

# **BioGrads Meeting Minutes**

## **Friday, April 9th, 2010**

### ***Faculty Rep (Rhiannon):***

- update from the last Faculty Meeting:
  - talked about the TA unionization: informed Faculty the majority of votes were in favour of a union
  - upcoming changes to the undergrad curriculum were discussed
    - there was a discussion about BIOL 102/103 having one section as a virtual course
    - signing up for the virtual courses will be optional, but there will be a limited number of spots for students in live lectures (900)
    - based on the time-ticket registration system, students from a given program/major will have first choice on spots in live lectures offered in their department
    - the main advantage of this new system will be to minimize workload on classes that offer multiple sessions of the same lecture, plus all students will have access to the virtual lecture
    - surveys show they appreciate this and that it helps them study
  - they discussed a new early retirement incentive plan
    - according to this plan, a minimum of 3 people have to retire by May 28<sup>th</sup>
  - there might be a new VP Research who will be in Environmental Science but may use Biologoy space for a lab until Peter Hodson retires
  - the QUBS application for the Principal Innovation Fund was successful and someone has been hired to fill the position at the Biology Station

### ***RTP Rep (Julie):***

- nothing to report

### ***SGPS Reps (Chad and Chris)***

- the Annual General Meeting took place this past month
  - a number of amendments were voted on
  - there were elections for new committee members

### ***QUBS rep (Cory):***

- absent: nothing to report

### ***Sports Rep (Ann):***

- absent: nothing to report

### ***GC Rep (Scott):***

- absent: nothing to report

### ***Academic Rep (Mark and Josh):***

- nothing to report

### ***Social Reps (Tara and Cat):***

- will continue to host coffee hour until the end of April unless attendance decreases below profitability
- organizing end of year party that will include Rock Band and Wii
  - location would be Elixir or Fanatics
  - Elixir won't charge for space, but Fanatics may be a better venue and will have option for people to order food
  - will circulate details once they are finalized

***Secretary (Anneli):***

-nothing to report

***Chair (Martin):***

-need to plan the upcoming elections

-will serve election notice via e-mail on Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup>

-nomination period will end on Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>

-we will have a meeting on Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup> so that candidates can have the opportunity to introduce themselves to fellow graduate students in the department and answer questions from voters

-the actual election will take place on Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup>