

Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus Meeting Minutes (draft until approved)
April 4, 2012 – 3:30 PM, 7000 Level Graduate Student Lounge



BISC Graduate Caucus

April 4, 2012 – 3:30 PM

In Attendance: Jeanette Bruce (Chair), Natascia Tamborello (Associate Chair), Matt Huntley (Secretary fill-in), Jennifer Linton (Treasurer), Sherri Elwell (Member at Large), Rob Greenland (GSS Rep), Noel Swain (GSS Alternate), Leslie Saunders (TSSU Steward), Sebastian Ibarra, Jesse Taylor, Lindsay Button, Catherine Scott.

Absent: Elly Knight (Secretary), Nicole Gerbrandt (Events Committee Officer), Sacha O'Regan (Events Committee Officer), Marlene Wagner (Events Committee Officer), Erfan Vafaie (Webmaster), Chris Mull (International Students' Rep), Samantha Franks (Scholarship Committee Rep), Doug Braun (Scholarship Committee Rep), Cassandra Carroll (Faculty Mole), Erica Jeffery (DGSC Rep), Joel Harding (DGSC Rep).

1. Welcome

- a. The meeting was called to order by Jeanette at 3:30.
- b. Additions to agenda:
- c. Secretary fill-in

Motion to approve Matt Huntley as the secretary for today's BISC grad caucus meeting (April 20, 2012).

Moved by Jeanette Bruce

Seconded by Lindsey Button

Decision: **motion carries unanimously**

- d. Minutes from previous meetings:

Motion to approve the minutes from the March 21, 2012 BISC graduate caucus meeting.

Moved by Jeanette Bruce

Seconded by Lindsey Button

Decision: **motion carries unanimously**

Motion to approve the minutes from the April 4, 2012 special Blue Drinks BISC graduate caucus meeting.

Moved by: Jeanette Bruce

Seconded by: Lindsey Button

Decision: **motion carries unanimously**

2. Election

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The nominees for the 2012-2013 BISC graduate caucus executive are running unopposed for all positions and are as follows:

- Chair: Lindsey Davidson
- Associate Chair: Amanda Kissel
- Secretary: Emily Whattam
- Treasurer: Corinna Lichota
- Member at Large: Lindsay Button
- Webmaster: Franz Simon
- International Student Rep: Janie Dubman
- Events Committee Rep: Tanya Stemberger,
- Events Committee Rep: Catherine Scott
- Events Committee Rep: Sebastian Ibarra
- GSS Rep: Rob Greenland
- GSS alternate: Julie Wray
- TSSU Steward: Leslie Saunders
- DGSC Rep: Mike Beakes
- Scholarship Committee Rep: Kyle Artelle
- Faculty Mole: Jennifer Linton

Motion to approve the above listed students as the relevant acclaimed positions listed for the Biological Sciences Graduate Student Caucus for the 2012-2013 academic term.

Moved by: Jeanette Bruce

Seconded by: Sherri Elwell

Decision: motion passes with abstention by Leslie Saunders, Rob Greenland, Catherine Scott, Sebastian Ibarra, Jennifer Linton and Lindsay Button.

3. Treasury Update

- Current balances:
 - Core account: \$315.15
 - Trust account: \$848.84 (less \$200 for Blue Drinks, approved but not yet paid for)

Motion to reimburse Jeanette Bruce \$107.35 from the BISC grad caucus core account for expenses for the April 20, 2012 BISC grad caucus BBQ.

Moved by: Jennifer Linton

Seconded by: Rob Greenland

Decision: motion passes unanimously

Motion to reimburse Jeanette Bruce \$24.80 from the BISC grad caucus core account for beverages purchased for BISC grad caucus meetings.

Moved by: Jennifer Linton

Seconded by: Rob Greenland

Decision: motion passes unanimously

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4. Committee Updates

- a. **DGSC** - absent
- b. **Scholarship Committee** - absent
- c. **GSS** – Rob Greenland
 - Departmental Trivia Night: Chemistry has done one previously so Rob will start working with the new BISC event committee.
 - GSS approved the benefit plan increase, but council agreed to only raise to \$420, so some reductions in benefits may be coming. GSS is currently investigating other providers.
 - UPass negotiations are coming up, with a likely switch to Compass (new electronic fare card system). A negotiator will be split between the various student unions to negotiate with Translink. Aiming to get someone with experience: formerly involved with Translink or transportation.
- d. **TSSU** – Leslie Saunders
 - Working on a new strike policy: debate on whether T.A.s can work during a strike. There is a need for necessary guidelines. An email will follow to the caucus to ask for input.
 - TSSU still bargaining with the University for T.A. pay etc.
- e. **Faculty Mole** – absent

5. Event Ideas

- Summer welcome BBQ for new students last year was well received so possibly another one.
 - Mentorship possibilities
 - Could include new students from January.
 - Perhaps a separate night for new students & mentors including a Q & A night. A one person mentorship is good, but getting to know other students would be great; like “speed dating”.
- Trivia night: Rob will follow up.
- Grad hosted speaker: advice to new exec
 - Start early!
 - Make a one day event to save on money and commitment from students.
 - Perhaps different presentation format.
- T-shirts
 - Good feedback so far
 - Could spend a bit more money this year to make shirts for new students again.

6. Adjournment

Motion to end this April 20th meeting of the Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus.
Moved by: Jeanette Bruce
Seconded by: Lindsay Button
Decision: **motion carries unanimously**