

Chemistry Graduate Caucus
Meeting Minutes

MBB Lounge 8000-Level
11:45 a.m., 30 January 2012

In Attendance:

Reagan Belan (President), Shira Halperin (VP/GSS Councillor), Brandy Kinhead (Treasurer), Stanley Chang (Secretary), Michael Jones (DGSC Rep), Ryan Roberts (TSSU Steward), Alisa Paterson (Social Coordinator), Danielle Wilson (Social Coordinator), Jarod Moore (Grad Info Coordinator/Sports Rep).

Regrets:

Graeme Suppes (TSSU Steward), Kyle Greenway (TSSU Steward), Venugopal Rao Challa (TSSU Steward), Hope Fan (Sports Rep).

1. Oral Competition (Feb. 10th, 2012)

- Budget is set at ~\$600. Brandy will send out detailed breakdown of items to be purchased.
- The Department Chair has requested there to have less alcoholic beverages at this year's event.
- The event will have some system to limit drink consumption. This will be in the form of a poster sign, time/drink limit, or ticket system. Details will be decided during the next meeting.
- Items to purchase:
 - 1 keg (Howe Sound) – Reagan to finalize details on purchase and pick-up at a representative's place.
 - 10 bottles of wine – supplied by the department.
 - Coolers – Danielle will pick-up.
 - 20 pizzas – Stan will order.
 - Fruit/veggie tray, chips – Brandy will pick-up.
- Tasks:
 - Alisa and Danielle will serve drinks during event. Shira and Michael will back-up the servers.

2. Caucus Sales

- Brandy recently deposited \$1000 to the GSS Caucus Trust Account from selling safety glasses, lab notebooks and molecular model kits.
- The Caucus needs to order more model kits for the summer term.
- The Caucus still needs to pay back notebooks.
- It is proposed that the Caucus sets up a table in the AQ during the first week of classes to sell lab notebooks, model kits and safety glasses.

3. Sports Teams

- There were a few ideas for a Chemistry team in softball, dodgeball, or perhaps basketball. More details are needed.

4. Tuition Relief

- The email from the GSS AIRO stated that the issue pertaining to tuition relief needs to go through the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, and has kindly forwarded the GSS advocate's contact info.
- Reagan Belan motioned to invite, on behalf of the Caucus, the GSS advocate to the Chemistry Graduate Caucus' next meeting. The motion was seconded by Stanley Chang.
 - Votes: For = 8, Against = 0, Abstention = 0.
 - *Motion carried.*

5. Registrar System

- Re: qualifying term for graduate students in the Chemistry program
 - Students in their qualifying term are currently charged for both research term fees + course fees, when they should be charged for the research term fees only.
 - These students currently need to ask for a refund on their course fees from the Registrar's Office, and it was suggested that it's best to send out an email to the graduate students to warn those affected by this.

6. Top-up Email

- Kyle recently composed an email regarding missing top-up funds for this term. The Caucus was asked to give Kyle some feedback about the content before he sends out the email.

7. GSS AGM

- February 28th, 2012.
- All Chemistry students are encouraged to attend. There may also be a prize for highest attendance from a department.

Meeting concluded at 12:19 p.m.

Additions via E-mail Communications

In an email communication within the Caucus on January 30th, 2012, Reagan Belan motioned for the purchase of 1 nut brown ale keg from Howe Sound Brewery, which will be delivered to the SFU campus free of charge. This purchase will take place on February 1st, 2012.

- Votes:
 - For nut brown ale = 7; For best bitter = 1; For winter ale = 1
 - Against = 0
 - Abstention = 0
 - *Motion carried (for the purchase of the nut brown ale keg).*

In an email communication within the Caucus on January 31st, 2012, Reagan Belan informed the Caucus that the DGS has misinformed the Caucus re: tuition relief. Please see below for an excerpt from the GSS email that was forwarded by Reagan to the Caucus:

Mary Ann Pope, the Director - Graduate Admissions and Records in the DGS, informed us that the 6 terms one accumulates during a Masters DOES transfer to the PhD, meaning, a student would get the PhD reduction after only another 2 terms (the PhD minimum is 8 terms, the MA is 6). If a student is in the 7th term of their MA and then they transfer to a PhD for their 8th term, they would have paid the reduced fee in the 7th term and then they would pay the full PhD fee for the 8th term, but they will go back down to the reduced PhD fee for the 9th+ terms. She said this is all done automatically in the system.

Given this information, it would be great if you can see if students who are in their 9+ term (since beginning an MA) are being charged full tuition. If so, please direct them to Christina who can help them to get in contact with Mary Ann Pope.

If you have any additional questions about this, please feel free to let me know or contact the advocate directly at advocacy@sfugradsociety.ca

It was decided that the Caucus will no longer pursue this tuition relief issue.