BioGrads Meeting Minutes
Friday, Jan 15th, 2010

Chair (Martin):
-nothing to report

Secretary (Anneli):
-we will have to find a new meeting time that will work better for everyone
-will attempt to return to the original Friday (3:30-4:30pm) time if no other time works

Sports Rep (Ann):
-squash ladder is up and running
-BEWICS starts today

RTP Rep (Julie):
-it will soon be time to officially notify Faculty members who are up for renewal
-draft of these notification letters will shortly be sent off to the dean

Academic Rep (Mark and Josh):
-working to promote some of the services offered by the Center for Teaching and Learning
-one such service is a certificate program related to teaching
-there are 4 certificates aimed to provide TAs with a foundation in teaching
-this is something tangible that graduate students can take away at the end of their degree and can be a great addition to a teaching portfolio
-most of the criteria involved in these certificates are already an integral part of regular TA duties
-part of this certificate program is done through teaching workshops and seminars, while another part includes take home exercises
-in order to encourage/facilitate participation in the program, we would like to foster a group of people who are working through some of these criteria together since some of the work is more productively done in groups
-first step will be to send out an e-mail to the grad list to get an idea of the number of interested grad students and announce the registration for workshops which begin on Jan 20th.
-another goal will be to promote this program to increase membership for next year by inviting a representative from the CTL to give an information session

Social Reps (Tara and Cat):
-QUBS weekend is coming up (Jan 23rd-24th)
-reminder e-mail went out today and the deadline for RSVP is on Monday (Jan 18th)
-decided we won’t cancel regardless of the number of people, but we will have to bring our own breakfast if we are less than 15 people
-looking into rental costs for equipment at Trailhead and will advertise these to those coming to QUBS
-might tell people to bring skates if they can clear an area of ice on Lake Opinicon (this will depend on the weather)
planning to bring some games (e.g. bananagrams, trivial pursuit)
-Silja from the Young lab is planning to run a bake sale to raise funds for Haiti
 will start organizing this next week
-plan to have the bake sale the following week

SGPS Reps (Chad and Chris)
-at the last SGPS meeting there was a debate on housing authority
- a resolution was passed allowing the SGPS to start looking into setting up a corporation to buy houses
- looking to invest in affordable, quality housing
- Dean of Graduate Studies and the Finance & Services VP are proposing a 100$ optional pay-in donation to help cover the cost of debt related to the new Queen’s Center
  - this would be included as part of graduate students fees, but students could opt-out
  - this donation plan would max out at 4.5 million dollars
  - the university currently has a 128 million dollar outstanding debt owing to the construction of the new Queen’s Center
  - they currently have no funding available to help cover the cost of this debt and they would like to avoid any major spending cuts
  - the overall position of the SGPS is against the 100$ donation proposal
-the period where different groups can propose fees is coming up
  - this is an opportunity for student associations to propose having a fee included in student tuition to help cover the cost of operating activities
  - any department can put forward an optional fee for student groups that would be applied only to students of that department
  - students would of course be able to opt-out of these fees
  - we might want to think about proposing a small fee (~5$) for biograds to help cover the cost of social activities – this could influence the types of activities we would offer or cut down on the cost of existing ones

Faculty Rep (Rhiannon):
-not present

QUBS rep (Cory):
-not present

GC Rep (Scott):
-not present