

## **Meeting minutes January 11<sup>th</sup> 2013**

### **Cat (Chair)**

- Changing meetings to the first Friday of the month; everyone agreed
- Thanked Steph and Courtney for doing a great job with the Holiday Party
- RTP amendment; wants to talk to Kim about this first to make sure the position is fully understood; will probably vote on this next week
- PSAC Steward amendment for creation of a Union Rep position; confirmed with PSAC what their role and duties would be
- Grad Student research day in the works for April 11 or 12
  - o Wayne Snedden spoke with Mel, probably 3000\$ in funding but should look elsewhere; considering Student Initiatives Fund
  - o Ad hoc committee was formed (10/10 voted in favour); 10/10 voted in favour of Sarah as director and Julia as co-director

### **Kim (RTP)**

- No news

### **Sarah (Academic Coordinator)**

- Grad teaching award survey(feedback from two courses only); will approach in person for this term's courses
- Moodle site needs better promotion; Courtney suggested adding holiday photos there

### **Amanda (Secretary)**

- Need to find somewhere to store our stuff, lots of it is in the Aarssen lab or floating around

### **Kate and Trevor (SGPS Reps)**

- T4 classification changes, RA stipend are now T4A so we get more money, some people were opposed at the SGPS meeting because this means you no longer pay into EI
- 2 new residences being built
- SGPS wants to oppose mandatory apps for external funding and if that is required then it should be mandatory that the University reimburses for transcripts
- Intellectual property of thesis; submit to QSPACE when done but you can choose to hold off for 5 years, this is an issue for people writing books, etc.

### **Julia (Sports)**

- 2 sports going this term (soccer and volleyball)
- 5 BEWICS spots, first come first served

- Eckert is making a youtube bit about grad students and their research for undergrads, more to come (Sarah and Julia are dealing with this)

### **Steph and Courtney (Social)**

- Biograds Skating Evening (one Thursday in January)
- Elbow lake weekend in February, 30\$ to rent snow shoes at trailhead and 40 for cross country skis
- Some receipts remain to be given to John Topping for the Holiday Party
- Maybe one lunch this term to raise some money; discussed the trade-off between work and profit of these

### **Ally (Treasurer and Staff /Faculty rep)**

- Biograds has \$383
- At the staff meeting they discussed:
  - 6 OGS for whole department, candidates will be ranked to make it fair
  - Reminder not to take live animals (if you work with them) into classes, or our for “appearances”
  - All Faculty were in support of a grad student research day in the spring of 2013

### **Eric (GSC Rep) – absent**

What Eric planned to talk about that Amanda highlighted:

1. The upcoming TA hour survey for Fall 2012 TAships.
2. The almost-but-not-quite-yet-dead-in-the-water Grad Student Research Day.
3. A proposed grad course from Bill Bendena that is probably going to be rejected by the Grad Studies Committee.
4. A proposal that I intend to bring to the Grad Studies Committee to request the creation a course focused on grant writing and on selling your research to the government/public. I'll be seeking feedback from Biograds members about whether they think this would be a good idea and what any such course should include.

### **Vanya (QUBS Rep) – absent**