

## **BiGCoW Meeting Minutes – Friday March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012**

### **Staff and Faculty Representative (Kat Stewart)**

#### *First authorship on graduate manuscripts*

- At the monthly meeting, they approved changes relating to first authorship:
  - “6.2.(f) Supervisors have the right to write up and take first authorship on papers based on any material in the thesis or arising from the thesis that is not submitted for publication within one year of normal degree time limits (2 years for MSc, 4 for PhD). Since the student will be co-author on such papers, such thesis material may be used directly without infringing on the student's copyright.”
  - This should be promoted to the graduate community, so they are aware. It is mentioned in the Guide to Graduate Studies.

#### *Increasing Biology PhD enrollment*

- One of the suggestions mentioned for increasing PhD enrollment in biology is to increase the PhD minimum stipend. It may be a monetary incentive to come to Queen's.
- It was determined that in order for this to occur, every professor would have to pay additional funds for every graduate student they take on, regardless of whether they were a masters or a doctorate student.
  - This suggestion was discussed but not passed
- A suggestion from the BioGrads committee: If Queen's offered more courses geared towards PhD students, then it may be more of an incentive to come to Queen's.

### **Social coordinators (Celia Symons and Laura Doubleday (absent))**

#### *BioGrads weekend trip*

- It may not be possible to have the weekend trip at Elbow Lake, as it is currently winterized and would be difficult to open in time.
- May be able to go to QUBS for the weekend instead.
  - Would it be possible to ask for the Whitehouse, so we can have our own kitchen? We could save money by not requesting meals be made
  - The number of cabins that would need to be rented for the event depends upon how many will be attending; may be useful to gauge interest ahead of time.

#### *St. Patrick's Day event?*

- A suggestion was made to have a St. Patrick's day social
- If alcohol is sold, the committee would need a permit for the event
- It would be held on Saturday March 17th afternoon, potentially with pancakes
  - Might be a good idea to do a Pancake & BYOB event instead
  - Might be good to sell tickets beforehand in order to gauge interest

#### *Coffee Day*

- The cost has been brought down thanks to people donating baked goods, as well as the coordinators preparing baked goods.

### **Sports Coordinator (Adriana Lopez (absent))**

## **SGPS Representatives (2 Open positions)**

### **Graduate Committee Representative (Niraj Kumar (absent))**

### **RTP Representative (Roslyn Dakin)**

- No new news

### **Treasurer (Chris Baird (absent))**

### **Academic Coordinators (Sarah Wallace and Amanda Xuereb)**

#### *Graduate Teaching Award*

- Emailed the Centre for Teaching and Learning, and they were fine with BioGrads creating this award.
- Plaque prices: 5"x7" is \$22, 7"x9" is \$40, ships within 1-2 weeks
- For the evaluation process, there will be points assigned for each question. There will also be a weighted average for the course
  - Will also need to consider the number of students in the course
- May need to get together with the rest of BiGCoW at some point in order to gather a consensus how to deal with any issues if they arise.
- The coordinators could present this award at the BioBanquet if a professor is chosen by then

#### *Moodle site*

- They have included links to relevant workshops available, as well as the 3-minute Thesis contest, on the Moodle site
- They will send out another email to advertise the Moodle site, as well they will potentially mention the site before the next EEB presentation.

### **QUBS Representative (Ann McKellar)**

- Evolution Ottawa, the 1<sup>st</sup> joint conference in evolutionary biology, will be coordinating a field trip to QUBS on the first day of the conference (July 6<sup>th</sup> – July 10<sup>th</sup> 2012)

### **C.O.W. Chair (Anneli Jokela)**

- We will be getting a visit by some graduate students from Carleton who would like to present their research. Could we donate some funds towards supplying treats for the events?

Will begin the process of elections on Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Potential candidates have until Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012 to apply.