

Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus
December 10, 2019, 2:30pm

1. Welcome
 - a. Attendance
 - Steering Committee**
 - Chair: Yonathan Uriel
 - Treasurer: Brett Hodinka
 - Secretary: Tess Forstner
 - Webmaster: Adam Blake
 - Officers**
 - Events Committee: Elijah Reyes, Jamie Chalissery
 - Diversity Committee: Sarah Johnson, Elana Varner
 - Workshop Committee: Sarah Johnson, Hayley Reekie
 - Representatives:**
 - DGSC: Sarah Johnson
 - TSSU Rep: Tess Forstner, Allison Dennert
 - DSC Rep: Rachel Munger, Serena Wong
 - GSS Rep: Allison Dennert
 - Faculty Mole: Hannah Watkins
 - Members:** Steven Brownlee
 - b. Additions to Agenda
 - i. Territorial acknowledgment from Hannah Watkins
 1. Yonathan Uriel volunteered to do the next one
 - ii. **Motion to approve minutes from November meeting**
 1. Moved by Yonathan Uriel
 2. Seconded by Allison Dennert
 3. Motion passes unanimously
2. Treasurer's Update: Brett Hodinka
 - a. Core account: \$1836.41
 - b. Trust: \$1509.74
3. Representatives' Update
 - a. DGSC: Sarah Johnson reading Melissa Oroboko's email
 - i. Update website to have degree requirements on one page, and supervisor relationships will have its own page
 - ii. Paper handouts are being uploaded to the website
 - iii. BISC 800 is required for MPM students
 - iv. General graduate recommendations supersede BISC grad requirements, so make sure you are aware of both requirements
 - b. DSC- Serena Wong
 - i. NSERC were submitted Dec 2nd
 1. System changes so PhD feedback has been provided, but MSc students may not get feedback from DSC on NSERC proposals

- c. GSS- Allison Dennert
 - i. GSS annual meeting will be in February. They need enough people to meet quorum! So come to the party!
 - ii. Director of graduate services voting on 4-month appointment in next meeting
 - d. TSSU – Tess Forstner
 - i. Emergency meeting about SFU refusing to pay international member MSP premiums/fees. **Dec 12 at 4:30pm in room AQ6229**
 - 1. Sign TSSU open letter to SFU Administration responsible for this decision: <https://bit.ly/2Px0uXC>
 - 2. Sign up for TSSU dedicated campaign mailing list: <https://bit.ly/2RChPrA>
 - e. Faculty Meeting – Hannah Watkins
 - i. Distress about next steps because research assistants unionized. Want students to have rights, but don't want to pay them! In support of workplace health and safety and tuition deferment.
 - ii. Getting two new faculty: one stem-cell specialist and one for BISC
 - iii. Travel for TAs on fieldtrips: Department isn't going to do per diem, but they will reimburse you for food if the trip is long distance.
 - iv. Still looking into the \$10,000 cost of students...
 - v. On most grants 25% is taken off for overhead but nobody knows where that money goes.
 - vi. Over-enrollment of grad students by 30% in the department. Future investigation into this.
4. Committee Update
- a. Diversity and Inclusion Committee
 - i. Meeting Tuesday 17th at 1:30 at BISC grad lounge
 - ii. Planning to meet with Isabelle Cote to update on initiatives and potential ways to decolonize research. Potential workshop for LBGTQ STEM day upcoming in Spring.
 - b. Workshop Committee
 - i. New member: Haley Reekie!
 - c. Events Committee
 - i. **Motion to reimburse Asim Renyard \$45.00 from the core account pumpkins for Halloween party**
 - 1. Moved by Brett Hodinka
 - 2. Seconded by Yonathan Uriel
 - 3. Motion passes unanimously
 - 4. Abstain: Brett Hodinka, Jamie Chalissery
 - ii. **Motion to reimburse Jamie for \$695.00 (495.00 from drinks and 200.00 from food from Study) from the core account for Halloween Party**
 - 1. Moved by Brett Hodinka
 - 2. Seconded by Yonathan Uriel
 - 3. Motion passes unanimously
 - 4. Abstain: Brett Hodinka, Jamie Chalissery
5. Adjournment

a. Motion to adjourn to December 2019 meeting (3:23pm)

- i. Moved by Yonathan Uriel
- ii. Second by Allison Dennert
- iii. Motion passes unanimously

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tesia Forstner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tesia Forstner - Secretary