



Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus

April 24th 2017 – 15:30 to 16:30 PM

In attendance:

Kyle Bobiwash (Chair), Heather Coatsworth (Associate chair), Jayme Lewthwaite (Treasurer), Adrienne Berchtold (TSSU steward), Marinde Out (secretary and TSSU steward), Mike Hrabar (GSS rep), Kevin Hegeman (DGSC rep), Pauline Deschodt (DSC rep, Member at Large), Yonathan Uriel.

Absent:

Jennifer Bigman (DSC rep), Vanessa Guerra (Webmaster), Leslie Saunders (DGSC rep), Dan Greenberg (Faculty Mole), Richard Johnston (TSSU Steward), Nicolas Salcedo Porras (TSSU Steward), Tanya Procyshyn (TSSU Steward), Alannah Biega (GSS rep), Leon Li (GSS rep), Kolitha Halangoda (Events Committee), Danielle Hoefele (Events Committee), Joyce Leung (Events Committee), Eveling Taverna Fernandez (International Student rep).

1. Welcome -- Meeting called to order at 15:34 by Heather Coatsworth.

a. Attendance

b. Additions to Agenda

i. April Grad Symposium

The Grad Symposium will take place on Thursday May 4th at 6:30 at The Bowling Alley near Commercial-Broadway skytrain station. Bowling will be \$300 for 30 people playing 2-3 games of bowling. These costs include taxes and shoe rental. Then we still have \$200 for food and alcohol.

The other option discussed was curling. Costs of curling are a little higher (\$360 for an hour, \$150 left for food and beverages). The curling venue is more than an hour away from SFU (near Braid skytrain station), and requires reservation of the lanes beforehand.

The majority of the attending caucus members voted to go bowling because it is more accessible and more flexible in relation to the number of people showing up.

ii. Open Call for new executive positions

Acting on the caucus is a great and easy way to get involved in the biology graduate community at SFU! It also allows you to hear about everything going on around campus, and have a say in what happens for grad students in our department. Multiple positions are available, and some of them even include a paid stipend. If you would like to act on the caucus for the 2017 – 2018 year, please put your name down on this document (<https://docs.google.com/document/d/13nt8CXB-5o95YxQOS9mhJ2pryNY3wWHOENTZQzib8XE/edit?usp=sharing>). More information about each position can be found at: <http://biscgrads.blogspot.ca/p/about.html>. If you have questions about any of the positions, feel free to contact the individuals currently holding the positions for more information (<http://biscgrads.blogspot.ca/p/contact-information-main-contact-email.html>) ☺.

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

Motion to approve the minutes from the March Biology Graduate Caucus meeting.
Moved by: Heather Coatsworth
Seconded by: Kevin Hegeman
Decision: Motion carries on unanimously.

d. Motion to change the wording of the Tox Talks \$200 motion to reflect that the beneficiary is the Department of Biological Sciences, not Tox Talks

In the minutes of the 23rd of January 2017, a motion was moved forward to donate \$200 to Tox Talks.

Motion to change the wording of the Tox Talks \$200 motion to reflect that the beneficiary is Simon Fraser University, not Tox Talks.
Moved by: Heather Coatsworth
Seconded by: Marinde Out
Decision: Motion carries with abstention of Jayme Lewthwaite.

Original motion (23/01/2017):

Motion to spend up to \$200 for the ToxTalks conference.
Moved by: Heather Coatsworth
Seconded by: Kevin Hegeman
Decision: Motion carries with abstention from Jayme Lewthwaite.

New motion:

Motion to spend up to \$200 for the ToxTalks conference organized by the Department of Biological Sciences
Moved by: Heather Coatsworth
Seconded by: Marinde Out
Decision: Motion carries with abstention of Jayme Lewthwaite.

e. Biweekly Friday summer lunch BBQ

To support the BISC grad students who are still working at SFU in the summer, the BISC caucus is organizing a bi-weekly Friday summer lunch BBQ, just like last year. Costs are low, only \$50 per semester (can be reimbursed through petty cash). 12:00-1:30 outside between the Chemistry and Biology buildings. Bring your own food.

2. Treasury update (via e-mail from Jayme Lewthwaite)

Core account: \$ 1084.75 - \$500 goes to Grad Symposium, \$200 to ToxTalks

Trust account: \$ 1084.71

3. Committee updates

a. DGSC – Kevin Hegeman No updates

b. DSC – (Pauline Deschodt)

The committee is ranking GFs. Meeting is May 2nd. The results will be out soon. There were a lot of applications.

c. GSS – Mike Habrar

No new business. The last meeting did not reach quorum. Seeking input for proposed strategic plan, deadline is April 28th.

d. TSSU –Adrienne Berchtold

a) Grievance updates:

Guard.me - A settlement has been reached and reimbursements are starting to be distributed. For members who are or think they should be affected by this, there are a couple potential issues the union wanted to mention:

1. if you're supposed to receive a settlement but you recently closed an account or changed banks, please email settlement@tssu.ca to make sure the money is going to the right account
2. if you received an email from TSSU but didn't receive any money yet, hold on until the next paycheck. The reimbursements aren't going out all at once.

3. if you didn't receive an email from TSSU but think you are eligible,
email settlement@tssu.ca

4. if you think your settlement amount is too low, emailsettlement@tssu.ca

Calculation of base units (Biology and Mechatronics) - An agreement could not be reached via mediation so SFU and TSSU legal reps are going back to arbitration, scheduled for May 17/18 and June 12.

b) TA Priority violations:

Some departments have been assigning TA positions to externals over graduate students; this is a violation of the hiring priority the university has to follow according to the collective agreement. The TSSU is asking all graduate students who do not get assigned TAs to email the TSSU so they can make sure the department was following proper hiring protocol.

c) Student Evaluations

Student evaluations of instructors and TAs will now be done online (instead of by Scantron). More details to come.

d) Event on Wednesday April 26th: Responding to a Disclosure and Active Bystander trainings including free lunch. 1.5 hour. 11-12:30 pm.

Adrienne also met with Elizabeth Elle. She was really receptive to this training. The people who are planning the workshop are planning to have a phone chat with her (for workshops for faculty and how to integrate this type of education in grad student training). Giving the training through the entrance course BISC800 works for new MSc students, but this course is not required for PhD students.

e. Faculty Mole – (Dan Greenberg)

No updates

4. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the April 24th, 2017 meeting of the Biological Sciences Graduate Student Caucus at 15:54 pm.

Moved by: Heather Coatsworth

Seconded by: Mike Harbrar

Decision: Motion carries on unanimously.