Saunders (DGSC rep), Fauve Strachan (TSSU steward), Paul MacDonald (Events committee), Joyce Leung (GSS rep), Adrienne Berchtold (TSSU steward), Leon Li (TSSU steward).

1. **Welcome** -- Meeting called to order at 14:03 by Heather Coatsworth.
 - a. Attendance
 - i. Introductions & welcome
 - b. Additions to Agenda
 - i. Motion to approve Halloween event funding

The event is happening at the Highland pub, starting at 4 PM, Thursday Oct 29. So far, budget includes 11-15 pumpkins (3-5\$ per pumpkin) with gift card at Club Ilia as prize (25-50\$), and beer for costume prizes (ind, groups, and Pls).

Motion to spend up to 300\$ on the Halloween party (including pumpkins, gift cards, prizes, decorations) out of core account.
Moved by: Heather Coatsworth
Seconded by: Nicola Smith
Decision: Motion carries with abstentions from Jayme Lethwaite, Marinde Out, Rachel Walls, and Luis Malpica Cruz.

- ii. APEX program information

Participation of grad students in the APEX programs is strongly encouraged.

- iii. CAPE office overview

Community and Professional Engagement (CAPE) office provides an opportunity to meet with a DGS member one on one, in case of issues with supervisor. It is seen as a first step in resolving tensions, before they escalate into bigger conflicts.

- iv. 3 minute thesis competition announcement

The 3-minutes thesis competition is happening in SFU in late November. The BISC Department will send details by emails soon.

v. CCV

Coastal Connection Vancouver (CCV) is happening again on Nov. 17; it is a networking event that brings together academics, industry, students, and NGO working around coastal issues on the Lower Mainland. It happens at Science World, with 3 speakers over 1h, then networking; there is free food, and beverages available. Everyone welcome.

Motion to allocate 200\$ from core account to the organizing committee of Coastal Connection Vancouver for the November 17 event.

Moved by: Pascale Gibeau

Seconded by: Heather Coatsworth

Decision: Motion carries with abstentions from Jayme Lethwaite, Fiona Francis, and Tanya Procyshin.

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

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

Moved by: Heather Coatsworth

Seconded by: Fiona Francis

Decision: Motion carries with abstentions from Heather Coatsworth.

2. Treasury update

Core account: 1950\$

Trust account: no update from GSS.

3. Committee updates

A. DGSC (Leslie Saunders, Nicola Smith)

Nicola Smith: will discuss next week the shorter version of the grad student satisfaction survey at the DGSC meeting; the rep will bring feedback to discuss at the November grad caucus meeting.

B. DSC (Luis Malpica Cruz, Jennifer Bigman)

Reps are currently ranking the NSERC applications.

Reps are trying to organize the details about scholarship applications better (e.g. put together a schedule). Proposing to use the caucus website to provide information to grad students.

C. GSS (Michael Hrabar, Joyce Leung)

Nothing to report, both reps couldn't make last meeting.

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

Reps absent, no update.

E. Faculty Mole(Michael Hrabar)

The next Departmental meeting is on Oct 26, so update will be provided at next grad caucus meeting in November.

4. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the October 22, 2015 meeting of the Biological Sciences Graduate Student Caucus at 14:30.

Moved by: Heather Coatsworth

Seconded by: Jennie Bigman

Decision: Motion carries unanimously.