BioGrads Meeting Minutes  
Friday, Nov 13th, 2009

Secretary (Anneli):  
-new website is up and running and part of the departmental website  
-link to the site is “Biology GSC” which stands for Graduate Student Committee  
-Biology GSC seems to be what most people refer to instead of the “Committee of the Whole”  
-our plan is to amend our official constitutional name in the Spring to the Biology GSC

GC Rep (Scott):  
-no update since all scholarship rankings are over

Faculty Rep (Rhiannon):  
-monthly Faculty meeting has been postponed one week to allow people to comment on Mel Robertson’s budget update

SGPS Reps (Chad and Chris):  
-major topic of discussion this month was International Queen’s Graduate Student Scholarships  
 -up to this point, international students have automatically received $5000 to help cover the extra cost of international student fees  
 -currently, the university is talking about allotting these scholarships to individual departments and if they are not utilized, the money would be lost and returned to Graduate Student Affairs  
 -reminder that there is a small sum of money available for Travel and Research grants that any member of the SGPS can apply for

Social Reps (Tara and Cat):  
-QUBS weekend was cancelled and rescheduled for January 23-24, 2010  
-Halloween party was a success  
 -the event raised 500$ for the SCB  
 -feedback from those who attended the event has been fantastic, everyone had a great time  
-curling is coming up for Nov 22nd...so far we have 16 people signed up  
-Holiday party is scheduled for Dec 11th  
 -Joanne said we don’t have to go out of our way to accommodate the staff members since most are not interested in attending  
 -this would allow us to hold the event later in the day  
 -currently entertaining the idea of an atrium event from 5 to 8pm with bar service and appetizers  
  -looking for entertainment ideas  
 -we will be receiving some financial support from the Department  
 -we will also apply to the SGPS for funding

QUBS rep (Cory):  
-nothing to report for now since the last Executive Committee meeting has been postponed
Sports Rep (Ann)
- BEWICS team has been organized with biology undergrads
- update on the squash ladder
  - delaying start until January when the new Sports Center will be up and running

RTP Rep (Julie):
- not present

Academic Rep (Mark):
- not present

Chair (Martin):
- IAR visit on Monday
  - one objective is to emphasize the negative effect of current and proposed budget cuts