

Chemistry Graduate Association at Simon Fraser University

Meeting Minutes

August 7, 2015

Shrum Science Centre C7080

In Attendance:

John Thompson (President), Ryan Clarke (Vice-President), Kate Prosser (Treasurer), Stephanie Chang (Secretary), Matt Alteen (DGSC Representative), Kailey Wright (TSSU Steward), Matthew Brown (Graduate Information Coordinator), Ania Tersakian (GSS Councillor Alternate), Rhea Bains (TSSU Steward), Fatima Garcia (GSS Councillor)

Regrets:

Motahareh Safiollah (TSSU Steward), Adam Barlev (TSSU Steward), Yumeela Ganga-sah (TSSU Steward), Heather Wiebe (Social Coordinator), Shaima Kammoonah (TSSU Steward), David Ester (Sports Coordinator), Tasleem Muzaffar (TSSU Steward)

1. Call to Order

- Meeting was called to order at 10:34 AM in SSC-C7080.

2. Appointment of the Chair

- **MOVED** to appoint John Thompson as Chair for this meeting.

Moved by: Ania Tersakian

Seconded by: Kate Prosser

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: Fatima Garcia

Seconded by: John Thompson

MOTION CARRIED.

- Stephanie Chang (Secretary) was appointed Secretary for this meeting.

4. Approval of Minutes

- **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the July 25, 2015 Chemistry Graduate Caucus meeting.

Moved by: Stephanie Chang

Seconded by: Ryan Clarke

MOTION CARRIED.

5. Reimbursements

Departmental Soccer Game (July 31, 2015)

- **MOVED** that the Chemistry Graduate Association reimburse **John Thompson** \$75 from the cash box for purchasing a chest freezer (\$50) and a BBQ (\$25) from Craigslist and Kijiji.

Moved by: Matt Alteen

Seconded by: Matthew Brown

Abstentions: John Thompson

MOTION CARRIED.

- **MOVED** that the Chemistry Graduate Association reimburse **Declan McKearney** (Undergraduate Student, Leznoff Group) \$20 from the cash box for gas and parking fees related to picking up the freezer and BBQ.

Moved by: Rhea Bains

Seconded by: Kailey Wright

MOTION CARRIED.

- **MOVED** that the Chemistry Graduate Association reimburse **John Thompson** \$938.67 from the cash box for fees related to food (\$17.51 from Safeway, \$245.72 from Costco), liquor (\$156.52 from Howe Sound, \$470.80 from BC Liquor Store), and trophy engraving (\$24.64 from Things Engraved).

Moved by: Kailey Wright

Seconded by: Stephanie Chang

Abstentions: John Thompson

MOTION CARRIED.

- **MOVED** that the Chemistry Graduate Association reimburse **Ryan Clarke** \$20 from the cash box for parking fees and gas related to the food and liquor store shopping trip.

Moved by: John Thompson

Seconded by: Matt Alteen

Abstentions: Ryan Clarke

MOTION CARRIED.

Old Business

6. Fall Lab Supplies Sales

- Sales will occur in the first week of classes (Sept. 8 – 11, 2015). The caucus decided against sales in the second week of classes.
- New stock, as detailed in the July 25, 2015 meeting minutes, has been ordered.
 - In future, goggles will not be ordered with an anti-fog coating. The yellow tint of the lens is off putting to undergraduate students, though we have heard that the tint is not obvious when the goggles are worn.

7. TSSU Update

- The TSSU remains on strike, and is moving forward to mediation with SFU Administration. SFU Administration has agreed to address, in detail, every single point of the TSSU's proposed changes to the Collective Agreement.
- TSSU members will receive further details through email about ongoing strike action.

New Business

8. GSS Update

- Fatima Garcia (GSS Councillor) attended an emergency GSS meeting a couple weeks ago regarding the hiring of the new GSS Executive Director. This meeting was called to reverse a decision to ban the interim Executive Director from being a candidate for the permanent Executive Director position.
 - This ban was put in place due to a conflict of interest: the interim Executive Director helped write the hiring criteria in addition to serving on the hiring committee. Moreover, the interim Executive Director's additional experience of acting as Executive Director was seen as an unfair advantage over the other candidates.
 - The GSS Councillors voted down this motion. There was concern about setting a precedent for reversing similar decisions in future.
- At the upcoming GSS meeting, the 2015/2016 budget will be put to vote. Garcia (GSS Councillor) previously brought the proposed changes to the budget to the caucus at the June 5, 2015 meeting, which the caucus approved.
- **MOVED** that the Chemistry Graduate Association approve the proposed 2015/2016 GSS budget.
 Moved by: Kate Prosser
 Seconded by: Ania Tersakian
MOTION CARRIED.
- Also at the upcoming GSS meeting, the subject of hosting events related to the upcoming federal election in GSS-regulated spaces will be discussed.
 - The GSS is a non-partisan organization and some members take issue with a partisan group hosting an event in a GSS space.
 - For example, the GSS could ban all partisan events and only allow non-partisan events, or the GSS could allow both partisan and non-partisan events to occur in GSS spaces.
 - The caucus felt that no group should be restricted from using the GSS spaces space, regardless of political affiliation.

9. Fall 2015 Chemistry Grad Student Orientation

- Last year's orientation was held on August 27 and attendance was low, which was later attributed to August 27 being too early a date.
- Kate Prosser (Treasurer) provided Matt Alteen (DGSC Representative) with a summary of the event held last year: a short presentation in SSB7172 with

Natalie Fournier (Graduate Secretary) and Rob Britton (Professor, DGSC Chair), then a campus tour, finishing with a Games Night social in the GSS Lounge.

- John Thompson (President) will check the availability of the GSS Lounge.
- One of the caucus TSSU Representatives will speak at the orientation instead of a TSSU-assigned representative as a member of the Chemistry Graduate Caucus will be better suited to speak to a chemistry TA's experience.

10. Adjournment

- **MOVED** to conclude the meeting.
Moved by: Rhea Bains
Seconded by: Matthew Brown
MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting concluded at 10:55 AM.