

BGSC Open Meeting Minutes - October 19, 2020

1. Motion to approve agenda for Oct 19, 2020
 - a. Ryan, Hana
2. Motion to approve minutes from Sept 28, 2020
 - a. Alan, Heather
3. Updates
 - a. Update from co-chairs (Regan & Nell)
 - i. Making progress on the survey.. TBD
 1. Talking with Human Rights and Equity Office, still discussing how to move forward
 2. There was a survey done in 2017 - will look into that
 3. Prioritizing doing this as correctly as possible
 - ii. Headshot event (Claire and Allen)
 1. \$50 - looking into matching funding and whether we can donate as a student group
 - iii. Constitution amendments forthcoming
 1. Regan and Nell have made amendments based on how BGSC has evolved, e.g. adding in EDI reps and Intl Student Reps
 2. Need to send around edits 10 business days prior to general meeting - will send amendments to executive tomorrow and if there are suggestions for amendments or wording
 3. Vote on constitution next general meeting
 - iv. Update re Recruitment Coordinator position
 1. Brian says Dept welcomes this but we need to organize with Grad + EDI Committees
 - a. We can recreate or continue this position if we want but it won't be a paid position
 2. Recruitment Fair!
 - v. Update re SGPS investment in fossil fuels?
 1. Chloe sent an email about this but has yet to hear back
4. Updates from representatives:
 - a. QUBS (Adam) -
 - i. QUBS and Faculty of Education hosting talk by Robin Kimmerer (State U of New York) Nov 12th, happening in EEB seminar slot from 12:30-1:30 - pre-registration with 50 slots reserved for biology dept. Talk goes 12:30-1:30pm with questions until 2. Time slotted for students to meet with her afterward. More specific details to follow later.

- ii. Sabrina - outreach intern at QUBS - asked if BGSC interested in getting involved with outreach with Kingston community - seminars on conservation, species at risk, building outdoor skills
 - 1. Adam will send email to grad list to see if anyone is interested (when he knows more from QUBS about details)
- iii. Sarah Oldenberger (Outreach and Teaching Coord at QUBS) - interest in a grad student leading outdoor skills workshop at QUBS
- b. Faculty and RTP (Hana) -
 - i. Heads report - Julie French has retired, Olga Kugel passed away in Sept, Fern has resigned
 - ii. Biol 110, 411 and 432 working with gender studies to incorporate EDI studies
 - iii. Looking to work with DSC for skills workshops, mentoring
 - iv. Biol 212 has been cancelled - working on developing new courses to deal with this for students and reassigning TAs
 - v. Biol 402 and 403 appealed for on campus learning
 - vi. Thesis and mentorship courses appealed to let students come back to campus in winter
 - vii. Also proposed upping enrolment in courses to help students deal with cancelled courses, would also create more TAs for TAs that lost out on some from cancelled courses
 - viii. From Grad studies committee
 - 1. Student buy-outs interfering with assigning TA duties - need to make clear buy-outs happen before assigning TAs
- c. Alumni/Graduate Committee (Jessie) -
 - i. Started organizing things for Alumni series
 - ii. Looking back at the BGSC exit procedures stuff - meet with Regan and Nell before bringing it up to Grad Committee
- d. SGPS (Emilie & Chloe) -
 - i. Last meeting last week Oct 19th
 - ii. President of SGPS campaigning for refund of mandatory ARC fees - started a petition - email sent around - https://www.change.org/p/queen-s-university-fair-fees-for-queen-s-student-s-b26d263a-ef50-446f-a34a-0a991b8080c3?recruiter=5011400&recruited_by_id=72643370-48d2-0130-bbe1-00221964dac8&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=copylink&utm_campaign=petition_dashboard
 - iii. Library increases increasing capacity - seats and monthly hours - in coming weeks grad student reading room will be opened
 - iv. Update intl tuition award program - scholarship amount hasn't been updated in a few years - update so it matches cost of living

