

Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus
October 28, 2019, 2:30pm

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, Asim Reynard

Diversity Committee: Elana Varner, Ranah Chavoski, Steven Brownlee, Joanna Enns, Sarah Johnson

Workshop Committee: Elana Varner, Sarah Johnson

Webmaster: Adam Blake

Representatives:

DGSC: Melissa Orobko, Sarah Johnson

TSSU Rep: Tess Forstner

DSC Rep: Serena Wong

Members: Brett Hodinka, Janesse Holmes

b. Additions to Agenda

- i. Territorial acknowledgment from Pauline Deschodt
- ii. Motion to approve minutes from September meeting
 1. Moved by Yonathan Uriel
 2. Seconded by Pauline Deschodt
 3. Motion passes unanimously

2. Treasurer's Update: Pauline Deschodt

- a. Core account: \$1905.02
- b. Trust: \$ 1509.74

3. Representatives' Update

- a. DGSC: Melissa Orobko
 - i. Agreement of needed clarification that admissions offer amount of \$23,000 does not include tuition
 - ii. Asking for clarification of how exactly grad students cost university \$10,000 per year
 - iii. Potential hiring of environmental toxicology adjunct of professor
 - iv. Due to past issues, how to confirm that entire committee including external examiner received a thesis before defense?
 1. No procedure will be implemented due to extra paper work but now when Laurie sends email to ENTIRE committee with thesis, the senior supervisor needs to confirm that everyone received thesis

- v. Standardizing BISC 800 core topics update: still having lots of pushback so the fight continues!
- vi. Should BISC 869 Quantitative Methods course be moved from “special topics course” to a core course? Leithen is the only one who can teach it right now
- vii. Website updates still ongoing on 2-3 vs 3-4 pages for MSc proposal
- b. DSC- Serena Wong
 - i. GRTA, TMRA, Vanier, NSERC phds, Presidents scholarships are being ranked
 - ii. NSERC masters scholarship due December 1st and workshop upcoming
- c. GSS- no representative update
- d. TSSU – Tess Forstner/Vince from TSSU
 - i. Campaign to unionize research assistants
 - ii. Have 640 cards signed so far
 - iii. BC labor code: 90 days to sign as many cards as you can
 1. When you sign a card, TSSU collects them in a locked box and then submits all cards to labor board. If TSSU has 45% or more of research assistants sign cards, then we can vote to unionize Ras. We may have 1600 RAs at SFU.
 2. BISC RA issues: safety/liability, and no standardized protocols or contracts for things in general
 3. Upcoming organizing session: contact Melissa at melissa_orobko@sfu.ca if you’re interested in participating in the campaign
- e. Faculty Meeting
 - i. Happening right now!

4. Committee Update

- a. Diversity and Inclusion Committee
 - i. Working on ways to de-colonize research
 - ii. Good to focus on specific things, but be flexible and open to all new ideas
- b. Workshop Committee
 - i. Everyone on workshop committee is super busy so right now no one has time to put on workshops
 - ii. Offering standard honorarium \$200 for speaker and \$100 for snacks for those who come and do a workshop for/with us
 - iii. Workshop committee needs people with free time! Step up if you want to participate and put on a workshop!
- c. Events Committee
 - i. Halloween Party issues with selling liquor on campus, which is why we aren’t selling liquor this time.
 - ii. As event is at pub, it will be more expensive! But beer will be limited and free!
 - iii. Motion for additional \$240.00 in approved expenditures for Halloween Party
 1. Moved by Yonathan Uriel
 2. Second by Serena Wong
 3. Abstained by Kevin Colmenares and Asim Reynard

5. Special Election (Treasurer)
 - a. Motion to unanimously approve Brett Hodinka as treasurer
 - b. Moved by Pauline Deschodt
 - c. Seconded by Yonathan Uriel

6. Field trip *per diem* for grad students- Ranah Chavoski
 - a. TAs should be reimbursed from long- distance fieldtrips for food
 - b. Issue to be brought up at next DGSC meeting

7. Grad Student Mentor Program Update
 - a. Going well!

8. Grad-hosted speaker
 - a. Spring speaker: Christine Bishop
 - b. Grad hosted Fall speaker
 - i. See abstract at end of minutes
 - c. Motion to spend up to \$400 for workshop
 - i. Moved by Pauline Deschodt
 - ii. Seconded by Yonathan Uriel
 - iii. Abstained: Pauline Deschodt
 - iv. Motion passes unanimously

9. New website page: Caucus Accomplishments
 - a. Continual running list of events and workshops that caucus does because we are awesome!

10. Adjournment
 - a. Motion to adjourn to October 2019 meeting (3:41)
 - i. Moved by Yonathan Uriel
 - ii. Second by Serena Wong
 - iii. Motion passes unanimously



Tesia Forstner - Secretary

Abstract for Fall 2019 Speaker

Seminar talk: **Using ecosystem services to guide management in Canadian working landscapes**

Abstract:

The current scale, rate, and intensity of anthropogenic change is unprecedented, and has evoked broad discussion about how these changes will affect the future of the planet. I will show how the science of ecosystem services can be used to guide natural resource management in complex situations, focusing on importance of local ecosystem management. I will begin with work we did with stakeholders in the Montérégie (Quebec), emphasizing ecosystem service interactions and management. I will then move on to emerging directions for work on ecosystem services at larger scales and highlight a new project that will work in six case studies across Canada to improve management and develop a nation-wide system for monitoring change in key ecosystem services.

Workshop: **Developing scenarios with stakeholders**

In this brief seminar, we will discuss what scenarios are (stories about the future), why you might want to use them when working with ecosystem managers and other local actors, and then dive into working on developing our own scenarios for a question of interest at SFU as a way to practice scenario development.