

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

18 April 2024 @ 1:30PM PST
ROOM: B8218 and on Zoom

1. Welcome

- Attendance

Miranda Dennis (Chair)

Vanessa Hum (Secretary)

blake danis (EDI)

Raven Barbera (Associate Chair)

Brett Hodinka (Events Committee)

Sherry Young (TSSU Rep)

Steven Brownlee (Event, TSSU)

Soobin Yim (DGSC)

Claire Attridge (DSGC)

Em Lim (DSC)

Sam Meraj (Treasurer)

Emmanuel Hung (Member at large, DSC)

Triana Hohn (Member)

Thet Thet Zaw (Member)

- Motion to approve March meeting minutes
 - Motioned by Miranda Dennis
 - Seconded by Soobin Yim
 - Motion passes unanimously

2. Chair's Report

- Problem: Lack of engagement with graduate students
 - Les Ecol is supposed to be for the Grads, run by the grads.
 - Could the caucus take over Les Ecol? And other events like poster sessions, workshops, etc.
 - Weekly or biweekly?
 - Student/faculty engagement action points
 1. Talk to Phoebe (and David)
 2. Write your ideas of what you'd like to see or if you have any talks you would like to do, send them to Miranda Dennis in our slack group (another email will be sent out for people wanting to join the Grad Caucus slack)
 3. Present plan/proposed vision to Tony
 4. Create a Google Docs for a place to keep our ideas (Google Doc will be sent out by Miranda)
 - Ideas:
 - Create a mock schedule where people can fill in their idea
 - Possible ideas:
 - R workshops

- Pizza lunch discussion
- New grad students present with the supervisor/lab
- Creative ideas, tell stories
- Talks that are exciting
- Practice your talks for future conferences
- Make sure people know that Les Ecol is for ALL grad students, not just people in Ecology
- Caucus Instagram or Social Media to help advertise events?
- Have people in the caucus help with organizing (bi-weekly) Les Ecol
 - Make a plan over this summer
 - Someone to get the pizza order
 - Someone to send emails out
 - 5-6 caucus members interested in helping

3. Treasurer's Update (Sam Meraj)

- Currently trying to reach the finance person
- The core and the trust balances are the same as last month:
 - The core balance for your caucus is \$751.72.
 - Trust balance is \$4,860.72.

4. Representatives' Updates

- DGSC (Soobin Yim and Claire Attridge)
 - GPR wasn't working, the main thing is that other committee members were unable to enter
 - The survey for teaching in Biology, will be discussed with Mike
- DSC (Em Lim)
 - NSERC
 - If you applied for a Master's-level NSERC, you should have found out by now
 - PhD NSERC results to come
 - For CGSD and CGSM are going up in \$\$
 - Go to Support our Science on Twitter (@SupportOurSci)
 - DSC rank the grad fellowships, undergrad awards, internal awards, CGSM, etc.
 - CGSM
 - They are increasing to \$27,000
 - Only one committee member ranks this
 - We prefer to have more people ranking these
 - Do we have the human power to do this?
 - Ranked the BC scholarship, there are only two nominations
 - For people starting school in the upcoming year
- GSS (Steven Brownlee)
 - GSS Health Plan – whether to increase the fees we pay as grad students

- We are using services on the plan, but there are 3 possible plans:
 - Either increase the fees (larger fee increases)
 - Lower the fees
 - Or cut the services available
 - Looking into different scenarios to make this decision
- Admin position job available
 - Part-time job
 - Looking for people earlier on in their degree
- TSSU (Sherry Young)
 - No GM recently
 - Health and Safety
 - There have been issues
 - Be mindful of temperatures in your workspaces
 - There will be more construction and work on campus
 - Working on the pipes
 - Please report any issues with construction or safety to Sherry Young (sherry_young@sfu.ca)
- Faculty Meeting (Emmanuel Hung)
 - The Thelma Finlayson candidate has been given an offer

5. Committee Updates

- Diversity and Inclusion (blake danis)
 - Kevin is stepping down
 - Nick Dulvy is the new faculty individual
 - Modules for the people on the committee to do
 - Survey to come about the issues in Biology Department
 - blake will be stepping down soon
- Workshop
- Events (Brett Hodinka)
 - Next event: Welcome Party (September 2024)
 - Caucus can schedule events that are not the regular annual, we have the money for it.
 - Maybe an end of semester event?
 - Casual event
 - Can use grad funds for food

6. Adjournment

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