

Biology Graduate Student Council - Meeting Agenda

April 26th, 2018

- I. Approval of the agenda for April 26th, 2018
 - a. Good
- II. Approval of the minutes from April 9th, 2018
 - a. Good
- III. Update from Co-Chairs - Constitutional Amendments (2 minutes)
 - a. Sent out email with the new surveys that have the abstain option and more anonymous code, remind people to fill it out
- IV. Update from Co-Chairs - Summer Intramurals (2 minutes)
 - a. Poll on facebook, \$150 deposit fee, need 3m and 3f, post-docs can join (but have to pay an extra fee), friends that aren't Queen's students can join (but have to pay an extra fee)
- V. Update from Co-Chairs - End-of-Term Party (2 minutes)
 - a. People went to Sofia's, there was less turnout for bio people, have it the same night as BGRS (people were too tired from the conference)
- VI. Update from Academic Coordinator - BGRS and Graduate Teaching and Mentorship Award(2 minutes)
 - a. It happened, teaching and mentorship award went fine (Ryan was surprised)
- VII. Update from Alumni Representative - Alumni Reception (2 minutes)
 - a. Didn't have that many alumni (4 from the Friesen lab, and 2 from the Eckert lab), hard to get in contact of them because the e-mails bounced or no-one replied, work on communication for next year, could put it in the Alumni newsletter if we want to think ahead, people enjoyed the free food
 - b. We should combine the BGRS and the alumni reception again next year
 - c. We can plan this earlier next year
- VIII. Committee Representative Updates
 - a. Staff and Faculty Representative
 - i. They voted on changing the second year undergrad courses to take out the labs from the 200 series and make one lab course
 - ii. The counter motion didn't pass
 - iii. Now it's going to be 212 (for the lab course)
 - iv. Biology had the highest hour workload of any department in Queen's for undergrads
 - v. Now there's a fall reading week - The weeks now need to be broken down and split the weeks so they run Thurs-Wed for each week
 - vi. Petitioning to change the way that this is done
 - vii. Orientation is going to be affected by this
 - viii. Now tutorials might not be in line with the week
 - b. SGPS Representatives
 - i. NONE(?)
 - c. RTP Representative
 - i. NONE(?)
 - d. Graduate Committee Representative
 - i. Updates from April 18 meeting

1. Mostly talking to Vicky Arnold about ways to reach out for grad recruitment
 - a. She suggested doing a webinar or making a department video (but that would cost \$3000 for production)
 - b. We could have a student ambassador to manage our social media
 - c. For NSERC grants, people who do a TAship, the supervisor can sometimes take their money and keep the stipend the same
 - i. If someone with an NSERC does a TAship, it should be a top-up
 - ii. They are going to bring this up at the next staff meeting
 - iii. Even if you do three TAships and want to do a fourth, the money goes to your supervisor (so you can't do an extra TAship to get more money)
 2. Finished ranking the OGS applications and the results are coming up soon
 3. Rob was updating about the AI Master's program
 - a. He's arranging for a new course on AI which is similar to the bioinformatics course (but incorporating more about neural networks)
 - e. Union Representative
 - i. NONE(?)
 - f. DSC Representative
 - i. NONE(?)
- IX. Other updates
- a. Vote to appoint Alyson Van Natto to serve as a proxy for Regan Cross (RTP Representative)
 - i. Unanimously approved
 - b. Vote to appoint Cale Gushulak to serve as a proxy for Sofia Kokkinakis (Co-Chair)
 - i. Unanimously approved
- X. Discussion Points
- a. September Orientation (15 minutes)
 - i. We would have to coordinate around SGPS events? But they don't have that many events...
 - ii. It would be nice to have a half day of events to meet the new cohort
 1. People felt awkward about when to start
 2. It felt unofficial (multiple people said this)
 3. Some were happy that there was no orientation, and felt the Guide to Grad Studies was sufficient
 - iii. People are amenable to a half day orientation
 - iv. Want to have the Elbow Lake Retreat in the first weekend... but if we do this, non-first years would sign up
 1. Make it the 3rd or 4th week of September
 - v. It would be good to have some event that connects the new grad students together (this happened in the Gateway course)
 - vi. At the end of the orientation day, we could do an informal social here
 - vii. Have orientation day go from 10-2pm and then have the Welcome (Back) BBQ at like 5pm

- viii. Lunch (starting at 12-ish), formal sit down presentations from us, Grad Coordinator, Joanne, and Fran (nothing research related, just teaching, courses, grad student things with Joanne, and funding), break for mingling time, then have a (forced) interaction with a sporting or team building event), and then bring people to the BBQ
 - 1. Include information about NetIDs, MyHR, First Aid, etc.
- ix. Make sure that we're not overlapping with SGPS materials
- x. Can have a TA hour later in the week... or better to just plug the SGPS stuff hard at orientation?
- xi. Talk to Joanne - Do people get a personal e-mail from the Biology Department?
- b. Post BGRS Updates
 - i. Dr. Monaghan's Talk
 - 1. Talk will be at 3:30 in 3110 tomorrow
 - 2. Less science, more career-oriented
 - ii. Feedback
 - 1. Cale sent out a feedback e-mail to the BioGrads list and they got some responses
 - 2. Mark Ridgeway's talk was received well
 - 3. Inclusion of a poster session was very well received
 - 4. Longer lunch break
 - 5. Fewer speakers made the day less tiring
 - 6. People would appreciate if we had more eco-friendly cups, plates, and food
 - 7. Talks were very MCIB-focused
 - iii. Photos
 - 1. Cale will try to make a photo album or Google Drive to post
 - iv. Next year's chair
 - 1. Cale will not be running this next year
 - 2. There is interest from people in the committee this year
 - 3. If you are interested, you should do it!
- c. Rent room on third floor for next meeting?
- XI. Special projects (20 minutes)
 - a. To be assigned at meeting

