

BiGCoW Meeting Minutes – Friday September 30th, 2011

Meeting times for the rest of the year:

- Friday, Oct 28th, 2pm
- Friday, Nov 25th, 2pm
- Dec meeting TBA

Staff and Faculty Representative (Kat Stewart)

- The issues regarding the Solar Panel installation at QUBS issue were discussed (see QUBS representative notes below)
- There are currently 113 graduate students in biology, and there has been a drastic decrease in PhD students at Queen's and an increase in Master's student recently, which is the opposite of what they are aiming for
- This may result in fewer or reduced internal funding as there is not enough to pay everyone.
- The fewer PhD students may be due to the rule of guaranteed funding, as it is difficult to take on students if a professor cannot be sure that they can provide a guarantee funding for the entirety of their degree
- Jonathan Jones (Safety) is retiring at the end of the semester
- They are considering a new hire of a lab instructor to account for the increased undergraduate load, using the wages after Jonathan retires.
- Stephen Lougheed is officially the QUBS director. Bruce Tufts will still be charge of raising money for QUBS while Stephen is the acting director.

Social coordinators (Celia Symons (absent) and Laura Doubleday)

- Good turnout for the BBQ
- The Coffee Time money is working well. The money from the recent Chili cookout that went towards Coffee Time also helped.
- The rotating donation of treats is also going well. If you volunteer to donate, they will send you a reminder email beforehand
- We should begin planning for the Holiday Party. For each of these parties, we encourage Staff and Faculty to attend, although their attendance is pretty low for these events.
 - Maybe we could consider having the gingerbread making contest sometime in the week before the party
 - Last year, the tickets were \$12 per graduate student. What the cost should be this year depends upon how much the party will cost us.
 - Need to decide whether the event will be held in BioSciences or in a restaurant.
- For Halloween, we may join with SCB on creating a joined Halloween Party. If they joined with SCB, then there would be more than graduates; it would also include undergraduates and members of the community. Alternatively, we may hold an event in someone's home.

Sports Coordinator (Adriana Lopez (absent))

- No new news for this meeting

SGPS Representatives (Derek Gray & Open position)

- There will be a provincial election on Oct 6th
- Would like us to encourage people to be stewards of our department in PSAC.

Graduate Committee Representative (Niraj Kumar (absent))

- No new news for this meeting

RTP Representative (Roslyn Dakin (absent))

- No new news for this meeting

Treasurer (Chris Baird (absent))

- No new news for this meeting

Academic Coordinators (Sarah Wallace and Amanda Xuereb)

- They will be sending out the email regarding the TA database this afternoon
- It is listed under Project as BioGrads in Moodle. An instructional email will be sent out on how to access this information.

QUBS Representative (Ann McKellar)

- The solar array installation controversy escalated this week. Stephen Loughheed has been requesting that QUBS receive some of the profit from the solar arrays that are being placed on QUBS property from Queen's. Queen's will not be reimbursing QUBS in any way for the solar panels being put up on their property.
- The property was given to Queen's University technically, not to Queen's University Biological Station. Since there were no specifications as to how the land had to be used, the land can be used how the University wishes.
- The solar panels are being used to sell energy for profit, none of which is being given to QUBS.
- The land on which they would like to put the solar panels has been used for research for many years. There are long-term graduate and collaborator bird studies that have been happening on this property and are still ongoing for years.
- This project would take away 1/8th of the property where a 10-year long-term bird study has been taking place.
- There should be consultation from the landowners, researchers and those who have donated the property on how the land should be used. Current comments on the project include:
 - This will have a drastic effect on collaborations and future publications if we lose this research land. Researchers from other universities will be less compelled to go to Queen's University to perform their research if there are issues with lost research from destroying research land.
 - One of the major issues is the lack of knowledge that this is happening. If QUBS collaborators and members of the public were aware of the situation then it may have an effect

- PSAC has an influence on the TAs of biology graduates, so it may be important to encourage the position of Biology Steward to be filled.
 - Should it be incorporated as a position in BiGCoW?
- The new Alumni Position is still also open.