

Biology Graduate Student Council Meeting
Feb. 15/2017
Minutes: Bronwyn

John

-No updates

Yihan

-No updates

Wenxi

-No updates

Cale

-Talking to Brian Cumming:

-Shocked when told that council has no money

-Look into council, could get money from grad student union as we all pay dues, could get sent operating fee?

-Howard doesn't think that this is likely

-Research Day

-Food – Old Fine Farm for sandwich platter for lunch in the atrium

-Apparently grad club can't hold 80 people and it would be too expensive (?)

-Bare minimum from Old Fine Farm and then Costco for pop

-Davin knows how to get food from outside the university without doing the paperwork

-Didn't say the department would give us money but didn't say they wouldn't – there might be potential for us to get some money, will likely only give it to us if we spend the rest of our funding

-In the past there is an end of year banquet for 4th year, graduate students and faculty and then faculty could buy tickets for their lab/table

-Sounds like bio formal

-Stereotype of bio formal is that it's a very 'undergraduate event'

-We should approach them and ask for graduate portion for ticket sales OR graduate tickets are 'at-cost'

-We are not in a position to hold our event so we should take advantage

-Bio Formal held at Delta this year – venue a bit smaller, nice venue and quite a bit of room

-April 6th this year

-Some undergraduates feel like there is a lack of communication between what a grad student is and how to become a graduate student

-This is an existing SGS event that perhaps bio doesn't capitalize on

-Tutoring

-Undergrads are still looking for graduate tutors

-Howard has list of all the classes

-Howard to send out biograds e-mail to see if anyone is interested in tutoring for class (can't tutor if TA-ing), negotiation for prices up to them

-Dylan: Regarding funding, Coca-cola exclusivity fund, Dylan to send to Cale, one time fund

Sofia

-If we wanted to do a skating event, thinking of doing it Feb. 25th - would be nice to offer something for the people who aren't going away for reading week

-Advertise this week

-Can rent skates from Trailhead

Howard

-Grad Symposium (April 21st)

-Limited in funds, have applied for SGPS funding that will likely cover lunch, student initiative fund (\$800)

-Need to book atrium

-Chairs from EEB lounge, trolleys in loading dock

-AV equipment from SGS?

-Would be great to have end of the day social at the grad club – cost? Can't book without a fee on Fridays? Can still apply for SGPS funding to have for BGSC social mixer instead of research symposium ?

-Put names on who are not involved in Grad Symposium

-Potentially hold BBQ (previously discussed) then?

-Undergraduate who was planning to come can no longer make it, will try to find a replacement

-Staff Meeting:

-Teaching plan to 2021, want to have all classes to teach planned out until 2021 – can then fill positions for teaching now

-Needs a lot of work, clearly are already some spots that will be open

-Try to consolidate courses, as well as graduate courses that have never been taught, try to make bigger classes through consolidation

-Try to incorporate more graduate options in undergraduate classes, with minor changes to the course, would be a grad credit

-Big discussion about NSERC undergraduate regulations, our website contradicts website

-Grad Council, QUQAP, Queen's University Quality Assurance, happening will get report at end

-Committee set up to assign faculty members to grad courses to teach at least every second year

-Looking at Comps structures

-Presented idea to raise minimum stipend – very receptive!

-Turned to recruitment, difficult to get PhDs, all international

- About \$300 the TA-ships have gone up since 2012-2013, so profs are now paying us less in our stipend since stipend has not been raised
- Tuition has gone up about \$250
- Asking for \$1400 increase for PhD students
- Some in favour of keeping Masters and PhD the same
- A lot of universities are having increase in both stipends (Guelph and Western)
- Will keep asking for \$24000 minimum for PhD, Masters will likely stay the same
- Trying to attract the most qualified people
- It has to now be discussed at the grad council meeting, 2nd week of March, hopefully to put together motion at grad council meeting to present at staff meeting the next week
- Stipends at other universities vary, Master's here are well paid comparatively, but PhD is quite low
- University funding model does not reflect graduate students, based on undergraduate classes and amount of space your department owns

- OPS committee: Getting rid of microscopes, scanning electron, and other equipment

- Constitutional changes

Dylan going to general meeting for SGPS @ 5:30