

Biology Graduate Student Council Meeting
March 1/2017
Minutes: Bronwyn

Howard

-Tutoring

- Tutor list, google docs form with all of courses available that people can sign up for
 - Columns: Name and Contact Info
 - To be posted to DSC Website
 - Tutors can't be a TA and contact info will be posted online
 - Price is negotiable, responsibility of participants
 - Can't advocate but can direct students to the fact that the program exists
- Undergrad Rep
- Still planning to have someone coming to meetings
- Equipment Usage Problem
- Not necessarily broad issue
 - Autoclave usage: Four times in January the old autoclave had to be shut down because of steam spewing out as door was not tightened properly, extreme hazard to everyone's health, training falls to supervisors.
 - Plan to bring it up at staff meeting.
- Plan to present minimum stipend raise to staff meeting

Cale

Research symposium day:

- Jeremy Curr, number one choice for speaker
- Abstracts due in three weeks
- Website set up with registration options in near future, probably through Queen's
- Downstairs lecture halls + atrium on retainer
- Brian said he would give money if needed but need to go through other means first
- Waiting to hear back from SGPS and still need to apply to Coke fund
- Social at Grad Club (Research symposium and BSGC end of year social)
- Two weeks from now, SGPS funding application

Wenxi

- Look into how difficult it would be to open a bank account as we currently keep money in a safe
- Talk to Jan about it, using Queen's account

John

- Proposed Fee increase at QUBS for 2017 Field Season
 - because of increase in food prices and massive rise of hydro prices
 - changes from 2015-2016 were greater than they were from 2016-2017
 - no changes between 2013, 2014, 2015
- Hiring has been delayed

Bronwyn

- Mention Biology Research Day at next staff meeting (deadline March 20, although likely will be extended)

Sofia

- Skating event did not happen because everything melted :(
- Next social event will be the BGSC/Grad Symposium end of year thing
- Orientation for Bio students could be improved. Academic and Social events for just the new people coming in and then Welcome Back BBQ for everyone a few days later.
- SGPS will likely give money for Orientation, and potentially department.
- Meeting over the summer, at least e-mail back and forth to keep in touch. Will help to get organized sooner for orientation activities.

Yihan

- TA surveys that went out
 - Biology, Chem, and Engineering are the biggest TA groups
 - Want people to come and fill out the survey, willing to come to next meeting and bring food or something to attract people. Would be in two weeks.
 - Deadline for survey is ~March 20th
 - having people to next meeting can also be good for us to advertise upcoming events and recruit new BGSC people
 - Survey asks most important issues which will be ranked and it will go to a vote at AGM, and that will decide what they bargain for
- PSAC Website: When your TA stipend increases the amount the department gives you should not decrease
 - Is that only referring to university minimum stipend, then that has likely been maintained as our stipend is higher than university minimum
 - What was decided on this issue in 2013

Dylan

- Elections, all positions went uncontested and all were filled.
- Center for teaching and learning services came in and encouraged us to use their services more, ex booking departmental workshops.
- Pushback on Canadian Federation for Students, advocacy group that tries to lobby for student causes .
 - problems with internal networking, such as separate bank account with half a million dollars in it.
 - costs a ton of money to send a delegate to their meetings. Groups that send more delegates/staff potentially have a larger voice than graduate students. The rest are mainly undergraduate student groups.
 - There's a number of schools that have left successfully and some schools are being sued for trying to leave – extremely difficult to leave.
- Talked about provincial mandate regarding four year PhD.

