

SFU Department of Biological Sciences Graduate Student Caucus  
January 2024 Meeting Agenda

**15 January 2024 @ 12:00PM PST**  
**Room B8218**

1. Welcome

- Attendance

Miranda Dennis (Chair)

Vanessa Hum (Secretary)

Brett Hodinka (Events Committee)

Genavieve Desjardin (General Member)

Emmanuel Hung (Member at large, DSC)

Jess Hercus (Faculty Mole Steward for TSSU)

Raven Barbera (Associate Chair)

Keum Cheayeong (Member)

Soobin Yim (DGSC)

Ramis Rafay (Events, Web Master)

Sam Meraj (Treasurer)

Steven Brownlee (Events, TSSU)

Em Lim (DSC)

Triana Hohn (Member)

Avneet Chhina (Member)

2. Chair's Report

- Motion to approve November meeting minutes
  - Motioned by Miranda Dennis
  - Seconded by Emmanuel Hung
  - Motion passes unanimously
- Grad hosted speaker update
  - Date: February 12<sup>th</sup>
  - Biercraft afterwards
- IDEAs conference funding
  - Conference at SFU on February 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - Contacted by Amanda Arnold, seeking funding of \$100, \$200, or \$300
    - For prizes for best presentation (gift cards)
    - Pizza lunch, etc.
  - Graduate and undergraduate presentations from academic and applied background including people from different departments presenting different aquatic science research.
  - Everyone is welcome!
  - Miranda Dennis motions donating \$300 from the core account to Amanda under the IDEAs organizing committee
    - Seconded by Em Lim
    - Motion passes unanimously

3. Treasurer's Update

#### 4. Representatives' Updates

- DGSC (Sam Meraj)
  - More updates to come next week.
- DSC (Em Lim)
  - TARA awards
    - It seems so far that all awards will be funded, but this is not confirmed.
    - This should not interfere with the ability for future awards.
    - There is a meeting this afternoon looking at what the future will look like.
- GSS (Steven Brownlee)
  - The health plan that we are all enrolled in, due to inflationary pressure and increase in Mental Health Claims, there is a deficit.
  - Coming up with a series of options, including fee increases.
  - Keep an eye out for referendum.
  - Please contact Steven Brownlee if you have any questions.
- TSSU (Jess Hercus)
  - There is a campaign for the wages everyone lost unfairly from the one day of picketing in Surrey in July and for the scholarship portion of TA pay that shouldn't have been deducted in Fall.
  - There will be a GM on the 25<sup>th</sup> from 5-7pm at SFU Burnaby.
  - We should get retro pay on the 26<sup>th</sup>, keep an eye out.
  - Please contact Jess Hercus if you have any questions.
- Faculty Meeting (Jess Hercus)
  - Discussion about funding increase, motioned carried to increase funding as previously discussed.
  - Masters to \$30,000 and PhD to \$33,400
  - More discussion today about where the money is coming from.

#### 5. Committee Updates

- Diversity and Inclusion
  - No updates
- Workshop
  - No updates
- Events
  - No updates

#### 6. Adjournment

- Motioned by Miranda Dennis
- Seconded by Raven Barbera
- Motion passes unanimously