1. Motion to accept the agenda.
   a. Mike, Hayden

2. Motion to accept the minutes from Oct. 7
   a. Matt, Heather

3. Updates
   a. Update from co-chairs - Fort Fright: were we spooked?
      i. Very spoopy indeed - will likely run again next year. Good turnout.
   b. SGPS initiative: International student reps
      i. Joanne sent info to Cale recently - SGPS is asking for International
         Student rep within our student council (new position)
      ii. Need to create position, write a blurb, write it into constitution and then
          elect somebody
      iii. Interests of int'l students in department, part of network at Queen’s.
      iv. Can get more details from Mike & Emilie
   c. Assassins
      i. Going well so far.

4. Update from representatives:
   a. QUBS - No recent meetings/updates (things tend to slow down in the fall/winter)
      i. Meetings will be once every 2 months in future
   b. Faculty and Staff - No update since last meeting; staff meeting on the 28th
   c. Graduate Committee -
      i. No planned meetings due to lack of issues to deal with
      ii. We would like to push forward with guide to graduate studies; request a
           meeting
      iii. Union has approved TA evaluations so will also pass this info along to
           grad commitee
   d. Union - TA evaluations accepted by union! As long as they are not used for future
      hiring decisions (with Jessie, will tell Dan and Brian)
   e. SGPS -
      i. Previous meeting updates
         1. 1 in 5 opted out of being in the SGPS (unfourtunate). Even so
            SGPS is okay financially
         2. International students - equalize tuition rates based on awards
         3. Alcohol policy - ongoing discussions
         4. Beyond Boundaries conference (Feb) - multi-disciplinary, applications for posters and presentations this week. SGPS is
            looking for sponsors.
         5. International representative (see above Point 3b)
         6. New position - Indigenous Student Commissioner - applications
            will be open soon
7. Issue with email updates (resolved?)
8. Reforming of council - combining departments into “colleges” and elect a certain number of reps (e.g. Kin, Law, Sciences, Engineering, Arts & Social Science)
   a. Downside is that communication with SGPS rep might be more difficult, but upside is it will help with voting and representation
   b. Seems to be a controversial issue
9. Propose Graduate college by 2024 - remove tuition gap by 2022 - more updates to come
10. RTPs - First interview this week
    i. First seminar Tuesday Oct 22nd (Biosciences 1102)
    ii. Bring thoughts/opinions to Rachel!
    iii. Encourage labmates to attend seminars and lunches
    iv. Most seminars will be on Tuesday mornings
    v. Lunch location TBA

5. Update from Social coordinators - Halloween party, breakfast, and Holiday party
   a. BEERS and CIDERS
      i. Next talk two weeks from now
      ii. New idea: Scientific talks on non-science topics? (e.g. taxonomy of oreos?)
   b. Halloween party coming up
   c. Ryan will focus on pancake breakfast
   d. Holiday party in the works - Ryan applying for SGPS approval (last year was a scramble so we will be extra prepared this year)
      i. Booked at Grizz for Thurs Dec 12th at 6pm
      ii. Let Ryan/Riley know if there are any ideas for games, etc.

6. Update from Academic - TA Evaluations (update from union), and Dr. Joe Schwarz - potential speaker
   a. Dr. Schwartz from McGill - (McGill office for science and society) four options for topics:
      i. Public perception of science, critical thinking skills - this is the winner.
      ii. Importance of using humour in medical treatments
      iii. Importance of scientific literacy
      iv. Plastics: facts and myths, public perception
   b. Timing for Dr. Schwartz - try to draw a large crowd. After interviews?
      i. Could be end of Nov/beginning of Dec, or January.
      ii. January may be better to kick the year off.

7. BGRS update -
   a. First meeting successful (9 members)
b. Tentative date: last week of April  
c. Speakers: Tradition is to have new prof speak - will ask George DiCenzo  
   i. Bioinformatics (School of Computing) prof as another speaker?

8. Today's special projects:  
   a. Hayden - Email Brian about Dr. Schwarcz as a speaker (or email Dr. Schwarcz if you’ve already asked Brian about funding)  
   b. Ryan - Apply for SGPS sanctioning and a DSC grant for Holiday Party  
      (https://sgps.ca/event-planning-guide/#1496079213931-08e82707-8be2)  
   c. Riley - Organize/ email about next beers & ciders  
   d. Jessie, Heather, Kristen - keep working on those alumni lists  
   e. Nell - upload council headshots to website  
   f. Mike, Jenna, Matt - email Brian about getting a bulletin board for grad students/ bgsce; brainstorm ideas for stuff we could post  
   g. Emilie, Coco, Rachel - brainstorm fundraising ideas for BGRS; plan one for November?