



## Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus

April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016 – 3:00 to 4:00 PM

**In attendance:** Marinde Out (Events Committee), Alannah Biega, Jayme Lewthwaite (Treasurer), Adrienne Berchtold (TSSU steward), Dan Greenberg (Chair), Richard Johnston, Samantha Wilson, Heather Coatsworth (Assoc. Chair), Kevin Hegemen, Nicola Smith (DGSC rep), Luis Malpica Cruz (DSC rep), Sarah Thomsen, Kolitha Halangoda, Leon Li (TSSU steward), Pauline Deschecht, Vanessa Guerra, Joyce Leung (GSS rep), Michael Hrabar (Faculty Mole & GSS rep), Pascale Gibeau (secretary).

**Absent:** Leslie Saunders (DGSC rep), Paul MacDonald (Events committee), Fiona Francis (Member at Large), Fauve Strachan (TSSU steward), Marlene Wagner (International student rep), Tanya Procyshyn (Webmaster), Jennifer Bigman (DSC Rep), Rachel Walls (Events committee).

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

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

Motion to reimburse 290\$ from core account to Jayme Lewthwaite.

Moved by: Dan Greenberg.

Seconded by: Luis Malpica.

Decision: Motion carries with abstentions from Jayme Lewthwaite and Dan Greenberg.

### ii. Follow-up on the Grad Symposium

The event was well-attended and fun. The new venue at Club Ilia worked well, with good light and comfortable space. Event was less structured and more relaxed than in previous years, which was appreciated.

There was no GSS funding available this year, but it would be nice to have next year so we can have more money to spend on food. Next year, organizing committee needs to start planning the event earlier to avoid missing the GSS February deadline.

### iii. Society Dues Raffle

Society dues raffle was suggested as a way to use the remainder of the annual budget. However, there is only about 100\$ left in the core account, so not enough money to justify the effort of organizing the raffle.

Please note that the caucus is always open to new ideas about how to use the money we have for projects for students. Core account is used for yearly activities while trust

account is used for bigger expenditure like t-shirt stocks (that then become revenue generation), BBQ maintenance, etc.

iv. 2016-2017 Caucus elections

The nominees for the 2016-2017 BISC Graduate Caucus executive are running unopposed for all positions and are as follows:

- Chair: Heather Coatsworth
- Associate Chair: Kyle Bobiwash
- Events Committee: Joyce Leung, Kolitha Halangoda (+1)
- Treasurer: Jayme Lewthwaite
- Secretary: Marinde Out
- Member at Large: Pascale Gibeau
- Webmaster: Vanessa Guerra
- Departmental Graduate Studies Committee (DGSC): Leslie Saunders (continuing) , Kevin Hegeman
- Departmental Scholarship Committee (DSC): Jenny Bigman (continuing), Pauline Deschodt
- Faculty Mole: Dan Greenberg
- Teaching Support Staff Union (TSSU) Steward: Tanya Procyshyn, Adrienne Berchtold, Richard Johnston, Nicholas Salcedo (+1)
- Graduate Student Society (GSS) Council Representative: Alannah Biega, Leon Li, Mike Hrabar
- International Students Representative: Eveling Tavera Fernandez

Motion to approve the above listed students at the relevant acclaimed positions listed for the Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus for the 2016-2017 academic term.

Moved by: Dan Greenberg.

Seconded by: Heather Coatsworth.

Decision: Motion carries with abstention from Dan Greenberg.

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

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

Moved by: Dan Greenberg.

Seconded by: Adrienne Berschtold.

Decision: Motion carries with abstentions from Dan Greenberg and Kevin Hegeman.

## **2. Treasury update**

Not updated by GSS but current numbers should be approximately:

Core account: 1055.62\$ (but should be 670\$ once expenses processed)

Trust account: 1147.26\$

## **3. Committee updates**

### **A. DGSC (Leslie Saunders, Nicola Smith)**

Last month meeting was cancelled, so no new update.

Leslie has been asking for feedback on stats course with Carl Swartz -- please send her feedback if you have followed that course this spring.

### **B. DSC (Luis Malpica Cruz, Jennifer Bigman)**

There isn't much to report; travel awards were awarded, and the next round of GF ranking is coming soon and will cover the full next year.

There are talks of new scholarships from BISC to recruit highly desired new grad students. These new scholarships should not affect amount of GFs available to current grad students.

### **C. GSS (Michael Hrabar, Joyce Leung)**

There has been discussion of jointly funding a space on Vancouver campus with the SFSS but there was strong opposition in the previous council meetings as the GSS feels like this should be SFU's responsibility. This issue has been resolved as the SFSS are happy to continue to fund the project even if the GSS drops out.

- The Open Access Advisory Committee came to the council meeting to get feedback on the open access draft policy. What this policy means is that for any scholarly work that is published in a \*green open access journal, a copy will have to be deposited in SFU's Institutional Repository (i.e. Summit) no later than the date of publication. The OA policy recognizes that in some cases, authors may not be able to do so due to copy right reasons, in which case university authors can obtain a waiver. Tanya Procyshyn in our department is the graduate student rep on this committee so feel free to ask her if you have any questions. You can also visit [www.lib.sfu.ca/oap](http://www.lib.sfu.ca/oap) for more information. \*Green open access journal publishers allow authors to self-archive, and therefore the public are to access the self-archived version of the article. Over 80% of journals are 'green'.

- There was also discussion on reaching quorum at the GSS council meetings. An interesting point that came out of this is that the GSS has the power to remove Caucuses from the GSS if they miss three consecutive scheduled meetings without approved regrets

(however, the caucus handbook says only the caucus rep is removed, and not the caucus itself). Removal from the GSS would mean the caucus would not receive funding from the GSS. Future GSS reps should be made aware of this clause.

- There has also been some talk of the GSS starting some student clubs, so keep an eye out for those!
- The GSS would like to remind all GSS members that there are many ways to get involved in the GSS, apart from becoming council representative (i.e. the GSS rep), including various committees. Check out the 'get involved' tab on the GSS website for more information.

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

The reps for TSSU get a 250\$ stipend to represent BISC grad at TSSU meetings. There is currently one missing student to fill the positions available on the caucus in 2016-2017.

There are no bargaining updates.

There is 250 000\$ of fund available for child care bursaries.

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

The meeting is on Monday, so updates will be given at the next caucus meeting.

BISC 827: there are modifications to description -- check online for details.

Evolutionary genetics and psychology: Canada Research Chair is asking for nominees from BISC department.

There is potential funding for a new biology building; timeline would be 2 years! It is pending approval from the government.

### 4. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the April 21, 2016 meeting of the Biological Sciences Graduate Student Caucus at 15:34.

Moved by: Dan Greenberg.

Seconded by: Jayme Lewthwaite.

Decision: Motion carries unanimously.