

Biograds Minutes – Jan 23/2015

Amanda Tracey (Chair)

- No update

Alex Ross (Co-chair/secretary)

- No update

Michele (QUBS rep)

- QUBS is looking to start a Writer in Residence program – potentially to start next year.
- QUBS calanders are for sale. All photos are taken by QUBS researchers, and are being sold for \$20 each. Talk to Steve Lougheed if interested.
- The new library is built, and the herbarium is being moved up shortly.
- There's a new QUBS youtube channel – www.youtube.com/user/QUBScam

Leslie Holmes (Social Coordinator)

- The holiday party was a success, and we sold nearly all 100 tickets we had for the event. However, we need to discuss ideas for next year, as the party that was put on was our only option with the Budget and departmental constraints.

Shakira Azan (Treasurer)

- Total budget right now is sitting ~\$612.00

Nick Cairns (RTP)

- Not Present – no update

Dave Ensing (Academic Coordinator)

- Moodle site is up, but not being used. It would be good to have people in the BGSC using the site, so that others can see it is being used. Also, the moodle site should be brought up in TA meetings, so that grad students know of its existence.

Eric Fedosejevs (Sports coordinator)

- No update

Danielle Porplycia & Courtney Holden (SGPS Reps)

- The university has approved renovations to Richardson stadium – construction will begin in 2016
- Renovations to the JDUC have also been discussed. The project is not fully funded yet, and is unlikely to be completed anytime soon. There will be a website coming online shortly (no URL yet), that will be available for individuals to leave suggestions or comments regarding the JDUC revamp

- There is a position for any Biology *PhD* student to assume the role of a Science Faculty rep at Institutional meetings. This would be the same position that Danielle currently holds.

Deni Ogunrinde (Graduate Committee Rep)

- There's been talk of switching the ratio for where money comes from in student stipends. This could mean a lower contribution from QGA's and a higher contribution from supervisors.
 - Nothing concrete yet.

Nishka (Alumni Rep)

- Met with someone at Alumni Services. Alumni services has a list of all past Biology graduates. If we want to get in contact with alumni, we can do so *via* the Alumni Association
- Nishka will be meeting up with this contact again next week to discuss further possibilities

Adam Meyer (Union Rep & Graduate Representative for the Biology Headship Committee)

Union

- There is a website committee being formed for the Union. This committee will only look at how the website can be changed/improved, not actually change anything

James Sinclair (Staff and Faculty Rep)

- Clarification of student privacy information
 - Bottom line – TAs can't have any undergraduate documents that have *both* a student name and student number together. One or the other is fine, but both together aren't. TAs who have documents where the two are found together should have all electronic copies wiped (Computer store), and all paper copies officially shredded (can contact Janice in the office). The only way that the two can be together is if they are on an encrypted device.
- Volunteer form
 - Everyone, not just undergrads, that helps out in a lab needs to sign a volunteer agreement form. This includes significant others/partners helping with lab or fieldwork. If an incident occurs and there is no form for the volunteer, the supervisor (i.e. the PI) will be liable for any damages.