

Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus

April 30, 2018 - 4.30 to 5.30pm



1. Welcome

a. Attendance: Elana Varner (secretary), Heather Coatsworth (member), Pauline Deschodt (DGSC), Rylee Murray (Chair), Kevin Colmenares (member), Melissa Orobko (Events Committee coordinator), Kristen Walters (Co-chair), Asim Renyard (TSSU), Kari Zurowski (Treasurer), Catherine Villeneuve, Allison Dennert, Kate Mill (Webmaster), Jenny Bigman, Serena Wong

Absent: Colin Bailey (Faculty Mole), Mason King (Events Committee officer), Rachel Canham (events committee officer)

b. Additions to Agenda

i. Election –

Motion to have an omnibus vote electing everyone into their requested positions (everyone is running unopposed) – Rylee puts forward, Heather seconds. Passes unanimously.

Newly elected positions:

Chair (1 position): Pauline Deschodt

Associate chair (1 position): Elana Varner

Treasurer (1 position): Kari Zurowski

Secretary (1 position): Rylee Murray

Member at large (1 position): Kristen Walters

Officers

Events Committee (minimum 3 positions): Melissa Orobko, Allison Dennert, Asim Renyard, Kevin Colmenares

Webmaster (1 position): Catherine Villeneuve

Representatives

GSS reps (1-3 positions): Kari Zurowski

TSSU Stewards (1-3 positions): no one filling this yet

DGSC rep (1 position - 2 year term): Melissa Orobko

DGSC rep (1 position - 1 year remaining): Jayme Lewthwaite

DSC rep (1 position - 2 year term): Serena Wong

DSC rep (1 position - 1 year remaining): Yonathan Uriel

Faculty Meeting Rep (formerly Faculty Mole) (1 position): Jenny Bigman

Workshop committee (2-3 positions): Rachel Canham, Elana Varner, Kristen Walters

Miscellaneous Discussion:

Maybe for workshop committee we'll offer a stipend at some point. We'll discuss later as they probably will not very active over the summer

We notice that it is mostly the same people as last year volunteering for these positions.

- Supposedly, according to the Biology website, there are 160 graduate students total, yet we have difficulty filling 15 positions.
- Also, this number seems large, none of us present know 80 fellow biology graduate students let alone 160.
- For participation outreach (specifically for events) it'd be interesting to get breakdown of department #'s from Marlene.

Elizabeth Elle has offered to give us the code to an 8000 level room for recreational purposes in hopes of bringing the graduate students together more.

We will also be getting 4-6 new picnic tables for \$2000 dollars. Assembly will be required:

- We could bring beers and have an assembly party
 - Ecology department should have tools if needed
- ii. Executives and Committee reps to create and hand down working documents for new caucus
 - Link a google doc version to the website to make it permanent and easily accessible
 - iii. Debrief Bisc Bowls -
 - \$400.00 was the cost exactly. Cash advance was not done in the end.
Motion to amend March 28th minutes to reimburse Melissa \$400.00 for the Bisc Bowls event. Rylee puts forth, Pauline seconds. Kari, Melissa, and Rylee abstain. Motion passes unanimously.
 - iv. Cuban animal rescue seeks donations of sterile syringe donations (20 & 21 gauge)
 - Sheryl Lenard asked to have it put on the agenda. If labs have them it is for a good cause!
 - v. Break down of dinner costs: Club Ilia – \$186 from department for dinner and food. GSS does not pay any of that. However, Melissa bought Trevor an SFU mug for 12.99, reimburse Melissa a specific amount from petti cash.
- c. **Motion** to approve minutes from March 2018 meeting
Rylee put forth, Kristen seconds. Passes unanimously.

2. Treasury update

- \$759.41 now, but \$359.41 after \$400 transfer/reimbursement – Core
- \$1026.26 - Trust
- Transfer between accounts will happen in August.

3. Committee updates

- DGSC – Nothing from Jamie
- DSC – Pauline – we're up to ranking the GF applications → Debbie sent email with new scholarships due June 1st. Get references together and if you have a question ask Debbie
- TSSU – No update
- Faculty Meeting – Colin went to the last one but no update

Miscellaneous discussion:

- Open channel with the department: the chairs of the caucus have an open line to Elizabeth Elle. We'll emailing her to let her know the chairs are now Pauline and Elana. (We are the ones to go to Elizabeth for money.)
- Invite the chair to a couple meetings a year for a Q+A info session –
 - Next month or waiting until the fall? Wait until September for a Q+A.
 - Have her attend a certain later section of the meeting – after 45 mins...
 - Our concerns, grievances with the DSC make sure it is back and forth. Line open between department and caucus might help involvement.
 - Send her the Q+A questions BEFOREHAND → so she can come prepared for the questions
 - Use caucus meeting the month before to summarize questions and send to Elizabeth for the month after.
- GSS has PowerPoint presentations on what a caucus is etc.. → email them to find out when these meetings are
 - GSS told us we can get a prepaid visa card for people whenever purchases need to be made.
- Need for new BBQ?
 - There are 3 grills currently
 - Always ask Elizabeth before purchasing in case she'll buy it for us.
 - June 17th is Fathers day: easy day to get a good quality, free, curbside grill
- Results from Poll from survey are in – bring up another time for large discussion.
 - A lot of people say they don't engage because speaker doesn't reflect their area of interest
 - We asked for nominations etc. so this shouldn't be a problem. Though Ecology outweighs all other disciplines. Maybe they simply vote the most
 - Potential solution: Choose new grad hosted speaker based on the break down of graduate student numbers in biology– i.e. # in MET, # cell biology etc.
 - Elana will ask Marlene for program break down (census sort of thing)
 - On campus or off campus, live at home etc.

- Ask the department for info or put out a survey? Addresses would be simple enough.
 - Survey: How often do you work from home? Lobby them to do questionnaire as part of their registration, or annual progress report. Have them fill it out when they initially move here and offer prize for filling out the survey.
 - Interesting to see if people involved are all from the same lab. Maybe use this effect to reach out to one person per lab to be an events liaison for their lab. See if that has an effect.
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- Seminar spots: Ron said there will not be any open spots.
 - Option to have another fall hosted speaker
 - Rylee is happy to help get the ball rolling here.
 - Doesn't have to be out of pocket.
 - Last Monday of May is the next meeting

4. Adjournment –

Motion to Adjourn April meeting. Put forth by Rylee. Seconded by Allison. Passed unanimously.