**Date: December 4 2015**

**Attendence:** Mike Ting, Eric Fedosejevs, Howard Teresinski., Sarah Hasnain, Leslie Holmes, Amanda Tracey, Dylan Sora, Nick Cairns, James Sinclair, Shakira Azan

**Mike Ting (Chair)**

1. no update

**Irena Peychev (Sports Coordinator)**

1. (Absent) - left message: Sent out email about organizing winter events. Email Irena about snowboard/skiing trip and rock climbing for the winter.

**Howard Teresinski (Graduate committee rep)**

1. Committee meetings - SGS confirms that graduate students need to have a meeting at least once a year, especially before you start writing your thesis. This is especially important before you decide you want to defend.
2. SGS is currently reviewing the open/closed defense policy. Currently it's an option in Biology.
3. As of next September the accelerated masters will be in place for biology.

**Howard Teresinkski/Irena Peychev (Academic coordinators)**

1. Graduate school teacher award is administered by the graduate students and is currently based on a survey where the highest ranked professor will get the award. We will ask the faculty if they want a plaque or a certificate as the prize. We are considering changing the award to a 'teaching/mentorship' award that are available to any professor who is helpful. This allows graduate students who are not taking any classes to participate in the nomination process. If you feel that a specific professor (who is not your supervisor or co-supervisor) has been particularly helpful in any way, you can nominate that individual for the award. This will be done in an open call process.

**Amanda Tracey (QUBS rep)**

1. Frank Phelan, the manager of QUBS, is retiring at the end of 2015. We are currently looking to hire someone to replace Frank. We are aiming to find someone for Feb 1, 2016.
2. Steve Lougheed has been appointed QUBS director for 3 more years.

**Leslie Holmes (Social Coordinator)**

1. There is a departmental Christmas party on December 16 from 2-4pm. Location is currently unknown but we will figure it out and let the graduate students know where it is.
2. We will once again have a door decorating contest this year. Judging will be held on Friday December 11. All labs are encouraged to vote for the best decorated door. Each lab is allowed one vote and the Prize will be a 30$ certificate at the grad club.

**Eric Fedosejevs (SGPS rep)**

1. SGPS - no changes will happen with the athletics situation.

**Shakira Azan (Treasurer)**

1. We currently have $537.26.
2. We are open to any ideas that graduate students may have to generate any funds for the BGSC.

**Dylan Sora (Union Rep)**

1. no update from PSAC.

**Sarah Hasnain (Faculty Rep)**

1. Carpentry software seminar will be held in February. This will be a free seminar for teaching people coding language and bioinformatics. Will be a first come first serve basis, so register if you are interested.
2. There will potentially be a new faculty position in June. Emily Stewart (from Pearl lab) is our representative for the committee that selects the new candidate. If you have any questions or concerns about the selection, talk to Emily.
3. The department is currently running a 2 million dollar deficit.
4. Beijing Normal University will be sending students to do a thesis (similar to 537) at Queens. This has been passed and the Biology department will be mentoring these students. The scholarships for the students are being provided by China. There will be a maximum of 10 students per year.
5. Bio 205 is no longer a prerequisite, which means our department will be losing around 100k a year. This was removed because the second year course load was determined to be the highest based on a student survey, and an effort is being made to reduce the stress for students.
6. Will talk to graduate students to see who wants to be in the new department group photo. Will also be checking for students who want their name under their professor's name under the biology website.

**James Sinclair (interim) - (RTP Rep)**

1. Meeting was held last week to review Paul Grogan and Fran Bonier. Paul is being recommended for full professorship based on his teaching and high quality publications. Fran will be renewed for Associate Professor based on her outstanding publication record.
2. Nick Cairns will be returning as RTP Rep.