

Chemistry Graduate Association at Simon Fraser University

Meeting Minutes
Shrum Science Centre, C7080

July 4, 2016

In Attendance

Fatima Garcia (GSS Councillor); Kailey Wright (Secretary/TSSU Steward); Heather Baroody (TSSU Steward); Matt Alteen (DGSC Rep); Matt Deen (DGSC Rep); David Ester (Social Coordinator); Tasleem Muzaffar (Grad Info Coordinator/TSSU Steward); Jessica Miller (Vice President); Declan McKearney (Sports Rep); Rhea Bains (Treasurer); Bryton Varju (Social Coordinator); Yumeela Ganga-sah (TSSU Steward);

Regrets

Iris Guo (GSS Alternate); Adam Barlev (TSSU Steward); Ania Sergenko (TSSU Steward); Kate Prosser (President); Marco Farren-Dai (Sports Rep);

1. Call to Order

- Meeting was called to order at 1:34 PM in SSC-C7080.

2. Appointment of the Chair

- **MOVED** to appoint Matt Alteen as Chair for this meeting.
Moved by: Jessica Miller
Seconded by: Kailey Wright
MOTION CARRIED.
- Matt Alteen (DGSC Rep) was appointed Chair for this meeting.

3. Appointment of the Secretary

- **MOVED** to appoint Kailey Wright as Secretary for this meeting.
Moved by: Matt Alteen
Seconded by: David Ester
MOTION CARRIED.
- Kailey Wright (Secretary) was appointed Secretary for this meeting.

4. Approval of Minutes

- **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the Previous Chemistry Graduate Caucus meeting.
Moved by: Rhea Bains
Seconded by: Fatima Garcia
MOTION CARRIED.

5. Reimbursements

- *None*

New Business

6. Stipends

- Chemistry Department and the faculty are interested in raising the stipend amounts.
- Matt A & Matt D compared chemistry graduate students at SFU with graduate student stipends at UVic and UBC
 - On average we trail behind both by ~\$4000 at MSc level (\$24k avg)
~ \$2000 at PhD level (\$25.5k avg)
- We would like to define a yearly increase to keep up with inflation as well as annual tuition increases.
- Discussion about whether we should inflate what we ask for at the departmental meeting, in the hopes of getting something reasonable. In general people preferred to go into the meeting with a single solid number than something to bargain with.
- Side note: Professors have been saving money on us for years: when the TA wage increases our RA Top Up actually goes down to keep our income steady.

7. Adjournment

- **MOVED** to conclude the meeting.
Moved by: David Ester
Seconded by: Tasleem Muzzafar
MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting concluded at 2:02 PM.