

Chemistry Graduate Association at Simon Fraser University

Meeting Minutes

October 24, 2014

6000 Level MBB Lounge

In Attendance:

John Thompson (President), Ryan Clarke (Vice-President), Kate Prosser (Treasurer), Stephanie Chang (Secretary), Heather Wiebe (Social Coordinator), Matt Alteen (DGSC Representative), Shaima Kammoonah (TSSU Steward), Ania Tersakian (GSS Councillor Alternate), Rhea Bains (TSSU Steward), Fatima Garcia (GSS Councillor), Kailey Wright (TSSU Steward), David Ester (Sports Coordinator), Yumeela Ganga-sah (TSSU Steward), Matthew Brown (Graduate Information Coordinator)

Regrets:

Motahareh Safiollah (TSSU Steward), Adam Barlev (TSSU Steward), Tasleem Muzaffar (TSSU Steward)

1. Call to Order

- Meeting was called to order at 10:32 AM in the 6000 Level MBB Lounge.

2. Appointment of the Chair

- **MOVED** to appoint John Thompson as Chair for this meeting.
Moved by: Kate Prosser
Seconded by: Yumeela Ganga-sah
MOTION CARRIED.
- John Thompson (President) was appointed Chair for this meeting.

3. Appointment of the Secretary

- **MOVED** to appoint Stephanie Chang as Secretary for this meeting.
Moved by: Heather Wiebe
Seconded by: Matt Alteen
MOTION CARRIED.
- Stephanie Chang (Secretary) was appointed Secretary for this meeting.

4. Approval of Minutes

- **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2014 Chemistry Graduate Caucus meeting.
Moved by: Rhea Bains
Seconded by: Matthew Brown
MOTION CARRIED.

Old Business

5. Reimbursements

Poster Presentation Competition (October 3, 2014)

- **MOVED** that the Chemistry Graduate Association reimburse **Ania Tersakian** \$26 from the cash box for driving for the grocery shop for the Poster Presentation Competition (\$13 for parking at SFU, and \$10 for gas).

Moved by: John Thompson

Seconded by: Stephanie Chang

Abstentions: Ania Tersakian

MOTION CARRIED.

Department Debt

- **MOVED** that the Chemistry Graduate Association reimburse **Simon Fraser University Department of Chemistry c/o Lesley Butler** (Manager, Finance and Administration, Dept of Chemistry) \$7648.58 from the trust account for lab coats, lab goggles and molecule kits purchased through the Department of Chemistry.

Moved by: Ryan Clarke

Seconded by: Ania Tersakian

MOTION CARRIED.

6. Halloween Social (October 31, 2014)

- SFU Security raised concerns with Heather Wiebe (Social Coordinator), when she met with them while completing the special occasion license, that the closing of the doors that separate the Chemistry and Biology buildings and the placement of the bar table in front of those doors poses a fire hazard. Security has stated they will be checking on this event throughout the night to ensure that the doors are not closed and so that the pathway is clear.
 - The bar table will be moved beside the open entrance of the C9000 level lounge.
 - Members of the caucus will act as door monitors to ensure that no underage persons enter the event.
 - Future events will not be held in the C9000 level lounge.
- *Door monitors:* Ryan, John
- *Set-up* at 3:30pm: Ania, Kailey, Yumeela, Matt
- *Take down:* John, Heather, Matthew, Kailey
- *Serving:* Steph, David, Kate, John
- Decorations from last year are in the SSB7000 level coffee room. John Thompson (President) will take stock and buy more if needed.
- Food
 - 3 platters of 20 mini-burritos will be purchased from Quesada at \$37 each. Burrito salads will be purchased as a gluten-free alternative.
 - Costco fruit platters, vegetable platters, and other snacks will be purchased.
 - 7 large pizzas will also be purchased, however now that Pizza Point is now a Pizza Hut, a new affordable pizza place needs to be found. Thompson (President) will price compare Megabite and Dominos.

- Stephanie Chang (Secretary) and Kate Prosser (Treasurer) will do the liquor and food run Friday morning.
- Pumpkin carving contest
 - Matt Alteen (DGSC Representative) will purchase 10 pumpkins.
 - Pumpkins will be distributed Friday morning at Dept of Chemistry Friday Coffee.
 - Prize will be a \$25 gift card to a coffee shop.
 - Voting box will be placed at the bar so that bartenders can monitor that no one is submitting more than one vote.
- Costume contest
 - Caucus members are encouraged to wear costumes.
 - Voting box will be placed at the bar so that bartenders can monitor that no one is submitting more than one vote.
 - Prize will be a beaker mug and a \$25 gift card to a coffee shop.
 - Kate Prosser (Treasurer) will organize the beaker mug.

