

Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus Meeting Agenda

June 19th, 2013 – 3:30 to 4:30 PM, 7000 level lounge



Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus July 10th 2013 – 3:30 to 4:30 PM

In Attendance: Jen Scholefield (Chair), Chris Mull (Associate Chair), Janie Dubman (Treasurer), Jesse Taylor (GSS Rep), Franz Simon, Catherine Scott (TSSU Steward), Corinna Favaro, Matt Holl, Mike Beakes (DGSC Rep), Antonia Musso (TSSU Steward), Brett Favaro, Lindsey Button, Sarah Thomsen (DGSC Rep), Daniel Peach, Grant Olson, Alex Chubaty.

Absent: Emily Helmer (Secretary), Lindsay Davidson (Scholarship Committee Rep), Rowan Treblico (Faculty Mole), Amanda Kissel (Member at Large), Michael Hrabrar (GSS Rep), Mohamed Sherifdeen (TSSU Steward), Kyle Artelle (Scholarship Committee Rep), Tim Forrester (TSSU Steward), Marlene Wagner (Events Committee Officer), Mathhew Hepp (Events Committee Officer), Annie Ellison (Events Committee Officer), Marinde Out (International Students' Rep), David Hope (Webmaster).

1. Welcome

- a. Attendance
- b. Meeting called to order at 15:33 by Jen Scholefield.
- c. Additions to Agenda
 - i. External review recommendation response from grad students – Brett & Chris
 1. Noted that the ERR said we don't have a guide for grad students, but one exists.
 2. Minor revisions will be incorporated into draft.
 3. Brett motions to send letter, seconded by Franz and is passed unanimously.
 - ii. T-shirt update – Antonia Musso
 1. T-shirts from last year (American Apparel) would cost ~\$7.50 to make, we want to use them because they don't use sweatshops.
 2. If we use them, we'd have to charge \$10. If we use Gildan (Canadian company, great environmental ethic), it would cost between \$2-3 so the cost to student could be lower (between \$5-8).
 3. T-shirt colours will include black and forest green.
 4. Mostly unisex cuts will be ordered with some larger women's cuts, mostly medium and smalls, with some large and extra-large.
 5. Antonia will put in the order independently and will not email the caucus first.

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- iii. New course in the Fall – Franz Simon
 - 1. Some grad students are going to be offering a course on data manipulation and visualization in R; pass-fail, 1-credit course, 2 hours every 2 weeks.
 - 2. Instructors: Franz Simon, Alex Chubaty, Sean Anderson, Corey Phillis and maybe Scott Chamberlain.
 - 3. Assignments will be very simple, applying class lessons.
- iv. Graduate Hosted Speaker vote – Jen Scholefield and Chris Mull
 - 1. We have 3 candidates, all of which are interested in coming here. One of them (Brian Keating) will cost money.
 - 2. Event will be at end of March.
 - 3. Strong sentiment that if we bring in a speaker, especially if it costs money, that we should get a productive workshop with them and meeting opportunities.

- d. Motion to transfer funds from core to trust account

Motion to transfer \$592.55 from core to trust account.

Moved by: Janie Dubman

Seconded by: Alex Chubaty

Decision: **motion carries unanimously**

- e. Motion to approve minutes from last month's meeting.

Motion to approve minutes from the June 19th, 2013 Biological Sciences Graduate Caucus meeting.

Moved by: Catherine Scott

Seconded by: Mike Beakes

Decision: **motion carries unanimously**

2. Treasury update

- 1. No changes
- 2. \$612.26 in core account, \$672.14 in trust account.

3. Committee updates

- 1. DGSC - None
- 2. DSC – Absent
 - i. No updates
- 3. GSS
 - i. Biology and Education voted on an equal model, all other caucuses voted in equality. Regardless of which model is adopted, Biology is going to either a motion to transfer funds (\$592) from core to trust account or gain \$100 to annual core funding.

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- ii. Biology has been the most underfunded caucus due to the budgeting error of the past few years. Jesse will try to get some of the money back for us.
 - iii. There was a motion to support the 'Go Fossil Free' campaign, run by an SFU group, which will pressure the university to divest its fossil fuel stocks. We will support it, unless there is a conflict of interest.
 - iv. Everyone is in favour of continuing the emergency food cards.
 - v. There will be a deadline of opting-out of the medical plan as there has been a lot of appeal recently when people forgot to opt out.
 - vi. They will also create a bursary from the surplus of the medical plan.
4. TSSU
- i. No updates
 - ii. A recommendation is made to make the TA awarding system more transparent. Also to add checkboxes along the lines of "please consider me for all other courses if I don't qualify for one of my top 4 choices".
5. Faculty Mole – Absent
- i. No updates.

4. Adjournment at 16:29.

Motion to adjourn this July 10th, 2013 meeting of the Biological Sciences Graduate Student Caucus at 16:29.

Moved by: Jen Scholefield

Seconded by: Brett Favaro

Decision: **motion carries unanimously**