

## **Chemistry Graduate Association at Simon Fraser University**

*Meeting Minutes*      February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018

### *In attendance*

Ali Nejatie (President), Joe Egan (Vice President), Nas Yousefi (Treasurer, TSSU Representative), Garrett Muir (Secretary), Ania Sergeenko (DGSC Representative, TSSU Representative), Gregory MacNeil (Social Coordinator), Audrey Taylor (GSS Representative).

### *Regrets*

Diego Martelino (Social Coordinator), Parisa Shiri (TSSU Representative), Curtis Gibbs (TSSU Representative), David Ester (Second Alternate GSS Rep), Matthew Deen (Sports Representative), Cindy Wu (Alternate DGSC Rep), Tasleem Muzaffar (Information Coordinator, TSSU Representative), Heather Baroody (TSSU Representative), Fatima Garcia (First Alternate GSS Rep.), Xiaoyun Yuan (Kelsy) (TSSU Representative), David Guan (TSSU Representative).

### **Call to Order**

- Meeting was called to order at 9:30 am in the Shrum Science Centre C7078.

### **Appointment of the Chair**

- MOVED to appoint Ali Nejatie (President) as Chair for this meeting.

Moved by: Joe Egan

Seconded by: Garrett Muir

MOTION CARRIED.

Ali Nejatie was appointed Chair for this meeting.

### **Appointment of the Secretary**

- MOVED to appoint Garrett Muir (Secretary) as Secretary for this meeting.

Moved by: Joe Egan

Seconded by: Nas Yousefi

MOTION CARRIED.

Garrett Muir was appointed Secretary for this meeting.

## News

- **Social**

- The next social will be a games night social on March 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - People can bring their own board games if they want.
  - It will be from about 5pm to 10pm.
- We will have our own garbage bag in order to promote better garbage better
- Next week, on the 27<sup>th</sup>, there is a HTS symposium – the caucus is sending volunteers to act as greeters, crowd control, and servers.

- **TSSU**

- The union is having a protest against the Kinder Morgan pipeline on March 10<sup>th</sup>. This will include people from outside the university.
- The union is looking for people to join MMC. This is a subcommittee that works on mobilization. It is a paid committee: members get reimbursed \$150 per month for 12 hours of work. The committee has weekly meetings and several projects members can get involved with. If members go over 12 hours of work, they are reimbursed \$20 per hour over.
  - To join the committee, you must be a member of the TSSU.
- There will be a TSSU outreach training day on Saturday from 11am to 4pm. There will be a free snack and free lunch.
  - This will include subjects such as how to use slack and how to organize events.
- There has been an issue with some people not being paid on time in the past few months, getting incorrect amounts, or being over paid.
  - When students were not paid on time, they were told that they would eventually get it.
    - However, students have a right to get paid on that day.
  - If this happens to students, they should contact the TSSU and let them know this is happening.
  - The department is supposed to keep a good record of who doesn't get paid.
  - This is important information to communicate with the TSSU representatives.
- An email will be sent out that informs students of this issue.

- **DGSC**

- The committee has decided the caucus representative cannot be involved with anything that has to do with students and their position in the program.
  - This includes how GFs are awarded.

- There seems to be a disconnect between the committee's activities and the experience of students, as well as limited understanding of student experience by professors.
- To address this issue, the caucus asked the committee if they are willing to do a survey on grad student experience.
  - The committee stated interest in giving a survey to students. They had sent one to students several years ago and agree that it is time for another.
- The committee stated they are unlikely to increase the stipend.
  - They state that grad students should expect this level of pay and that their comparison of pay among universities has shown that SFU has one of the largest stipends.
- As well, the committee stated they do not want to contribute to paying student tuition.
- The caucus representative will ask why the stipend was increased by \$250 and how that amount was calculated.
- Harassment issues in the department was also mentioned to the committee. The committee decided they wanted one person on the DGSC to be a contact person for these issues, which they will make available on the website. They will look into this person obtaining proper training.
  - This could include records of incidents being available to the contact person.
- Additionally, there are many issues that students have which are not actually covered by the DGSC. These are covered in the faculty departmental meetings, which we could work on having a representative for.
  - The faculty reviews people who transfer to masters to PhD.
- The committee mentioned that the caucus doesn't represent all grad students.
- During the next caucus meeting, the caucus can generate questions for a survey.
  - The GSS had a survey that the caucus could potentially take questions from. However, the caucus will have to obtain permission to use it.
  - Using these questions would help ensure that the questions do not have a predetermined bias.

*Meeting concluded at 10:11 am*