7. GSS Caucus Workshop

- Ania Tersakian (GSS Councillor Alternate) and Kailey Wright (TSSU Steward) attended this event.
- Wright (TSSU Steward) reported that they were given information about the GSS structure and available services as well as information on meeting minutes and representation.
 - It was emphasized that the GSS Councilors represent the caucus views and not their own individual views.
- There are open GSS executive positions, interested people are encouraged to check the emails they have already received as well as the GSS website.

New Business

8. GSS Councilors Meeting

- Ania Tersakian (GSS Councillor Alternate) attended this meeting and brought the following topics back to the caucus so as to determine the caucus' position on them.
- **MOVED** that the Chemistry Graduate Association support the GSS Councilors decision to send a Letter of Agreement with the Post Doc Association, detailing their temporary inclusion in the GSS Health and Dental Plan.
 Moved by: Kailey Wright
 Seconded by: Matt Alteen
MOTION CARRIED.
- **MOVED** that the Chemistry Graduate Association support the GSS Councilors decision to disband the Benefit Plan Committee and transfer their responsibilities to another committee.
 Moved by: John Thompson
 Seconded by: Yumeela Ganga-sah

MOTION CARRIED.

- **MOVED** that the Chemistry Graduate Association support the GSS Councilors decision to extend emeritus status to Emma Liu (GSS AIRO) when she graduates at the end of the semester so that she may finish her term with the GSS in the spring semester.

Moved by: Shaima Kammoonah

Seconded by: Rhea Bains

MOTION CARRIED.

- **MOVED** that the Chemistry Graduate Association support the GSS Councilors decision to not remove the Sunset Clause from legislation, which states that a referendum is held every five years to approve the GSS be a vehicle for transferring funds to Dedicated Fee Groups.

Moved by: Kate Prosser

Seconded by: David Ester

MOTION CARRIED.

- **MOVED** that the Chemistry Graduate Association denounce the proposal to replace the SFU Bookstore with the U-Read program, to make SFU a completely e-textbook university. This change would lead to higher tuition rates.

Moved by: Stephanie Chang

Seconded by: Heather Wiebe

MOTION CARRIED.

- The GSS is considering for future elections putting the desired qualities of executives into legislation. The caucus seeks more information about what this would entail.
- Emma Liu (GSS AIRO) brought up advertisements as revenue for the GSS. Wall-mounted screens would be installed in the GSS lounge which would display GSS information 80% of the time and advertisements 20% of the time. Liu (GSS AIRO) hopes to have local businesses as advertisers. The caucus is open to this, but seeks more information.
- The SFU Senate is proposing to cap the number times a graduate student can retake a course (total over the course of university career) to 2 times, as currently there is no limit.
- **MOVED** that the Chemistry Graduate Association supports the proposal to cap the number times a grad student can retake a course (total over the course of university career) to 2 times. We do however recognize that this number may be too low for students in other departments that require more coursework than chemistry.

Moved by: Ryan Clarke

Seconded by: Kate Prosser

MOTION CARRIED.

9. Online Awards Application System

- Matt Alteen (DGSC Representative) attended a workshop on October 22, 2014 to learn about the new online awards application system.
- This system will be used to apply for graduate fellowships, travel awards, etc. It allows for a profile to be made so that common information (name, address for example) can be automatically loaded into the application.
- System will be rolled out in December 2014 or January 2015.
- Alteen (DGSC Representative) feels this system is easy to use.

10. TSSU update

- Yumeela Ganga-sah (TSSU Steward) informed the caucus that there is ongoing discussion on the current bargaining topics:
 - ensuring that all graduate students have access to TA/TMships
 - the university limiting benefits
 - TSSU is trying to guarantee that members have ability to have MSP, whether they or the university are paying for it.
- TSSU representative training is tomorrow, October 25, 2014.
- There will be a Trivia Night at the Highland Pub on Tuesday, October 28, 2014.

11. Status of Caucus Finances

- Lesley Butler (Manager, Finance and Administration) informed John Thompson (President) that officially the caucus owes the department \$7648.58. This number will increase to \$8614.33 once the invoice for the lab goggles ordered in August 2014 has reached Butler (Manager, Finance and Administration).
- After the reimbursement in Item 5 is complete, the trust account will have \$6698.06 in it.

12. Christmas Social

- A preliminary budget is set at \$4000.

13. Movember Social

- There are enough funds in the trust account to allow us to also host a Movember Social before the end of the year.

14. Spooktacular (October 25, 2014)

- John Thompson (President) is looking for volunteers to host craft and demonstration tables at this event hosted at SFU. Interested people are encouraged to contact him ASAP.

15. Adjournment

- **MOVED** to conclude the meeting.
Moved by: Matthew Brown

Seconded by: Rhea Bains
MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting concluded at 11:25 AM.