

Chemistry Graduate Caucus
Meeting Minutes

MBB Lounge 8000-Level
11:05 a.m., 6 January 2012

In Attendance:

Reagan Belan (President), Shira Halperin (VP/GSS Councillor), Brandy Kinkead (Treasurer), Stanley Chang (Secretary), Michael Jones (DGSC Rep), Ryan Roberts (TSSU Steward), Kyle Greenway (TSSU Steward), Graeme Suppes (TSSU Steward), Venugopal Rao Challa (TSSU Steward), Alisa Paterson (Social Coordinator), Danielle Wilson (Social Coordinator), Rachel Ashley (Social Coordinator), Hope Fan (Sports Rep).

Regrets:

Jarod Moore (Grad Info Coordinator/Sports Rep).

1. Lab Notebook Purchase (Email Communication on December 13th, 2011)

- It was previously established in an email communication on December 13th, 2011 between Brandy Kinkead and the Chemistry Graduate Caucus that lab notebooks will be purchased from the Scientific Notebook Company. Below is this motion in official writing.
- On December 13th, 2011 Brandy Kinkead motioned for the Chemistry Caucus to purchase 500 student lab books to sell in the upcoming Spring 2012 semester. Below is the quote from Scientific Notebook Company.
 - Estimated Arrival - Dec. 22, 2011 (if ordered Dec 14th, 2011)

Purchase Cost \$1500.00 USD - \$1542.60 CAD
Shipping Cost \$265.85 USD - \$273.40
Taxes \$185.12
Customs \$20.00 (according to science stores)

Total Cost \$2021.12

Project Sales at a price of \$7.00 each - \$3500

- Motion was seconded by Stanley Chang, and further put to a round of voting by email.
- *Motion passed* with no objections.

2. Start-of-term Sales

- The Caucus will have all model kits, safety goggles and lab notebooks in the Caucus Coffee Room on SSB 7000 level.
- Caucus members who signed up for the sales will be selling safety goggles and lab notebooks outside the CHEM 121 labs (SSC C-7000 level, atrium).
- Prices:

- Over-glasses goggles: \$5 per pair
- Adjustable goggles: \$10 per pair
- Lab notebooks: \$7 per book, \$20 for three books
- Model kits: \$20 per kit
- Brandy Kinkead will be responsible for supplying volunteer sellers with cash float.
- Alisa Paterson will fix the schedule and repost the Doodle-poll link via email.

3. Chemistry Department Oral Competition

- The Chemistry Department Oral Competition will take place on February 10th, 2012.
- There will be a social held after the competition in the Chemistry atrium on the 7000 level of SSC Chemistry. This space has already been booked by Reagan Belan.
- Danielle Wilson will be in charge of obtaining liquor license for the social.
- Reagan Belan will obtain more details regarding budget.

4. Intramural Team Ideas

- Hope Fan looked into two potential intramural teams from the Chemistry Department:
 - Indoor soccer (REC): registration is free, games played on Thursday afternoons, but he will request our team to play after 4:30 p.m.
 - Dodgeball (non-REC): registration is \$50, will require about 15 players for a team.
- Hope Fan will send out an email to the department for sign-ups for the indoor soccer team.

5. DGSC Meeting Updates

- The following updates were provided by Michael Jones:
 - Chemistry MSc degree average times:
 - It was recently calculated that the average MSc graduate takes 3.7 years for his/her degree.
 - It was suggested that perhaps it takes many students that long to complete an MSc degree is due to poor project planning on the supervisor's part.
 - The DGSC is currently wanting to install a 3-year maximum degree completion deadline.
 - The Chemistry Graduate Caucus feel that statistics regarding admission, enrolment and degree completion should be more transparent.
 - GF updates:
 - Currently major award holders are not eligible to apply in the upcoming GF competition.

- There appears to be some ambiguity over what monetary amount constitutes a “major award holder”.
- There should also be clearer rules regarding past and present NSERC scholarship holders and his/her eligibility to compete.
- Sub-discipline seminars:
 - There is talk of separate discussion groups within each of chemistry’s sub-disciplines: inorganic, organic, materials, physical & nuclear chemistry.
 - A few members were concerned with potential lack of participation from faculty and graduate students. This would also be problematic for graduate students in a smaller sub-discipline. There might also be issues over finding a suitable time of the week for these meetings.
 - Michael Jones asked for potential volunteers to lead these discussion groups. Responsibilities include:
 - Categorizing sub-disciplines.
 - Setting up meeting schedules (once a week).
- Core courses as part of degree requirement:
 - The DGSC is looking to implement this new policy, but the Caucus feels like it should be the responsibilities of the senior supervisor in suggesting courses for the graduate student to take.
 - This might also be problematic in that core courses could be out of the student’s discipline.
 - It was suggested that the resources for implementing this new policy would be better spent on allowing professors to develop newer and more relevant courses.

6. Other Fundraisers

- Michael Jones mentioned previously in an email about fundraising for Alzheimer’s disease research.
- The Caucus decided that it could be an event held on Fridays during departmental coffee time (Chem-Bio Lounge, SSC 9000 level, 10 a.m.)
- Ideas include:
 - Bake sale: January 20th, 2012
 - 50/50 Draw: Michael Jones will look into obtaining a gaming license for a 4-week period, as well as rules/regulations of ticket pricing.

7. Reimbursement Amendment From the December 6th, 2011 Meeting

- Stanley Chang motioned for an amendment of the reimbursement portion of the Chemistry Caucus meeting on December 6th, 2011, particularly regarding the motion to reimburse \$111.97 to Brandy Kinkead for

expenditures for the Holiday Celebration. The updated motion will now read (updated portion is underlined):

- Reagan Belan motioned for the reimbursement of \$111.97 to Brandy Kinhead for prizes at the Holiday Celebration held on December 6, 2011 from the Chemistry Student Association GSS Trust Account. Motion seconded by Kyle Greenway.
 - Votes: For = 6, Against = 0, Abstention = 1 (Brandy Kinhead). *Motion carried.*
- Reagan Belan seconded Stanley Chang's motion for the amendment.
 - Votes: For = 12, Against = 0, Abstention = 1 (Brandy Kinhead). *Motion carried.*

Meeting concluded at 11:45 a.m.