

**Chemistry Graduate Caucus**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**11:02 a.m., 21 November 2011**

*In Attendance:*

Reagan Belan (President), Shira Halperin (VP/GSS Councillor), Brandy Kinhead (Treasurer), Stanley Chang (Secretary), Ryan Roberts (TSSU Steward), Kyle Greenway (TSSU Steward), Graeme Suppes (TSSU Steward), Danielle Wilson (Social Coordinator), Alisa Paterson (Social Coordinator), Rachel Ashley (Social Coordinator), Jarod Moore (Grad Info Coordinator/Sports Rep), Hope Fan (Sports Rep).

*Regrets:*

Michael Jones (DGSC Rep), Venugopal Rao Challa (TSSU Steward).

**1. Report from GSS Grants Allocation Committee (GAC)**

- There appears to be some controversy over the social nature of the Chemistry Graduate Caucus' Holiday Celebration (based on the report from the GSS GAC). As a result this application will not be approved in time for this round of applications.
- This application has been put on-hold for future discussions by the committee.
- Shira Halperin further noted that the approved events are of academic nature, not solely of social nature.

**2. Holiday Party**

- Budget (will receive up to \$900 from the Chemistry Department):
  - If 50 people attend: \$1300 deficit
  - If 75 people attend: \$2000 deficit
  - If 100 people attend: \$3000 deficit
- As of now the Caucus has \$3600 available to pay off cost of event.
- Tickets will be sold this week for \$20 (for students), \$25 (for students) next week.
- Reagan Belan will probably ask the DAC for an extension on telling them the exact number of people attending.

**3. Office Space**

- The Caucus will have its own space in the next month. Equipments will be moved from the coffee room in SSB to this new area.

**4. Issues with the SFSS Lockout**

- Shira Halperin announced latest details in GSS' decision to terminate shared services with the SFSS in May 2012's contract renegotiations.

- Members expressed concerns over this possibility of limited access to other shared SFSS services, and that the GSS need to find a way to notify people who currently use the services.
- Shira Halperin motions that she will represent the Chemistry Graduate Caucus to vote at the next GSS Council meeting to terminate GSS-SFSS shared services in May 2012. Motion seconded by Brandy Kinkead.
  - *Votes:* For = 11, Against = 0, Abstention = 1 (Shira Halperin).
  - *Motion passed.*
- Members also expressed that it may be best to wait until next year's SFSS executives take over before finalizing details regarding renegotiation of shared services. Should there be a need, it may be best for student organizations/individuals to support suitable candidates (without violating fair voting/campaigning protocols).

## 5. Bake Sale

- Reagan Belan will send out an email reminder to the Chemistry Department for a Movember Bake Sale to fundraise for prostate cancer research. The Bake Sale will take place on Friday, November 25.

## 6. GSS Workshop

- Shira Halperin reminded the Caucus that there will be a social-planning workshop this Friday at 3 p.m.

## 7. Fundraising Ideas

- Sue Zhang (Chemistry Department undergraduate lab technician) asked for the Caucus' help in selling tickets for Shen Yun (Chinese classical dance and music), and the Caucus will receive 10% of the ticket sales.
  - It was decided that there won't be enough interest in this event from the general student population in the Chemistry Department, and *the Caucus will not be participating in ticket sales.*
- Brandy Kinkead asked for the Caucus' interest in purchasing plastic test tubes from the American Chemical Society (ACS) website and fill with candy to sell for fundraising. Each tube with candy will cost about \$0.80.
  - Shira Halperin motions for Brandy Kinkead to order plastic test tubes from the ACS website for fundraising. Motion seconded by Reagan Belan.
    - *Votes:* For = 11, Against = 0, Abstention = 1 (Brandy Kinkead)
    - *Motion passed.*

## **8. TSSU Bargaining Update**

- Kyle Greenway informed the Caucus that the TSSU contract negotiations have been slow due to a lack of expertise in topics discussed from representatives of the university.
- There will be a mini-protest in the AQ next week for all TAs marking exams/reports.
- Kyle Greenway will now start sending out emails only to graduate students in the Chemistry Department about latest details in TSSU contract negotiations with the university.

**Meeting concluded at 11:42 a.m.**