

# Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus

**Oct 31, 2017 - .30 to 3.30pm**

## Meeting adjourned at 2:33

### 1. Welcome

#### a. Attendance

Elana Varner (secretary), Yonathan Uriel (DGSC Rep), Danielle Hoefele (member at large), Heather Coatsworth (member at large), Pauline Deschodt (DGSC), Rylee Murray (Chair), Kevin Colmenores (student), Colin Bailey (Faculty Mole), Mason King (Events Committee coordinator), Melissa Orobko (Events Committee coordinator), Adrienne Berchtold (member), Mike Hrabar (member)

#### Absent

Asim Renyard (TSSU rep.): TAing 315

Kari Zurowski (GSS/Treasurer), Rachel Canham (Events coordinator)

Kristen Walters (Vice President): Field work

Rachel Canham (Events Committee coordinator)

### b. Additions to Agenda

#### **i. Start process for nominations and planning for grad hosted speaker(s)**

- update on grad hosted speakers: Ray Huey coming Nov 14 - 15.
- Anyone want to help organize the food for the lunch discussion? Spots open to sit and chat. He's had good back and forth with people about what being a good grad student means. He's old school for academia routes. Followed by a science based seminar on the 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Organizing where the talk will be ect. Dan has been putting together a list of discussion questions for over his lunch as a back up. Going to send an email asking to collect people's questions to add to the list. Otherwise people can come with their own questions themselves.
- start planning Spring Grad Hosted Speaker: results will be summarized by Oct 31
- Looking for input: Jane Lochanco won with 14 votes. Counting system used: First vote = 1 point, 2<sup>nd</sup> choice is 0.5. Out of 48 people who voted out of 145 people in biology. Votes done other ways in the past, but this method is perfectly fine.

- Jane: Forest and stream ecology in her early work. Now works on ocean ecology and conservation. Was a science advisor for Obama for many years, now back at Oregon. She would likely talk about her experience with policy. Amanda Kissel was at a national parks conference last year where she similarly talked about policy.
- Looking for people to help organize more aside from this.
- Maybe an organizing committee is what needs to happen. Beginning of March is normally when this takes place.

## ii. Halloween Party/Pumpkin carving wrap up and approve any expenses

- Might have gone over budget or over the cash advance
- Initially 400 put towards it.

Alcohol was partly an issue. Cans were taken out of cases so can't be returned

- Is there some way to buy the alcohol for the Eco Evo retreat?
- Eco Evo has no formal expense claim and how that would work for the Caucus money

Maybe just don't ask for money back more than what the cash advance was (the extra)

- For cash advance just have to prove you spent what was given to you: The GSS writes the department a check, not the individual.

In past have sold extra to stats beers as well.

- If Dan wants to give her money → bought from Rachel and then she'll calculate what the extra is

Ask barb who the check needs to be made out to → often a strange source

Cash box had profits with tally

- Department NEEDS a check but personal can be straight from the cashbox and go through other process to be reimbursed the remaining amount → Kari has the cashbox, bring her receipt.

Prepaid visa is an option in the future – something too informal (unless it's 50 bucks) then it might not be abiding by the treasury rules

***MOTION: to reword the cash advance from last month's minutes so that Rachel Canham and Melissa Orbko and Department of Biological Sciences are included: Put forward by Rylee***

- Adrienne Berchtold seconds – Motion carried unanimously
- Melissa abstained

***MOTION: Another 75 dollars to Rachel Canham and Melissa Orobko and Department of Biological Sciences for expenses of the Halloween party: Put forward by Rylee***

- Pauleen seconds– Motion carried unanimously
- Melissa abstained
  - Just in case (despite the extra beer being sold) we are still over budget
  - Likely still over by 40 dollars so it would be petty cash.

***c. MOTION: to approve minutes from September 2017 meeting: Put forward by Rylee***

- Mason King seconds– Motion carried unanimously
- Abstained by Adrienne Berchtold

**2. Treasury update**

- Kari isn't here
- Core account 1861.64
- Savings account 1093.96

**3. Committee updates**

- a. DGSC – Jamie isn't here: Colin heard about DGSC from department meeting he will discuss later
- b. DSC – Yonathan: last week TMRA presidents PHD and NSERC applications: no one applied for a GERTA → US counts as international → We like to give out GERTA so people should apply
  - Carl C. Iverson: New scholarship for agriculture 10,000 for maters 16000 for phd
- c. GSS – Rylee has update
  - Currently seeking nominations for directors – stipend opportunities. Website Deadline is Sunday Nov 5<sup>th</sup> at midnight
  - Rylee will send email about this
  
  - A motion has passed: Single unified GSS fee 25 – 50 dollars a semester for part time students but not full time
    - Additional funds will be used for staffing and paying current members
    - Encompasses Surrey and other campuses
    - Seems like it floats GSS – we wouldn't have a caucus without them...
- d. TSSU – Neither reps are here
- e. Faculty Mole: Colin:
  - Dean talking to provost to study life sciences → an external source
  - Probably something to do with different departments competing over students – drives funding of each of these departments
    - Rem vs biology vs microbiology

- Shrum chair – opportunity to hire professor (mid-career well-established in field) previous 5 times it was in other science departments, now it is life science’s turn
  - People decided to look for a neuroscience person with only 7 applicants.
  - SFU has no Medical school and area is expensive to live in; maybe need a larger neuroscience department to begin with
  - Canceled search and are reworking at the moment: asking the province if we can target Woman in neurobiology
  - Head hunt specific is illegal.
  - Huge gender imbalance in our current faculty
  - Might not end up using Shrum chair to get neuroscientist. Maybe target early career person just by opening position
- Margo motioned and passed adjunct renewal: Bob’s professorship was renewed
  - Changed the criteria for renewal: used to be what have they done for the department, now look at current contributions and future potential service.
- CGSM – Dec 1<sup>st</sup> deadline is coming up
- Search for Dean of science – able to submit comments before Friday at 4 pm – could be external or internal

**4. MOTION for Adjournment of meeting: Put forward by Rylee**

- Adrienne Berchtold seconds– Motion carried unanimously

**SECRETARY APPROVAL:** Elana Varner                      11.04.17  
 (Electronic Signature & Date) \_\_\_\_\_