



Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus  
August Meeting Agenda  
September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017

I. Welcome – Meeting called to order at 15:34 by Rylee Murray.

II. Attendance

Elana Varner (secretary), Yonathan Uriel (DGSC Rep), Asim Renyard (TSSU rep.), Vanessa Guerra (GSS C.), Danielle Hoefele (member at large), Heather Coatsworth (member at large), Kari Zurowski (GSS/Treasurer), Rachel Canham (Events coordinator), Pauline Deschodt (DGSC), Rylee Murray (Chair), Kevin Colmenores (student), Melissa Orobko (student), Serena Wong (student), Nicola Smith (student), Mason King (student), Kate Mill (webmaster)

ABSENT

Kristen is out of town due to field work.

III. Additions to Agenda

A. Start process for nominations and planning for grad hosted speaker(s)

- Rylee: lots of spaces for speakers still this fall, could pay for someone more local to make the trip for a shorter period of time, and then the usual spring hosted speaker?
  - Invite someone from a different department or UBC would be inexpensive or a day trip from UW only requires a day or night expense at the sfu hotel. If we jump on it then we could fill open November slots.
- Grad hosted speakers: Invited someone for lecture, a seminar, and then a lunch. Notable field of biology – outreach or science communication – why they are successful in conservation or mass publications. How do the nominations work? Anyone from the caucus? Yes, anyone can vote, workshop doesn't have to relate to their field, could be woman in science – great scientist AND additional skill set that EVERYONE is interested in.
- Put out a call for nominations: send out email to all the grads – just have them email you
- Last year all the nominees were male – had to do another round. Maybe explicitly say please be cognisant of gender biases in your recommendations
  - Please remember: geographical/ monetary. Unless they are already in the area for a conference etc.
  - No repeat invites: Send along list of who we invited the past 2 years

- Put deadline on recommendation
- Rylee will send out email asap on all those things
- Speaker funding: The department puts money towards – approx. 1200 – pair their money with ours
  - Last year got GSS money, didn't have to use any money of BGC
  - See if with all that extra money if we NEED it to be local. Maybe we have enough for extra
  - Department needs a month notice to fund you. 1200 per person from department
  - Department has corporate rates at hotels too
- Would this eat into our grad hosted speaker money?
  - Unsure. Significant money from bbq and grad symposium. Maybe we trade an event for a grad hosted speaker etc. Point of note – we were under budget for BBQ
- Another mini meeting to talk about hosted speaker once we get feedback?
  - Depends. If get responses back just organize over email
  - Budget should be figured out ASAP – that will determine criteria of nominations
  - Also need time to book hotels ect
    - If U of Washington or alberta
      - Per diem is 100=150 plus travel (alberta) 400
      - Department might be able to match some
  - UNDECIDED but motions can happen by email if we have not set enough money aside yet
- \$188 spent on bbq and budget was 450

### MOTION: Rylee to spend up to 300 on November speaker

- Seconded by Heather – Motion carried unanimously
- Kari Abstained, Rylee too

### Review of money overview request:

- How much money from whom?
- Every year we get a certain amount – whatever we don't use is put in savings account – motion required to do so – we currently have over 2050 in savings
- Get it in September for the year
- Usually get between 1000- 2000 depending on how many incoming students
- If there is a big project people are interested in can use this money
- Bought a new kettle last year

#### IV. Halloween party and pumpkin carving

- We pay for pumpkins; put them out and vote
  - 1 to 2 pumpkins per lab – brought a keg last year
- Bbq on the side, chips, beer for sale – similar to bbq at the beginning
- Had best costumes/couples costume last year
- Ask for sponsors around campus – free 10 dollar gift certificates
  - Renaissance, nester, ilia, BUBBLE TEA
  - Bubble tea place
- Volunteers to organize?
  - Usually event committee – but we only have one person!!!
  - Needs help for sure!
- Yonathan will ask Danielle what she did last year
- Send out email: ask who wants to carve, buy them, distribute
- Be sure to ask for volunteers for ice, chairs, ect closer to the day
- Could instead buy pizza than bbq
  
- Mason King is Happy to join the committee

#### MOTION: Heather nominates Mason King to join event committee

- Asim seconds motion -- Motion carried unanimously
- Kari, Mason, Rylee abstained

#### MOTION: Nicole nominated Melissa to be part of the event committee

- Elana seconds motion -- Motion carried unanimously
- Melissa abstains
  
- Where should we have the venue?
- Chem atrium before: Any lounge is fair game: Physics might be good to close the blinds for pumpkin viewing

#### MOTION: Rylee motions to spend on Halloween to spend up to 400

- Seconded Elana Varner-- Motion carried unanimously
- Abstained Kari and Rylee
- Cash advances are an option for future events – should do it now so that we have it!!

Motion to approve the expenses (\$188.86) from the welcome bbq - Rylee

- Seconded Rachel -- Motion carried unanimously
- Kari abstained

Motion to Rewording the motion from date 8-25-17: To include Kristen Walters as the person to reimburse

- Seconded by Heather -- Motion carried unanimously
- Kari abstained

V. Treasury update:

- core account: 250 topped up from setup
- trust/savings : 1093.26
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VI. Committee Updates:

- DGSC – Yonathan and Pauline
- Tammy entomology scholarship
- Tmra = open, closes October 15<sup>th</sup>

I. GSS - Kari

- Looking for a new student speaker
- New dean of science – need student s on the committee there too – looking tomorrow and Wednesday
- Write a paragraph on why you think it should be you – contact Kari for help

○ TSSU - Asim

- Chief steward is going to resign
  - He is the one who gets the complains
  - Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> = his last day, go thru election process
  - Overworking them, so he'd have to take 3 months to make back the time
  - Talking about having 2 to split up the work

○ NO Jenny or Colin today – no faculty mole. Likely no updates.

- Other notes

- GSS Budget cut was discussed: 50,000 deficit from paternal leave
- In reaction:
  - Cut parental family program
  - Cut legal services
- Hopefully in the following year it will go back!
- If you are going to travel abroad – new service to help with navigating politics: health insurance – if law changes when you go and sudden ban – service is there to help you get back: International SOS pamphlet

### Motion to approve minutes from last month's meeting (August 27 meeting)

- Mason seconds -- Motion carried unanimously
- Nicole abstains

- Serena, Pauline, Melissa organizing eco evo retreat in Brackendale

- Questions can go to them
- When are abstracts due – October 5<sup>th</sup>
- Should be able to change and modify before though
- Payment due Oct. 20th

- Adjournment

- Motion put forth Rylee, seconded by Kevin -- Motion carried unanimously.

**SECRETARY APPROVAL:** Elana Varner                      9.25.17  
(Electronic Signature & Date) \_\_\_\_\_