

BGSC Exec Meeting Agenda - October 21, 2019

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 spooky 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 intl 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 committee
 - 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 (unfortunate). 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.
 - f. 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/ bgsc; brainstorm ideas for stuff we could post
 - g. Emilie, Coco, Rachel - brainstorm fundraising ideas for BGRS; plan one for November?