

## SFU Department of Biological Sciences Graduate Student Caucus

16 March 2023 @ 2:00PM PST

In person in conference room B8218

### 1. Welcome & Intro

Attendance:

Brett Hodinka (Chair)

Em Lim (DSC)

Raven Barbera (Associate Chair)

Emma Green (member)

Sam Meraj (Treasurer)

Sara Johnson (EDI)

Soobin Yim (DGSC)

Claire Attridge (DGSC)

Emmanuel Hung (DSC)

Sherry Young (TSSU)

Steven Brownlee (DGSC, TSSU, GSS)

Félix Ruiz de la Orden (Guest)

Gena Desjardin (Secretary)

*Motion to approve February 2023 meeting minutes*

- Proposed by Brett Hodinka
- Seconded by Raven Barbera
- Motion passes unanimously

### 2. Guest Talk

TSSU (Félix Ruiz de la Orden) will speak regarding the possibility of organizing a strike as a result of how poorly RA bargaining has been going with the university. He will also field questions and listen to concerns regarding striking.

- With consistent delays in both TA and RA bargaining, the TSSU voted yes to hold a strike vote. They are now asking grad students to go vote in person at polls in the AQ and will have mobile polls going around to labs.
- Burnaby: March: 22, 23, 24, 27, 28
- Surrey: March 23, 27
- Vancouver: March: 22, 28

If you want to join their organizing team email: [organizer@tssu.ca](mailto:organizer@tssu.ca)

**Note:** The TSSU will need a majority to hold a strike

**For more information look for the TSSU emails**

### 3. General Updates

- Chair's Report (Brett Hodinka)

- a. SWPP Funds -- \$300/student for those on payroll
  - nothing, 300\$ should of all gone out, as of now
- ii) Treasurer's Update (Sam Meraj)
  - Core account: \$1649.37
  - Trust account: \$3211.35

#### **4) Representatives' Updates**

- DGSC (Steven Brownlee/ Claire Attridge)
  - Talk of having 2000\$ increment to the stipend (from BASS funds) distributed via TARA awards, therefore if you will need a TARA award in the fall apply early.
- GSS (Steven Brownlee)
  - A new finance director has been hired.
  - Another donation to the grocery fund, now means there are more grocery cards available. You can apply each semester for the emergency grocery card program.
- TSSU
  - Strike vote is happening now on in until march 28<sup>th</sup>, vote yes. We want to construct a unified front
  - Email Sherry Young if there were areas you were concerned about for health and safety reasons during the snow storms (areas that were not cleared). We also want to know if there are labs that are too hot or too cold.
- Faculty Meeting
  - In fall \$28,000 to all eligible students with the method of Tara awards, coming from BASS funding
  - MPM admissions have been paused until future notice due to retirement of professors.
  - DGS: Talk about a better alert system to show that students aren't meeting their annual progress report.
  - DUCC: Biology Day! On thursday march 23 from 4:30 to 6pm.
  - Lab tours from 3:30 to 4:30

#### **5) Committee Updates**

- a. Diversity and Inclusion
  - Talk of doing more fundraising for the scholarship
  - Monthly meetings, with faculty receptive to what graduate students are saying
  - EDI scholarship is ready to go out applications

#### *Motion to adjourn the meeting*

- Proposed by Brett Hodinka
- Seconded by Claire Attridge
- Motion Passes unanimously