

## **BiGCoW Meeting Minutes – Friday January 14 2011**

Chair (Catherine Dale):

- Amendment to change BiGCoW election date from April 1<sup>st</sup> to March 1<sup>st</sup> submitted

Secretary/Co-Chair (Jessica Bouchard):

- Referendum on track to occur on Friday January 21, 2011, with an information session on Tuesday January 18, 2011
- Email will be sent out as soon as possible, posters will be put up on Monday
- List of current grad students has been obtained from Joanne
- Ballots will be printed on Wednesday and available for students on Thursday January 20

Treasurer (Anneli Jokela):

- Will complete Holiday Party budget, the BiGCoW's balance should stay the same ~\$288
- Salvation Army food drive managed to gather 2 boxes of food items
  - The Eckert Lab brought in the most items, they will receive a prize
  - To increase our efforts in the future, we could potentially include undergraduate students, allow people to donate at coffee hour

Staff/Faculty Rep (Rhiannon Davies):

- Queen's looking to offer more international courses through Blyth Educational Travel
- Grad students and post-docs may be hired to teach these courses

Graduate Committee Rep (Julie Choi):

- Nothing to report (absent)

RTP Rep (Roslyn Dakin):

- Nothing to report

SGPS Reps (Celia Symons and Patrick Turko):

- Alumni mentoring program to begin where alumni "adopt" a department for the purpose of providing contacts and networking advice to current students
- Proposal to extend ARC (Athletics and Recreation Center) summer hours for graduate students
- SGPS and AMS operations management are trying to change policies to allow the AMS to hire graduate students
- March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> will be the SGPS elections, an email will be sent out to inform biology graduate students

QUBS Rep (Ann McKellar):

- QUBS won a 2010 Ontario Land Trust Association Vision Award! The award, presented in late October of 2010 "... recognizes a non land trust organization or agency that has demonstrated visionary leadership in supporting the work of the wider land trust community in Ontario"

- QUBS has a new website, separate from the main biology page (<http://www.queensu.ca/qubs>). Check it out! There will soon also be a separate website devoted to outreach at QUBS
- The deadline for Undergrad student awards at QUBS (BUGS awards; Biology Undergraduate Summer Awards) will be changing from March 31 to January 31 this year, in order to attract more students to conduct field work. (Numbers of applicants for these awards have historically been very low, possibly because by late March most students have their summer plans already laid out)
- QUBS will be running a summer camp this year at the new Elbow Lake property! It will be a daycamp run from July 11 to August 12, 2011, with transportation back and forth to the facilities every day (~35 min bus ride). It will be nature/conservation/outdoor activity oriented. The QUBS executive is looking to hire an undergraduate student director to oversee this initiative. This position will start February 1st and will involve advertising, managing the budget, fund-raising, hiring student counselors, designing activities, and supervising activities while the camp is running. This ad for this position will be posted very soon. If you know any 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year students who might be interested make sure to let them know.

#### Sports Coordinator (Amanda Bresnehan):

- No graduate students signed up for BEWICS Sports Days this year, to increase participation next year we could get in touch with undergraduate DSC earlier in the semester, go door to door to ask people personally
- Will be resigning as Sports Coordinator effective immediately

#### Academic Coordinators (Karlee Flear and Fabian Yu):

- Will be looking into funds available through the VP Academics office for an event to be held later in the semester

#### Social Coordinators (Heather Haig and Kate Turner):

- Completing the Holiday Party wrap-up, including a guide for next year's Social Coordinators and a completed budget summary
- There was a \$200 profit made at the Holiday Party
- QUBS weekend – may look into skipping QUBS breakfast in order to cut down on cost