

Chemistry Graduate Association at Simon Fraser University

Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2015

South Science Building 6000 Level Lounge

In Attendance:

John Thompson (President), Ryan Clarke (Vice-President), Stephanie Chang (Secretary), Kailey Wright (TSSU Steward), Heather Wiebe (Social Coordinator), Yumeela Ganga-sah (TSSU Steward), David Ester (Sports Coordinator), Tasleem Muzaffar (TSSU Steward), Rhea Bains (TSSU Steward), Shaima Kammoonah (TSSU Steward), Matt Alteen (DGSC Representative)

Regrets:

Kate Prosser (Treasurer), Motahareh Safiollah (TSSU Steward), Adam Barlev (TSSU Steward), Fatima Garcia (GSS Councillor), Matthew Brown (Graduate Information Coordinator), Ania Tersakian (GSS Councillor Alternate)

1. Call to Order

- Meeting was called to order at 10:35 AM in SSB 6000 Level Lounge.

2. Appointment of the Chair

- **MOVED** to appoint John Thompson as Chair for this meeting.
Moved by: Matt Alteen
Seconded by: Ryan Clarke
MOTION CARRIED.
- John Thompson (President) was appointed Chair for this meeting.

3. Appointment of the Secretary

- **MOVED** to appoint Stephanie Chang as Secretary for this meeting.
Moved by: Heather Wiebe
Seconded by: Rhea Bains
MOTION CARRIED.
- Stephanie Chang (Secretary) was appointed Secretary for this meeting.

4. Approval of Minutes

- **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2015 Chemistry Graduate Caucus meeting.
Moved by: Kailey Wright
Seconded by: Yumeela Ganga-sah
MOTION CARRIED.

Old Business

5. Games Night (May 1, 2015)

- The GSS Lounge has been booked.
- Heather Wiebe (Social Coordinator) is obtaining the liquor license through the new online application system.

- Approval was almost instantaneous and there was no need to go to the RCMP with a paper application.
- However the RCMP typically takes a copy of the SFU special occasion application with SFU Security's signature and there was no opportunity to submit this form in the online application. Wiebe (Social Coordinator) has emailed the RCMP asking for clarification.
- Wiebe (Social Coordinator) is also contacting SFU Security to ask what she should present to them to prove RCMP approval regarding this event since there is no paper liquor license application with a signature.
- Peg Johnsen (Director Administration, Student Services) informed Wiebe (Social Coordinator) that university policy now prohibits open bar.
 - As a result, every attendee will be given 3 drink tickets at the door and then will need to obtain more drink tickets from a member of the caucus if they wish to continue drinking; there will be no cost to these drink tickets.
- Further planning to happen at next meeting.

6. Invited Speaker (Spring semester 2016)

- John Thompson (President) invited Melanie Sanford (University of Michigan) to speak in next year's seminar series. Sanford is not able to travel during the 2015/2016 school year but asked us to keep her in mind for the future.
- The next speaker on the list is Joe Hupp (Northwestern University) however Kailey Wright (TSSU Steward) has a personal connection with George Whitesides (Harvard University) and volunteered to forward Thompson's (President) invitation to him.
- Thompson (President) will send Wright (TSSU Steward) the email invitation promptly.

7. Lab Coats

- The SFU contracted vendor is known as AlSCO.
- John Thompson (President) ordered 320 lab coats costing \$7200, consisting of 70 x-small, 150 small and 145 medium coats. These coats have the cuffs and snap buttons preferred by the Dept. of Chemistry.
- Thompson (President) is obtaining a quote from VWR for the black frame lab goggles.
- Treen Safety, which is our vendor for goggles that fit over prescription glasses, can provide us with a product similar to the black frame lab goggles. They are sending samples and are currently quoting us a price lower than what we currently pay.

8. DGSC

- Matt Alteen (DGSC Representative) attended a meeting on April 10th regarding the upcoming routine external review of the Dept of Chemistry in Fall 2015. At this meeting, a 5 year plan for the department was discussed.
 - These were preliminary talks as the 5 year plan will require multiple planning meetings.
- Discussion topics at this meeting included:
 - Time to completion of graduate degrees is currently too long.
 - CHEM801 and CHEM802 were created to shorten the time to completion for MSc.
 - A course of action to shorten PhDs is currently being planned.
 - Revamping the seminar series by hosting an industry representative 1 or 2 times a semester, instead of hosting an academic.
 - This could provide graduate students with an opportunity to network.
 - Improving recruitment efforts. Suggestions included:
 - Faculty members traveling to an Eastern Canadian school to give a presentation about SFU Chemistry.
 - Hosting a recruitment fair, similar to UBC, University of Toronto and University of Montreal.
 - Prospective graduate students apply to attend and then the best are invited to attend the fair. A portion of travel costs are typically covered by the hosting school.
- Michael Eikerling (Professor, Dept. of Chemistry) will be the new DGSC Chair when Rob Britton's (Professor, Dept. of Chemistry) term ends this month.

New Business

9. TSSU Update

- Yumeela Ganga-sah (TSSU Steward) updated the caucus on the TSSU.
- A survey was sent out to TSSU members this week concerning strike action and policies. The results from this poll (which closed on Thursday, April 9) will guide the decisions that the TSSU Strike Committee makes.
- It was clarified that Reagan Belan (Chief Steward, TSSU) has been elected to speak for the TSSU Strike Committee in her capacity as a member of the TSSU Strike Committee, and not as Chief Steward.
- The next bargaining meeting is April 16, 2015.

10. Science Stores Ordering Changes

- Jocelyn Lee (Stores Administrator/Buyer, Science Stores) informed John Thompson (President) that the Science Stores ordering system will be replaced by ordering through FINS. Many of Lee's responsibilities regarding the Dept. of Chemistry will remain the same.
- Ordering through FINS comes with a few challenges:

- Students on scholarship do not have FINS accounts.
- The current FINS system requires a supervisor signature for every purchase and this can severely slow down the ordering process.
- Further discussion to come.

11. Adjournment

- **MOVED** to conclude the meeting.
Moved by: Stephanie Chang
Seconded by: David Ester
MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting concluded at 11:04 AM.