

Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus  
September 26, 2019, 4:30pm

1. Welcome
  - a. Attendance
    - Steering Committee**
    - Chair: Yonathan Uriel
    - Associate Chair: Melissa Orobko
    - Treasurer (temporary): Pauline Deschodt
    - Secretary: Tess Forstner
    - Member at Large: Pauline Deschodt
    - Officers**
    - Events Committee: Kevin Colmenares, Elijah Reyes, Asim Reynard
    - Diversity Committee: Elana Varner, Ranah Chavoski, Steven Brownlee
    - Workshop Committee: Elana Varner
    - Webmaster: Adam Blake
    - Representatives:**
    - DGSC: Melissa Orobko
    - TSSU Rep: Tess Forstner
    - DSC Rep: Serena Wong, Rachel Munger
    - Faculty Mole: Hannah Watkins
    - Members:** Katie Leonard, Sarah Gravel, Mason King, Florian Reurink, Brett Hodinka
  - b. Additions to Agenda
    - i. Territorial acknowledgment
      1. Someone new does the acknowledgment before every meeting; learning process
    - ii. Motion to approve minutes from August meeting
      1. Moved by Yonathan Uriel
      2. Seconded by Asim Reynard
      3. Motion passes unanimously
    - iii. Motion to approve minutes from earlier September meeting
      1. Moved by Yonathan Uriel
      2. Seconded by Asim Reynard
      3. Motion passes unanimously
2. Call for special election (Treasurer)
  - a. Short-term treasurer needed for rest of year as Kari Zurowski graduated. Good job, Kari!
    - i. Pauline Deschodt, member at large, is temporarily acting as treasurer
  - b. Nominations requested now, election will occur at October caucus meeting
3. Treasurer's Update: Pauline Deschodt
  - a. Core account: \$666.67
  - b. Trust: \$ 1509.74
4. Representatives' Update

- a. DGSC: Melissa Orobko
  - i. Updates to department website happening and going well. MSc and MPM required to submit proposal for first APR. Proposals are required to be 3-4 pages. Transfer to PhD program has updated and accurate information.
  - ii. Student-supervisor relationship documents are finalized! They were distributed to new students at orientation with added mental health discussion. In the future, a well-being section will be added.
  - iii. Potential development for all (national-level) grad students have central platform for other grad students to discuss issues and solutions. Email Melissa (melissa\_orobko@sfu) if you are interested or have any ideas of how this can be developed.
  - iv. Marlene retired so Laurie is stepping into her role with assistance from Debbie. Admin asks for our patience during this transition.
  - v. Working to clarify in initial offer of admissions that students must pay tuition from offer amount.
  - vi. New: 3-4-minute presentation/update from the BISC caucus at faculty meetings. Opportunity to have two-way communication to inform faculty of caucus developments. Propose item to every caucus agenda to determine what should be said during these 3-4 minutes
- b. DSC- Serena Wong
  - i. TMRA awards open
    - 1. Can apply even if you've already had your trip
  - ii. Master and PhD NSERC awards are due Dec 1
- c. GSS- notes delivered by Yonathan Uriel
  - i. Phasing out single-use plastics
  - ii. MSP changes: BC government only province that charges monthly premium for residents; changing in January 2020. Free for BC residents and increasing to \$75 for international students
  - iii. GSS partnered with Club Ilia: special happy hour for grad students on Tuesdays from 6-9pm
- d. TSSU – Tess Forstner
  - i. Softball Stipend
  - ii. MSP premium changes: Spread word, come Oct 3. 2:30 at AQ 5135. Sign up for updates at [tssu.ca/mspfees](http://tssu.ca/mspfees)
  - iii. climate strike and vandalism of "I've got to pee" posters
- e. Faculty Meeting: Hannah Watkins
  - i. Strong support from faculty for new student-supervisor relationship plans
  - ii. New hiring plans: looking for plant biologist, but having difficulties pushing paperwork to approve hiring
    - 1. Could be having difficulty with hiring positions due to growing Surrey campus
  - iii. New risk management for SFU vehicles
    - 1. Changes may happen during 2020
    - 2. Infractions now go on your personal record
    - 3. Not covered under WBC unless you are doing a TAsip

- a. But WorkSafeBC tends to cover students although SFU won't
- iv. Faculty supporting climate strike at city hall on Friday

## 5. Committee Update

### a. Diversity and Inclusion

- i. Accomplished thus far: developed committee, survey results, template for territorial acknowledgment, pronouns on name cards at Welcome BBQ
- ii. Sexual violence and prevention workshop
  - 1. Sexual violence prevention and support office is your one-stop for all problems/concerns. Available 24/7. They're third party, so not associated with university. Can report cat-calling or anything offensive written on campus. Deals with all issues, no matter the severity. Here to help you!
  - 2. Potential of mandatory sexual violence and prevention training for faculty
  - 3. Positive feedback from workshop and more information from the workshop can be found on caucus website
  - 4. Motion to reimburse Elana Varner \$13.75 for coffee from petty cash
    - a. Moved by Pauline Deschodt
    - b. Seconded by Ranah Chavoski
    - c. Passes unanimously
  - 5. Motion to reimburse Elana Varner \$94.98 for snacks from core account
    - a. Moved by Pauline Deschodt
    - b. Seconded by Ranah Chavoski
    - c. Passes unanimously

### b. Workshop

- i. Purpose of workshop committee is to fill void of missing information and do our own workshop on a topic
  - 1. Think about workshops you'd like to see and suggest it for a future workshop!

### c. Events- BBQ Post-mortem

- i. Cash box has \$768.21
- ii. Motion to reimburse Asism Reynard \$68.61 for alcohol at Welcome BBQ through core account
  - 1. Moved by Pauline Deschodt
  - 2. Seconded by Yonathan Uriel
  - 3. Passes unanimously
- iii. Motion to reimburse Jaime Chalissery \$12.95 for food purchased for Welcome BBQ through petty cash
  - 1. Moved by Pauline Deschodt
  - 2. Seconded by Yonathan Uriel
  - 3. Passes unanimously
- iv. Motion to reimburse Kevin Colmenares \$35.00 for Welcome BBQ through petty cash

1. Moved by Pauline Deschodt
    2. Seconded by Yonathan Uriel
    3. Passes unanimously
  - v. Motion to reimburse Kevin Colmenares \$41.12 for special permit to host BBQ through petty cash
    1. Moved by Pauline Deschodt
    2. Seconded by Yonathan Uriel
    3. Passes unanimously
  - d. Halloween Party Planning
    - i. Motion to spend up to \$500 Halloween Party
      1. Moved by Yonathan Uriel
      2. Seconded by Serena Wong
      3. Passes unanimously
6. Grad Student Mentor Program – Networking Night
  - a. Grant approved from GSS to fund Networking Night
  - b. Finding October date to book The Study for ~40 people. TBD.
7. Update: Grad-hosted speaker for Spring 2020
  - a. Trying to contact Dr. Wade Davis: has not responded to phone calls or emails
  - b. Now going to reach out to 2<sup>nd</sup> choice
  - c. Grad hosted speaker coming in November: Dr. Elana Bennett from McGill.
    - i. Please go to this workshop, as we voted for her to come....
8. Adjournment
  - a. Motion to adjourn to September 2019 meeting (5:36)
    - i. Moved by Yonathan Uriel
    - ii. Second by Adam Blake
    - iii. Passes unanimously



Tesia Forstner - Secretary