

## **BGSC Open Meeting Agenda - November 16, 2020**

1. Motion to approve agenda for Nov 16, 2020
  - a. Hana, Allen
2. Motion to approve minutes from Nov 2, 2020
  - a. Harsha, Ryan
3. Updates
  - a. Update from co-chairs (Regan & Nell)
    - i. Met with Maydianne Andrade - going to do a seminar and workshop on unconscious bias tailored to the dept 12pm (tba) on December 11th
      1. Seminar and workshops, split grad students and faculty into groups
    - ii. Apparently the dept did do something of a climate survey in 2017-18 (DEAP Diversity and Equity Assessment Planning survey <https://www.queensu.ca/equity/educational-equity/deap>); EDI committee is working on recommendations from that survey
    - iii. Skip to discussion - voting on constitution amendments
4. Updates from representatives:
  - a. QUBS (Adam) -
    - i. Still looking for grad students or postdocs for collaborating on outreach seminars
  - b. Faculty and RTP (Hana) -
    - i. none
  - c. Alumni/Graduate Committee (Jessie) -
    - i. Meetings for redesigning bio website, going to put together survey to send to bio dept, if anyone has questions to include on survey or feedback for website let Jessie know
  - d. SGPS (Emilie & Chloe) -
    - i. Bus subsidy program
      1. Good news
        - a. City of Kingston provided subsidy when bus pass program was cancelled by AMS, \$500,000 for students to cover up to the original price of the student bus pass
        - b. 937 people applied for the student bus pass, which is \$119 per term
        - c. 300 applied for subsidy program, from \$30-90 a semester
        - d. Application closed for fall semester but will reopen for winter and spring
      2. Bad news

- a. JDUC space will be removed - renovations supposed to start May 2021 but as of now have been halted to May 2022
    - b. They were charging students but need to figure out how to repay students because of the delay
  - 3. Research will shut down again because of COVID in the winter, won't be as bad as first lockdown
  - 4. SGPS working on new supervisory contract that outlines expectations for grad students and supervisors. Co-supervisors would also sign but not committee members. Contract lasts for duration of your program, don't have to renew. Strongly encouraged for current students to sign but not mandated by SGPS law.
  - 5. New volunteers for Graduate Peer Support Centre - up and running - will be open in some capacity over the winter break
  - 6. SGPS bursary program temporarily shut down for last couple of years while updating bursary guide, recently re-opened Nov 9
  - 7. Exec approved new position, "conference coordinator"
    - a. Paid position, coordinate SGPS Beyond Boundaries Conference
    - b. They have \$2850 of sponsorship money for the conference
    - c. If you know anyone who wants this position go to [SGPS.ca/jobs](http://SGPS.ca/jobs)
  - 8. Nov 24th will be fall annual general meeting
    - a. If you want to bring anything forward contact Mary Rita Holland - she will add to agenda
  - 9. ARC will be offering classes in person and over zoom, from yoga to intense full body workouts
  - 10. Another Cooking with Grandmas event soon - 24th or 29th Nov
  - 11. Meeting with Diversity and Equity Coordinator, highlighted need for a space for political mobilization and activism dedicated to graduate students in particular
  - 12. Rector - 20% of budget to go to bipoc communities, will connect his office to clubs working towards antiracist goals
- e. International (Harsha & Peiwen) - ?
  - f. Union (Heather) -
    - i. Union looking into RA/GRA fellowships - there's been a decrease in RA contracts university wide, they've been replaced with non-unionized research fellow or research associate contracts.

1. Difficult to figure out who actually was RAing because final part of biograd funding package previously treated as an RAship so nearly all our names are on the RA list.
  2. If any knows they had an RA position that was exclusively that and was replaced - more common in MCIB? - contact Heather or Harsha
- g. EDI (Sam & Kristen) -
- i. Met with EEB Seminar Committee on how to improve EDI seminars and workshops, hoping to implement feedback forms and other ways to improve future EDI events, i.e. lay out format of panel ahead of time so audience knows what to expect
  - ii. Meeting with Experiential Learning Hub on campus - hoping to send out a survey on students' experiences with outdoor activities, particularly field courses and field work. Want feedback on their experiences, barriers they perceive, ways to mitigate that. Hub gave feedback on survey.
  - iii. Outdoors EDI Subcommittee - Meeting with Hayden, looking into funding resources, focused on setting up fund to start grant program for outdoor apparel and equipment. For grad students but maybe also for undergrads in courses with field components like Biol 212 and 300 - for some this is their 1st intro to field work - course coordinators say there have been some financial barriers in past
  - iv. Meeting with outreach committee later this week
- h. Post-doc (Wendy) - none
- i. Undergrads (Danica) -
- i. Had Chats with Grads event last week, 9 grad students, only 4 undergrads, lots of good questions and discussion though, will organize again but went great except for undergrad attendance
5. Update from Social coordinators (Ryan & Emma) -
- a. First night of the BGSC trivia series was a success! Round 2 will be on Thursday Nov. 26th
  - b. Idea pitch - Holiday card contest (replacing door decorating)
    - i. Or instead of card funny video or holiday tiktok
  - c. Other ideas?
    - i. Send to Emma and Ryan
    - ii. Cross-country skiing when it snows
    - iii. Snowmen? Snow model organism?
    - iv. Holiday cake?
6. Update from Academic (Hayden) -
- a. none

7. BGRS update (Allen) -
  - a. Applying for funding
  
8. Discussion
  - a. Discuss constitution amendments and vote on them
  - b. Motions will be considered accepted if passed by a 2/3 majority.
    - i. Motion put forward by Regan, seconded by Emma Sinclair
  - c. A quorum shall consist of three-quarters of the Executive in addition to 5 general Society members
    - i. Approved