

Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus



Feb 26, 2018 - 4.00 to 4.30pm

In Attendance

Elana Varner (secretary), Heather Coatsworth (member), Pauline Deschodt (DSC), Mason King (Events Committee officer), Melissa Orobko (Events Committee coordinator), Rachel Canham (events committee officer), Melissa Orobko (events committee officer), Kristen Walters (Co-chair), Asim Renyard (TSSU), Yonathan Uriel (DGSC Rep), Kari Zurowski (GSS/Treasurer), Kate Mill (Webmaster)

Absent:

Rylee Murray (Chair), Colin Bailey (Faculty Mole), Vanessa Guerra (GSS C.), Marinde Out (TSSU), Kolitha Halangoda (GSS), Jayme Lewthwaite (DGSC)

1. Welcome – Meeting commenced at 4.04pm

b. Additions to Agenda

- i. Update from organizing committee for Spring Grad Hosted Speaker
→ Trevor will give a Department Seminar on whales Wednesday, March 21st at 3:30. With a graphics/data visualization workshop on Thursday the 22nd after Les Ecol.

General schedule: Sign up is until morning – *seminar on whales*– drinks at ilia from 4:30 on – *1st come 1st serve for free beer*; Thursday Trevor can have morning to himself and attend les ecols if he wants – then workshop of max 25 with piiza. *Workshop is on graphics*. Register or *1st come 1st serve?* Can always add people but planning food etc for 25 – room needs to be booked- Big Data is booked. Illia will sometimes extend happy hour for the group if you ask.

Department is supplying \$200 for drinks – they only cover one drink per person. They were going to do jugs, but department calculates 5 people per jug etc.

Meal allowance for Trevor? Last year the speaker went to a separate dinner the day of the event → that was reimbursed, functionally sort of 2 different expenses. Trevor has to write the expense claim for his per diem. Just need to get reimbursement package ready to give to Trevor – have him keep all his receipts.

ii. Renovations to BioPhys lounge - This is the lounge is the upper level one (8000) between physics and bio. **Email Yonathan with ideas! (See current suggestions below)**

→ Physics and Bio are supportive of renovation. Funding and designs available within 6 weeks.

→ Major questions: Do grad students use area? Not really used by students but if the amenities were better they would.

→ Looking for Rep student in design process. Yonathan is interested.

5 minute brainstorm of suggestions for Ruth

→ Suggestions:

Fixed furniture model. → moveable would be nice too to make open space – dangerous though, might get lifted/stolen

OUTLETS

Current chairs/couch is impractical.

No way to adjust the light levels. Curtains, and light switch etc.

When will meeting be? (Yonathan will email Rylee) No date determined as of yet.

Solicit other labs for input! Send Bisc Grads email

Maybe putting some doors in to make the space feel more enclosed.

Must be better than chemistry :P

c. **MOTION** by Elana to approve minutes from January 2018 meeting – Asim seconds – Yonathan and Kristen abstain. Passed unanimously.

2. Treasury update

Core: 1051.41

Trust: 1221.26

There are a lot of Bio t-shirts still. They sell for 10 bucks – 3 different patterns – good for gifts for speakers.

Bring t shirts to les ecol once every couple of weeks – email Kate for this

3. Committee updates

a. DGSC – Jayme is absent

b. DSC – Pauline TMRAs are open for spring, that is it. Private awards will open soon.

Emails to come - email her to make sure she has your applications – Make her verify. **

c. GSS – Kari - Surrey meeting. Issue 1: New housing to be built in Surrey: pair of buildings. Reserved for students or grad students. They're not sure how they are going

to manage it yet. Issue 2: SFU Catering: Quality and price of food – **Kari has a contact for people who want to have their input heard.** They are not sensitive to food allergies apparently. Other Issues: Need volunteers for space working groups and academic plan working group. Mental wellness feedback survey as well. Email Kari Zurowski kzurowsk@sfu.ca for details.

d. TSSU – Asim, nothing to report. Other rep. went to recent membership meeting also with nothing to report

e. Faculty Mole – Colin absent – Faculty meeting was currently happening same time as our meeting

4. Adjournment –

MOTION: to adjourn: put forth by Kristen, seconded by Kate. Passed unanimously.