



Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus

February 25th, 2016 – 3:00 to 4:00 PM

In attendance: Marlene Wagner (International student rep), Kirsten Wilcox, Nicola Smith (DGSC rep), Tanya Procyshyn (Webmaster), Adrienne Berchtold (TSSU steward), Jennifer Bigman (DSC Rep), Rachel Walls (Events committee), Dan Greenberg (Chair), Pascale Gibeau (Secretary), Leon Li (TSSU steward), Joyce Leung (GSS rep), Philina English.

Absent: Jayme Lewthwaite (Treasurer), Leslie Saunders (DGSC rep), Marinde Out (Events Committee), Luis Malpica Cruz (DSC rep), Paul MacDonald (Events committee), Heather Coatsworth (Assoc. Chair), Michael Hrabar (Faculty Mole & GSS rep), Fiona Francis (Member at Large), Fauve Strachan (TSSU steward).

1. Welcome

- a. Attendance
- b. Additions to Agenda
 - i. Grad Hosted Speaker

The grad hosted speaker (Dr. Jeff Hutchings) is coming in two weeks; his talk is on March 9, and there is a workshop led by him on March 10th. The workshop will be on communicating science to the public and managers, and will be capped at max number of ~40 students. There will also be a lunch with grad students that day. There are many opportunities to meet with Dr. Hutchings and schedule meetings (either one-on-one, in labs, or groups etc.), and there will also be a post-seminar reception. An email will come shortly with details.

ii. 2016 Grad Symposium

Need to organize the grad symposium, tentatively scheduled for the first Thursday in April. The Grad Symposium is a good occasion for everyone in the Department to get together for a "mock" symposium, the goal being to connect and network. We need people to organize it; Kirsten and Tanya volunteered, we need one more person.

Suggestion: give an honorary award to someone that has a lot of impact in department beyond just supervising grads. Get the grad students to suggest names and vote.

iii. 2016-2017 Caucus elections pre-announcement

The end of caucus year is in May, which means there will be elections! We need new people to volunteer for all positions. Nominations will happen throughout March, followed by the election period, and elections in April.

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

Motion to approve the minutes from the January Biology Grad Caucus meeting.
Moved by: Dan Greenberg.
Seconded by: Marlene Wagner.
Decision: Motion carries with abstentions from Dan Greenberg.

2. Treasury update

Core Account: 1055.62\$

Trust Account: 1147.26\$

3. Committee updates

a) DGSC (Leslie Saunders, Nicola Smith)

No meeting this month but projects are moving forward.

b) DSC (Luis Malpica Cruz, Jennifer Bigman)

Reps finished ranking the Masters NSERC and undergrad awards. TMRAs should be awarded in March.

c) GSS (Michael Hrabar, Joyce Leung)

The annual meeting didn't reach quorum but still happened. Nothing much to report.

d) TSSU (Adrienne Berchtold, Leon Li, Fauve Strachan)

Emails were sent recently by TSSU to update all students about recent progress with bargaining.

Next meeting is coming up soon; TSSU is starting a anti-harassment sub-committee that will send survey soon.

e) Faculty Mole (Michael Hrabar)

Rep absent, no update.

4. Others

- i. There will be two grad caucus meetings next month, one with Chair Elizabeth Elle to talk about budget issues and implications for students, and the normal grad caucus with a visiting GSS rep to talk about mechanisms to deal with supervisor-students conflicts beyond the department level, in order to clarify what the current system is, so that we can improve it later on (and make it specific to BISC).
- ii. Fish trivia is an event hosted by the AFS BC-WA sub-unit next Wednesday, March 2. The first beer is free, and no membership is needed. Please come!
- iii. Discussion about the allocation of caucus extra money at the end of the year. Several suggestions: improving grad lounge, buying a new kettle, or new couches, BBQ, scholarship to students?

Or have a pot money to reimburse society fees every year for grad students that apply (e.g. students would have to show receipts of up to 50\$ to get reimbursed).

Discuss ideas and vote next month.

5. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the February 25, 2016 meeting of the Biological Sciences Graduate Student Caucus at 15:41.

Moved by: Dan Greenberg.

Seconded by: Pascale Gibeau.

Decision: Motion carries unanimously.