

Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus  
August 12, 2019, 3:30pm

1. Welcome

a. Attendance

**Steering Committee**

Chair: Yonathan Uriel

Associate Chair: Melissa Orobko

Treasurer: Kari Zurowski

Secretary: Tess Forstner

Member at Large: Pauline Deschodt

**Officers**

Events Committee: Kevin Colmenares

Diversity Committee: Elana Varner, Ranah Chavoski, Joanna Enns

Workshop Committee: Elana Varner

Webmaster: Adam Blake

**Representatives:**

GSS Rep: Kari Zurowski

DGSC: Melissa Orobko

TSSU Rep: Tess Forstner

DSC Rep: Serena Wong

**Members:** Steven Brownlee

b. Additions to Agenda

i. Add territorial acknowledgment for first people and unceded traditional territory to caucus constitution/website (diversity committee)

1. Add statement of inclusion to constitution/website (diversity committee)

ii. Motion to approve minutes from June's meeting by Yonathan Uriel

iii. Seconded by Elana Varner

iv. Motion passes unanimously

2. Treasurer's Update

a. Core account: \$516.61

b. Trust: \$ 993.13

i. Motion to transfer \$516.61 from core account to trust account by Kari Zurowski

ii. Seconded by Elana Varner

iii. Unanimously passes, Kari Zurowski abstained

3. Representatives' Update

a. DGSC: Melissa Orobko

i. Student supervisor relationships

1. Three documents to give to new students in orientation: 1) setting clear expectations 2) perceived roles of student and supervisor 3) guide to conflict

ii. Degree requirements on website

1. Recommended changes to the website should occur around September
  - b. DSC- Serena Wong
    - i. Tony Williams is stepping down, in process of getting new chair of DSC
    - ii. TMR should open in the middle of September
  - c. TSSU – Tess Forstner
    - i. TSSU Reps visiting at the end of meeting for message
    - ii. Grievance, TA postings and bargaining update
  - d. GSS- Kari Zurowski
    - i. Gondola: GSS endorsement?
    - ii. New speaker of counsel to be decided in August meeting
  - e. Faculty Meeting
    - i. No update
4. Grad-hosted speaker for Spring 2020
    - a. Wade Davis from UBC selected by difficult to get in contact with
  5. Grad Student Mentor Program
    - a. 13 people signed up so far, need 25 people to sign up to have big enough pool
      - i. Every new student gets paired with an older grad student
    - b. Potential department funding for networking night, specifically for mentors and mentees
      - i. Bank for mentor/mentee coffee dates
      - ii. Free drink tickets if mentor/mentee meet up at the welcome bbq
    - c. Ideally one mentorship organizer to keep things running in the future
  6. Student well-being and the APR
    - a. Potential student well-being clause added to annual progress report
    - b. Add monthly survival tips to website or in emails announcing caucus meetings
  7. Committee Updates
    - a. Diversity Committee:
      - i. Diversity and inclusion survey results
        1. 5 questions with 41 responses
      - ii. Developing list of resources available
    - b. Events Committee:
      - i. Meeting this week to plan welcome bbq
    - c. Workshop Committee:
      - i. Ideas for potential workshops: harassment training (student conduct office), scholarships (focused on private awards and NSERC), TA
  8. Caucus chairs meeting with associate dean: Yonathan Uriel
    - a. Parking pass waivers: basically no.
    - b. Paying tuition in installments not available for RA, only TA. Payroll is entered in manually, but SFU IT taskforce is working on improving it.
  9. Adjournment

- a. Motion to adjourn to August 2019 meeting (4:47)
- b. Moved by Yonathan Uriel
- c. Second by Serena Wong
- d. Passes unanimously

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tesia Forstner", written in a cursive style.

Tesia Forstner - Secretary