

BioGrads Meeting Minutes

Friday, Feb 13th, 2009

Faculty Rep (Matt):

- no news on the budget
- still expecting 4 to 5% cuts to Arts and Science
- on a good note, they are re-evaluating the QGA and we should be expecting the Biology QGA to increase
- Faculty Retreat is coming up in April (prior to exams)

RTP Rep (Scott):

- No news to report

GC Rep (Grace):

- No news to report

Academic Reps (Cheryl and Kyle)

- No news to report

SGPS Reps (Ann and Catherine)

- SGPS elections and referendum will be taking place on Feb 25th and 26th, 2009
- Athletics fee Increase:
 - currently, we pay 81\$ a year to use the facilities, which is good compared to other universities
 - upcoming referendum will include a vote for a fee increase
 - suggested increase is supposed to improve services (e.g., free intramurals, including summer intramurals)
 - increase is suggested to go up to a maximum of \$158 over 4 years
 - if it is voted down, instead of paying any fee as part of tuition, we will have to purchase some form of membership which would likely end up costing more
 - no discussion on opt-outs
- Tuition fee increase:
 - the proposed walk-out in protest of tuition fee increases has been taken off the table
 - instead, they will have a student run demonstration with speakers (tentatively scheduled for March 6th in front of Richardson at 1pm)
- SGPS wants to pass a motion that Queen's should speak out against Israeli bombing of Palestinian University
 - some members of the Queen's graduate committee feel strongly that the SGPS should make a statement, especially since in the past statements against attacks on universities have been made
 - this motion will be voted on at the next SGPS meeting

Secretary (Anneli):

- will be sending out an e-mail to circulate relevant updates to the Biology graduate students
- looking for ideas to put the graduate course survey together and would like to have results ready for the Faculty Retreat

Treasurer (Trina):

- still no budget
- we still owe Kyle and Cheryl for expenses related to the Peer Mentor “Meet and Greet”
- we still owe Ryan and Tom for the “Welcome Back BBQ”
- discussed the option of charging students small fees for social events to get a money pool started for the BioGrads Committee

QUBS rep (Cory):

- QUBS Executive had their 1st meeting
- Marg (kitchen) will be retiring so they are looking for people to fill that position and are taking applications, but we probably don't have much to say in that process
- Floyd will also be retiring next February
- they have a slush fund for green initiatives and are accepting some possible ideas for green initiatives at QUBS
 - there is also talk about starting a Green Committee
- meetings will be taking place once a month
- members of the Exec include Frank Phelan (manager), Bruce Tufts (Director), Steve Loughead, and Paul Martin

Social Reps (Ryan and Jeff)

- thinking of trying to organize easier/cheaper things
- ideas proposed include:
 - organizing a skating day (maybe for the 27th)
 - arranging a games night in Room 1101
 - organizing a curling night
- also planning a house party for spring time
- discussed that it would be important to announce upcoming events two weeks in advance to increase attendance and participation

Chair (Martin):

- elections are scheduled for the end of April
- we should be thinking about recruiting new candidates and thinking about who would like to be running again for positions
- amendments to the constitution should be proposed before next meeting and voted on at the next meeting
 - this will include the official addition of the QUBS rep position as well as the creation of a Sports rep
 - this will also include addressing the current loop-hole which exists about not holding more than one position
 - will propose the idea that one person can't run for more than one position, but if positions are vacant, they could be filled by a member already on the committee