- v. Grad PSC recruiting volunteers - open until 28th on SGPS website
 - vi. VP Finance is introducing a student bus pass reimbursement program - if you bought bus pass, part of your purchase can be reimbursed through school, open now through Nov 1st - email sent out but can also find on SGPS website
 - vii. Cooking with grandmas event - hosting again on Oct 21st from 5-6:30 - register on the SGPS website
 - viii. Queens hiring the 15th chancellor - asking for feedback on desirable attributes - feedback sent to ucouncil@queensu.ca - <https://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/chancellor-search/desired-attributes>
 - ix. Rule where Intl students not residing in Canada can't hold TAs or RAs - PSAC wrote letter to Dean and Principal of Grad Studies asking this to be reversed - SGPS voted to endorse letter - this decision is discriminatory and was also last minute, giving students little time to make alternative arrangements - even affects students with Canadian bank accounts - no formal policy allowed this - also no precedent - in past, students working internationally could hold TAs - Chloe will send out letter from last week so grad students can sign
 - x. Arc fee petition - also petition to refund students ARC fees for those who can't use gym
- e. International (Harsha & Peiwen) - Intl student TAs outside Canada - updates, Art Auction event.
- i. Art auction fundraiser organized by Indigenous elders on campus to support intl students at risk - Harsha shared link on fb group - if anyone is interesting in participating or donating artwork reach out
- f. Union (Heather) -
- i. No update - first meeting of semester will be next week
- g. EDI (Sam & Kristen) - ?
- i. Next subcommittee meeting later this week
 - ii. Consulted with Josh Edmonstone from Concordia who consulted on their EDI committee there - compared notes on what they're doing at Concordia vs here and shared ideas - agreed these groups have a tendency not to take action because of fear of imperfection - but better to take action and get feedback as you go than do nothing
 - iii. Having to apply to scholarships and bursaries can be a barrier in itself - to deal with this creating short general applications for scholarships - als for some for field courses and field work having some that you don't need to apply for
 - iv. Seminars on EDI - emotional intensity that comes along with these seminars can be triggering - peer support centre offers trigger support at

events - can send someone for these seminars so that if someone needs support there's one or two people there they can talk to

- h. Post-doc (Wendy) -
 - i. Been unable to contact any post docs in dept - talk to your labs and if there are post docs interested in knowing anyone else have them contact Wendy
 - i. Undergrads (Danica) -
 - i. Grad 101 event went well - great turnout
5. Update from Social coordinators (Ryan & Emma) -
- a. New bi-weekly event - Biology trivia
 - i. Looking to get the BGSC's opinion on best way to operate/if there's interest (run similar to online grad club trivia)
 1. Teams of 1-4 people
 2. 3 or 4 categories, 5-10 questions
 3. Honour system marking (upload to google sheet at end of each round, top team announced)
 4. Keep a running leaderboard for the semester
 5. Broadcast on FB live on biograd/pd fb page or doing a zoom
 6. Biweekly or monthly
 7. First round general, second round specific (people can vote on), third round music or entertainment
 8. Could have people submit questions for specific rounds
 9. Maybe a grad students vs undergrads night, or "Are you smarter than a first year?"
 10. Ryan will put out poll to see what night of week works best for everyone
 - b. Fort Fright
 - i. Coming up this Sat - 11 people signed up - a few people contacted about signing up late but sold out - maybe organize a second night for people who missed the first one
 - ii. Need for a credit card or something for BGSC - bought tickets with own card and people paying back
 1. Can look into getting a credit card with low fees (Claire) - not sure if a card can be linked to our account - currently we have a department account and must liaise with Jan to get checks
 - iii. Rachel Fanelli previously talked to dept about getting credit card for EEB - there was a hard no - Queen's doesn't give dept credit cards to any group
6. Update from Academic (Hayden) - ?
- a. Peer mentoring this week - Hayden and Heather posted writing resources for first years

7. BGRS update (Allen) -
 - a. 8 people have joined BGRS committee, first meeting on Wednesday this week
8. Tasks:
 - a. Reviewing the constitution
 - i. Regan and Nell will send around to exec for feedback, will vote on changes next general meeting