

Chemistry Graduate Association at Simon Fraser University

Meeting Minutes November, 8th, 2019

In attendance

Albert Adserias (Chair), Victoria Rose (Secretary), Alexi Pauls (GSS representative), Kelsey Duncan (DGSC representative), Imma Carbo, Victoria Brown (GSS Alternate 1), Ben Tiet (Graduate Student).

Regrets

Yumeela Ganga-Sah (TSSU Rep.), Nas Yousefi (TSSU representative), Priya Balaraman (TSSU rep.).

Call to Order

- Meeting was called to order at 10:30 am in the Chemistry Chair Meeting Room

Appointment of the Chair

- MOVED to appoint Albert Adserias as Chair for this meeting.

Moved by: Kelsey Duncan

Seconded by: Victoria Rose

MOTION CARRIED.

Albert Adserias was appointed Chair for this meeting.

Appointment of the Secretary

- MOVED to appoint Victoria Rose (Secretary) as Secretary for this meeting.

Moved by: Alexi Pauls

Seconded by: Albert Adserias

MOTION CARRIED.

Victoria Rose was appointed Secretary for this meeting.

Discussion and Action

- MOTION to elect Albert Adserias as acting President. Albert will be responsible for chairing meetings, delegating tasks, and all other presidential duties. In the event that a student wishes to fill this position, Albert will step down.

Moved by: Alexi Pauls

Seconded by: Victoria Rose

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

News

- DGSC Updates

- The first meeting with the committee and new DGSC Representative (Kelsey Duncan) has taken place.
- The current DGSC is as follows: Dr. Starosta (Chair), Dr. Britton, Dr. Storr, Dr. Ye, Nathalie Fournier, Jen Jackson
- There was discussion about particularly strong and particularly weak thesis defences.
- The DGSC is considering creating an award for very strong thesis defences (monetary or otherwise).
- Additionally, there has recently been an increase in unacceptably weak defences. There will be discussion with faculty that committee meetings may need to be stricter to catch these issues well in advance of a defence.
- There was also discussion about the Fall 2019 Poster competition. Some student's only had one or two judges rather than the standard three. There was a thesis defence at the same time some there was an insufficient number of faculty (and other volunteers) available to judge.
- As a solution to this problem, possibly open up judging to post-doctoral students as well with the aim to offer a sufficient number of judges with at least one having relevant experience, interest or expertise.
- DGSC confirmed that non-academic misconduct cannot make a student ineligible for grants and scholarships such as GFs (as per SFU policy) however this can be taken into account in the event that the issue is denoted in a reference letter.
- GSS Updates
 - At the upcoming GSS meeting there will be discussion of graduate student life at SFU.
- TSSU Updates
 - There will be an informal townhall on Tuesday, November 12, hosted by Chemistry and MBB TSSU representatives regarding unionizing of RAs.
- Caucus storage room will be moved from the kitchen to the closet of the 9000-level computer room. Keys and a code will be provided to the caucus. Caucus will keep access to the locked fridge in the kitchen however it will be moved so as not to block the window.

Action Items

Item	Owner	Status	Notes
Create poll for new meeting time next semester	Albert	Open	
DGSC feedback	All	Open	Provide any feedback regarding thesis defences, committee meetings and this year's poster competition, and the CHEM 801/2/8 courses to Kelsey via Slack or email

GSS feedback	All	Open	Provide feedback regarding graduate student life at SFU to Alexi via Slack
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Meeting was adjourned at 10:59 am.