

Chemistry Graduate Caucus
Meeting Minutes

MBB Lounge 6000-Level
11:02 a.m., 12 March 2012

In Attendance:

Reagan Belan (President), Shira Halperin (VP/GSS Councillor), Stanley Chang (Secretary), Graeme Suppes (TSSU Steward), Alisa Paterson (Social Coordinator), Danielle Wilson (Social Coordinator), Jarod Moore (Grad Info Coordinator/Sports Rep), Hope Fan (Sports Rep).

Regrets:

Brandy Kinkead (Treasurer), Michael Jones (DGSC Rep), Ryan Roberts (TSSU Steward), Kyle Greenway (TSSU Steward), Venugopal Rao Challa (TSSU Steward).

1. Graduate Student Invited Speaker (Wednesday, March 14, 2012)

- Schedule for invited speaker is being finalized. The Caucus is deciding to shorten the 1-on-1 presentation time to 30 minutes starting from 1:30 p.m. This will be followed by lab tours.
- Social to be held after the seminar @ Club Ilia (~4:30 p.m.)
 - \$100 budget (5 pitchers + 2 veggie platters).
 - Shira will talk to Club Ilia to arrange pre-payment of these items.

2. GSS Special General Meeting

- A GSS Special General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 3, at noon in the GSS Lounge.

3. Chemistry Building Grand Opening

- Reagan has been recruited to the Grand Opening Committee for the Chemistry Building. Events might be held on June 28, but there will be more details to come.

4. TSSU Updates

- A vote for new *strike policies* will take place in the General Meeting at the Surrey campus on March 28. About 20-40 people are required to attend in order to pass any votes. (Note: these new strike policies can be viewed online.)
- The Caucus felt that the Teach Assistantship wages should increase in accordance to any increases in tuition fees to offset the extra expenditures.
 - Aside: University of Toronto TAs on average get paid about 88-100% more than SFU TAs.
- Concerns were also raised regarding an increase in number of undergraduate students hired as TAs of late. This costs the university less money due to their lower wages, but graduate students should be given higher priorities to these opportunities.

- TSSU is also looking for a new treasurer. Work-load is about a once-a-week office work and two monthly meetings.

5. Pi(π)-Day Social

- Reagan to send out email reminder calling for pie-bakers and board games.
- The social is booked at the GSS Lounge from 4:30 p.m. to ~9 p.m.
- Judges for best pies: Shira, Michael.
- Items to purchase:
 - 1 fruit + 1 veggie tray + ice cream + 2 bags of chips (\$50): Stan
 - Beverages (\$150): Danielle
 - Salads from Nature's Garden (\$60): Reagan
 - Prizes (\$50 door prizes + \$25 best pie): Reagan

6. Upcoming Socials (Following the Annual Departmental Soccer Game)

- Northshore Paintball (outdoor)
 - Group rates (>12 people):
 - \$35/person (entry, rental, 200 paintballs)
 - \$57/person (entry, rental, 500 paintballs)
 - Discount on Thursdays (\$7) and Fridays (\$20 for girls only)
 - Early May (Thursday)
 - Caucus will look at subsidizing event (~\$12) – will check with treasurer.
 - Need to figure out transportation.

Meeting concluded at 11:40 a.m.