

Meeting Minutes – Sept 19th, 2014

Amanda (Chair)

- No Update

Alex (Co-Chair/Secretary)

- Position of PSAC 901 Union Rep still vacant. Will solicit the department for anyone who is interested and hold a vote before the next meeting

Sarah (RTP)

- Four professors are up for full promotion; two from EEB and two from MCIB
 - Dr. Shelley Arnott (EEB)
 - Dr. Adam Chippendale (EEB)
 - Dr. Wayne Snedden (MCIB)
 - Dan Lefebvre (MCIB)
- Sarah will not be able to sit on the RTP committee, as there is a conflict of interest with her being in the lab of a PI that is up for promotion. We will need to get someone equity trained, that does not have a conflict of interest with any of the candidates to sit on the committee
- Applications have been sent out for review to external colleagues. When recommendations come back, the RTP committee will send their recommendation to the faculty of Arts and Science for full professorship based on the strength of the overall application.
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 - Dr. Wayne Snedden (MCIB)
 - Dan Lefebvre (MCIB)

Veronika Wright (Alumni)

- Will work on a blog that will connect alumni to current students, by trying to give a glimpse at the employment/academic possibilities post-graduation.
- Thinking about planning an event for alumni and current grad students to encourage networking. Will get in touch with the Queen's Alumni Association for possible funding

Leslie and Becky (Social Coordinators)

- Welcome back BBQ that was held at the Grad Club was a great success!
- Trying to work out coffee time/lunch. So far possible days are Tuesday/Wednesday. Hope to start before next meeting.
- Looking to set up a weekend retreat at Elbow Lake for the weekend of Nov 1.
 - Cost would be \$75/cabin. Can fit four people in a cabin (if two people are willing to share a bed)
 - Would have full use of the site
 - Would have to purchase firewood from Elbow

- 15% deposit of reservation and a minimum of 4 cabins

Eric (Sports)

- No update other than we have a volleyball team signed up for Fall sports

Deni (Graduate Committee)

- No update
- Graduate committee will meet at least once this semester

Shakira (Treasurer)

- Get receipts from BBQ

James (Staff and Faculty)

- Grad courses:
 - New “gateway grad course” for MCIB and EEB. These two courses will look at their fundamental research from each prospective discipline. Focused to incoming MSc. students
- Extra TAships
 - Faculty are coming up with a new policy for extra TAships
 - For any additional TAship (>3), 50% of the money earned will go to the students PI, indirectly through a reduction in the RA money given to the student.
 - Reason for this, students spending additional time TAing are not fulfilling their research duties
- Committee meetings
 - Committee meetings *have* to happen at least once a year, and new rules are now in place to make sure this happens.
 - QGA payments will be withheld if students are not meeting their committee meeting requirements
- Tentatively, grad student research day talks can count as exit seminars for graduating students – crazy! This will likely be looked at again...
- There will no longer be departmental Biology seminars on Friday. Weekly seminars will be replaced by two “big-ticket” seminars each semester where prestigious scientists will be invited to speak
 - While Friday seminars will no longer be regularly planned, special Friday seminars can be booked (i.e. for a exit seminar, visiting scholar, etc.)

Michele (QUBS) – not present, but report submitted

- Looking for volunteers to assist with fall programming at QUBS