# **BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES GRADUATE CAUCUS**



June 28<sup>th</sup> 2017 – 15:30 to 16:30 PM

#### In Attendance:

Yonathan Uriel (DSC rep.), Asim Renyard (TSSU), Kate Mill (Webmaster), Rylee Murray (Chair), Jenny Bigman (Faculty Mole), Jayme Lewthwaile (DGSC Rep.), Kari Zurowski (Treasurer/GSS), Rachel Canham (Events Coordinator), Sean Ritter (TSSU), Pauline Deschodt (DSC rep.). Heather Coatsworth (Member at large), Kyle Babiwash (resident BBQ'er), Elana Varner (Secretary).

### **Absent:**

- 1. Welcome Meeting called to order at 15:34 by Rylee Murray.
  - a. Attendance
    - i. Self-introductions of committee officials and their positions
  - b. Additions to Agenda
    - i. Graduate student orientation Thursday Sept 7th BBQ

Grad Caucus has sponsored BBQ in previous years. Maybe discuss in August meeting as prep should be minimal. Same grill as summer BYOF Friday Lunch grills. GSS grant could pay for it – to be investigated and found on pertinent website as recommended by Heather. The department could pay for it although the Grad Caucus has in the past. It is our most successful event so justifiable to spend a good proportion of our money on it.

Elizabeth Elle has requested we talk about grad caucus, GSS, and APEX to incoming students. Reps rom APEX and GSS will likely come but we must find their contacts need be found – ask Elle.

### ii. Graduate student mentoring program

A topic Elle encouraged to be discussed as spring and summer semester had a large influx of students especially as compared to fall semester. September/late August will be when students are notified though of this mentoring program. Heather has organized this in the past through simple list of incoming and current students matched by degree level (Masters vs PhD). Students exchange contacts but level of actual use is unknown. Future feedback might be helpful. BISC general email sent to connect these two groups which needs to be done.

- iii. Other summer discussion items
- c. Motion to approve minutes from last month's meeting
  - i. Motion put forward by Rylee Murray, seconded by Heather -- Motion carried unanimously
- d. May 25<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes motion
  - i. Motion put forward by Rylee Murray, seconded by Heather -- Motion carried unanimously
- e. Motion to forgo July 2017 caucus meeting

i. Motion put forward by Rylee Murray, seconded by Jamie -- Motion carried unanimously

## 2. Treasury Update

Jamie and Kari will transition their duties next week, therefore Jamie is in charge of this weeks' meeting. Trust account: \$1109.71. Core account for 2016-2017: \$446.05. Left to settle is bowling which was 350 about so 100 should be left over. Whatever is left over in Core will get moved to Trust at end of summer. \$2050 will be in Trust at end of Summer.

## 3. Committee Updates

- a. DGSC Jamie or Kevin (Kevin not here) Takes break in summer. Going through MET applications.
- b. DSC Yonathan and Pauline. Just met for private awards and sent out emails. If not already received then should soon.
- c. GSS Will be emailed for update as they are not here. They are currently planning event-free beer at steamworks downtown but must RSVP.
- d. TSSU Asim and Sean. Binder received from predecessors. Just beginning but went to general membership meeting. Not many motions passed.
- e. Faculty Mole 2 recent meetings, attended one. Hire David Hick and the new terrestrial ecologist, Leathan M'Gonigle. Speak of hiring someone in toxicology and evolutionary biology down the road. August through December Jenny will be doing field work so someone to fill in to attend the meetings.

## 4. Adjournment

a. Motion to end put forward by Rylee Murray and seconded by Sean – Motion carried through unanimously.

SECRETARY APPROVAL: (Electronic Signature & Date)

Elana Varner 6.28.17