

BGSC Meeting November 4th, 2016.

1) Chair: Call to order

2) Update from QUBS Rep.

- Assistant Manager Andrew let go. New Senior manager.
- Advertising for manager of Opinicon
- Rehabilitate Bracken Tract
- Looking for SWEF positions for the Summer
- Discussion of replacing the old cell tower, improve cellular service at QUBS
- New NSERC Grant to replace old major facility access grant
 - Supposed to support two PhD positions
 - Climate stations, do not have personal to maintain them
 - Working on digitizing the herbarium
- Replace the board walk at opinicon, replace roofs, new path to connect Missisauga

tract

3) Update from Undergraduate Rep.

- Finished clothing sale
- Beers with profs was successful (aprox. 10 Profs)

4) Sarah Yakimowski Re: graduate symposium

- Potential Dates: Fri April 21s or 28th
- 8 Faculty replied to the survey
- Need more graduate students to reply to the survey
- Need to form a committee to organize the event (looking for six graduate students on the team), will also need graduate students as volunteers for the event
 - Have grad students from all groups with the biology department-one speaker for all
 - Budget is still uncertain-paper work to get our own food
 - Transition report exists, not sure who has it
 - Funding for past conference, internal funding through Queen's University-> Dylan to send document to Sarah
 - New sanctioning process for large events, once date and location are finalized, start the sanctioning process
 - Grad club event for the weekend
 - Talks versus posters

Next Step: Forming an organizing committee. Decide on format.

Committee: Cale, Howard, Sofia, Yihan, Jie, Dylan, Sarah

5) Update and discussion from Social Coordinator (November and Christmas events, Coffee time?)

Goal for this year: One event a month

- > Make people feel happy and included

November-> Coffee break, set up something in one of the lounges

December-> Christmas party

- Sofia, Jie, and Davin to plan the event
- Depends on the scale we want the event to be

-At the grad club?
Sofia to contact with Davin
Call a special meeting for Christmas Party
John to run coffee time?
Have each lab organize treats for coffee time once a week
Vendor sponsor it
-Frogga Bio?
What time is lunch? 12-1 or 1 to 2.
Coffee time Monday @ 1-2pm -> Jie to be there for the first one
Contact Sofia for suggestions of events.
Skating in January

6) Update from Treasurer, reimbursement discussion, and discussion of future funding opportunities

7) Update from Staff and Faculty

-Recruitment for social media like twitter or blog. Linked to the main page of Biology
-> Also for updates on talks occurring on campus. Blog where every post is tweeted.
->\$2500 for recruitment (pay someone)-> Howard to advertise the position
-> Newsfeed for department
-> Advertisement for position
->Push faculty to brand lab
-> Get a feel for graduate student committee

8) Update from SGPS Rep.

-Second story McGlaucan room in the JDUC is turning into a graduate student!!!
-PSAC our responsibility to track the hours
-Meet with TA/Lab Coordinator supervisor about hours, updating them
Open general meeting next Wednesday at 6pm. Set up a bargaining committee, TA contract runs out soon. Beginning process, informal committee at first followed by building a specific bargaining team. Open to any PSAC member. Welcome to all.
-Dylan to email everyone about events. Demonstrate proof of going over hours.
Start grievance process.

9) Update from Graduate Committee Rep. (Graduate courses, Mentoring in biology, event advertisement and social media position, PhD student funding)

-> Capping enrolment on 860 and 861-> stats and linear regression
-> Capped at 12 first available to our department
-> QCAP, more environmentally friendly building
-> 5-year plan for Graduate courses-> Bill Plaxton looking into this
-> Social media coordinator
-> Proposal for a course based MSc (going to need more courses)
-> Mentoring course in biology
Three components
Guidance research proposal
-Thesis format and structure, two formats standard format or manuscript format

-Similar for comprehensive exam-> adjust definition, a way to ask for more things to the comprehensive exam

-> U15 statistics report came, pay our MSc well, pay our PhD not as well

-> Ranking of Vanier scholars-> haven't done it not involved with grad committee->

Howard to investigate

-> Can someone go to the grad committee meeting? Anna if Howard can't go.

10) Update from RTP Rep.

-Had a meeting, result released in the next few days. Hiring for two different courses.

-110 and 205. No hires for the department this year.

11) Update from Chair (minutes, agenda, frequency and location of meetings)

-Suggestion for minutes: send out minutes

-Bi-weekly meetings now (next meetings in two weeks)

-Photos taken from Sharon, get to Howard-print photos

-Committee to talk about the BGSC constitution

-Looking to elect a Biology Ombudsman

-If you have pictures from Ontario Biology day send them to Howard

-Parents calling because they want 205 tutours, potential for lots of money from parents for graduate student tutours-> Advertisement position once it is more formally made

12) Discussion of empty positions and signing in new members