

BioGrads Meeting Minutes

Friday, Nov 13th, 2009

Secretary (Anneli):

- new website is up and running and part of the departmental website
- link to the site is "Biology GSC" which stands for Graduate Student Committee
- Biology GSC seems to be what most people refer to instead of the "Committee of the Whole"
- our plan is to amend our official constitutional name in the Spring to the Biology GSC

GC Rep (Scott):

- no update since all scholarship rankings are over

Faculty Rep (Rhiannon):

- monthly Faculty meeting has been postponed one week to allow people to comment on Mel Robertson's budget update

SGPS Reps (Chad and Chris)

- major topic of discussion this month was International Queen's Graduate Student Scholarships
 - up to this point, international students have automatically received \$5000 to help cover the extra cost of international student fees
 - currently, the university is talking about allotting these scholarships to individual departments and if they are not utilized, the money would be lost and returned to Graduate Student Affairs
- reminder that there is a small sum of money available for Travel and Research grants that any member of the SGPS can apply for

Social Reps (Tara and Cat)

- QUBS weekend was cancelled and rescheduled for January 23-24, 2010
- Halloween party was a success
 - the event raised 500\$ for the SCB
 - feedback from those who attended the event has been fantastic, everyone had a great time
- curling is coming up for Nov 22nd...so far we have 16 people signed up
- Holiday party is scheduled for Dec 11th
 - Joanne said we don't have to go out of our way to accommodate the staff members since most are not interested in attending
 - this would allow us to hold the event later in the day
 - currently entertaining the idea of an atrium event from 5 to 8pm with bar service and appetizers
 - looking for entertainment ideas
 - we will be receiving some financial support from the Department
 - we will also apply to the SGPS for funding

QUBS rep (Cory):

- nothing to report for now since the last Executive Committee meeting has been postponed

Sports Rep (Ann)

- BEWICS team has been organized with biology undergrads
- update on the squash ladder
 - delaying start until January when the new Sports Center will be up and running

RTP Rep (Julie):

- not present

Academic Rep (Mark):

- not present

Chair (Martin):

- IAR visit on Monday
 - one objective is to emphasize the negative effect of current and proposed budget cuts