

Chemistry Graduate Association at Simon Fraser University

Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2015

Shrum Science Centre C7080

In Attendance:

John Thompson (President), Ryan Clarke (Vice-President), Stephanie Chang (Secretary), Kate Prosser (Treasurer), Kailey Wright (TSSU Steward), Heather Wiebe (Social Coordinator), Yumeela Ganga-sah (TSSU Steward), David Ester (Sports Coordinator), Rhea Bains (TSSU Steward), Shaima Kammoonah (TSSU Steward), Fatima Garcia (GSS Councillor), Matthew Brown (Graduate Information Coordinator), Ania Tersakian (GSS Councillor Alternate)

Regrets:

Motahareh Safiollah (TSSU Steward), Adam Barlev (TSSU Steward), Tasleem Muzaffar (TSSU Steward), Matt Alteen (DGSC Representative)

1. Call to Order

- Meeting was called to order at 10:31 AM in SSC-C7080.

2. Appointment of the Chair

- **MOVED** to appoint John Thompson as Chair for this meeting.
Moved by: Kailey Wright
Seconded by: Fatima Garcia
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: John Thompson
Seconded by: Ryan Clarke
MOTION CARRIED.
- Stephanie Chang (Secretary) was appointed Secretary for this meeting.

4. Approval of Minutes

- **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2015 Chemistry Graduate Caucus meeting.
Moved by: Yumeela Ganga-sah
Seconded by: Ania Tersakian
MOTION CARRIED.

Old Business

5. Invited Speaker (Spring semester 2016)

- John Thompson (President) sent George Whitesides (Harvard University) an email last Tuesday, inviting him to be a speaker. He has not received a reply yet.

- Byron Gates (Professor, Dept. of Chemistry) is familiar with George Whitesides and is in regular contact with him. He volunteered to contact Dr. Whitesides if Dr. Whitesides did not respond to the email invitation in a timely manner.
- Thompson (President) will email Dr. Gates to take him up on his offer.

6. Games Night (May 1, 2015)

- John Thompson (President) will order a keg as well as send out an email advertisement.
- The event will be BYO board games and pizza will be served.
- There are still 6 or 7 bags of chips as well as some canned pop in the locked storage.
- Kate Prosser (Treasurer) will do the shopping for this event. The shopping list includes:
 - 2 L bottles of pop, instead of a new flat of pop
 - 4 dozen coolers and ciders
- Gaming consoles might be brought, Heather Wiebe (Social Coordinator) will check if AV equipment needs to be pre-booked in order to set the consoles up.
- *Servers:* Kate, Steph, John, Heather
- *Door monitor:* Ryan

7. Lab Coats

- A larger storage container has been obtained; the caucus will need to purchase padlock(s) to secure it.
- Treen Safety will supply the caucus with black frame lab goggles in addition to the goggles which fit over prescription glasses. These goggles cost \$2.75 each. They are not adjustable like the current model however they fit a large range of head sizes.
- The lab coats ordered last week actually cost \$25 each and the grand total came to \$8064.
- Due to the increased cost of lab coats, new pricing was decided for the Summer Semester Sales. The clear goggles and the black frame goggles will remain \$5 and \$10 each, respectively.
 - \$27 for a lab coat
 - \$30 combo for a lab coat and clear goggles
 - \$35 combo for a lab coat and black frame goggles
- Summer Semester Sales will occur the week of May 11, which is the first week of classes.

New Business

8. Chemistry Graduate Student Satisfaction Survey

- Nathalie Fournier (Graduate Secretary, Dept. of Chemistry) sent out a link to an anonymous web survey on Monday, April 20. This survey is being used as part of

the external review the Dept. of Chemistry is undergoing later this year; it is meant to gather student opinions.

- The survey was not thorough and asked a handful of very broad questions which could only be answered as Very Dissatisfied, Somewhat Dissatisfied, Neutral, Somewhat Satisfied, and Very Satisfied. There was no “Not applicable” option nor was there an opportunity to submit comments which could better speak to the individual experiences of each graduate student.
- John Thompson (President) will contact Matt Alteen (DGSC Representative) and discuss what can be done to better communicate student satisfaction with the graduate program to the Department.

9. Summer Sports Event

- A departmental soccer game and social is held annually on the Friday before the August long weekend.
- It was suggested that another event be held during the summer semester but that the sport chosen be more forgiving of all athletic abilities. Suggestions included cricket, softball, and ultimate frisbee.
 - Softball was decided to be the best option.
- This event would be held earlier in the summer semester so as not to be too close to the soccer game. A Friday at the end of May, in early June or right after CSC (June 13-17, 2015) was considered optimal.
- David Ester (Sports Coordinator) will contact SFU Recreation to investigate booking the softball diamond and renting equipment (gloves, bats, bases and ball).

10. Adjournment

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

Meeting concluded at 10:59 AM.