1. Motion to approve agenda for January 27, 2020
   a. Mike, Jenna
2. Motion to approve minutes January 13, 2020
   a. Riley, Ryan
3. Updates
   a. Update from co-chairs
      i. International student representative position - Vote!
         1. Note we can have multiple reps and they don’t have to be SGPS member
      ii. Grad student vote controversy - Was discussed at faculty meeting. Main discussion at end of meeting
4. Updates from representatives:
   a. QUBS - no updates
   b. Faculty and Staff -
      i. Jenna updated re holiday party and academic speaker
      ii. New interim phytotron manager
      iii. Sustainability group meeting Tuesday 2:30
      iv. Panel on divestment at university club at 3pm Thursday
      v. Refinement of Health Policy due to coronavirus - updates coming soon (see OnQ sign-in page)
      vi. Possibility of guidelines for NSERC letters! Will be discussed at Grad Committee meeting.
   c. Graduate Committee -
      i. Compiling edits for Guide to Grad studies - Jessie will update once another round of edits has happened. Things are progressing!
   d. Union -
      i. No major updates but goal moving forward to reduce INternational student tuition fees
   e. SGPS -
      i. Fee structure will return to old format (back to flat fee with no opt in/opt out) bt with more transparency. This was voted on but this seems pretty permanent
      ii. International Student FEe rework - our min funding is still above average but still room to improve. New models are being debated
      iii. Conversation with senate re. Sexual violence policy. Can lead to grey areas due to grad students’ status as employees as well as students (?). This is being discussed.
      iv. Thursday - Professional Headshots free for all SGPS members! JDUC SGPS lounge
v. Looking into status of MSc PhD stipends compared to other universities - more details to come
vi. Grad courses reading week - updates to come
viii. Also looking for VP community and VP finance positions to be filled
ix. Divestment… some controversy.
   1. Moving forward with SGPS divestment, with some details to sort out.
   2. Difficult to tell if SGPS will support AMS divestment… more details to fund
x. Excel workshop in February… If anyone is interested…
xi. Grad Day to celebrate students in research. Want to have twice a year.
xii. We also put forward a survey to all of SGPS re student vote on hiring committees, to see what other departments think.

f. RTPs -
i. Kristen is reading through applications (108)
g. Undergrad rep
   i. Feb 27th Majors Night - encourage first years to major in Biology - we will send out reminder

5. Update from Social coordinators -
a. Holiday party SGPS grant update - waiting to hear.
b. New Intramurals, BEERS and CIDERS
   i. Volleyball started last week (we won!). More room on the team!
   ii. BEERS is on Wednesday -Allen
c. D&D Night - Feb. 19 @ GC (this was the ONLY day possible)
   i. Games and DMs to be announced
d. Darwin party - Saturday the 15th? Everyone has to dress up as something Darwin-related.

6. Update from Academic
a. Joe’s talk went well
b. Trying to organize another workshop for later in the semester (TA-related?)
c. Send survey to see if coordinators are actually planning on using the standardized TA feedback form

7. BGRS update
a. Looked around for speaker suggestions
b. Host department BBQ after BGRS - faculty will take care of it!

8. Main Discussion - Graduate Student Vote
a. For at least 34 years, grad students have had a vote, but the vote was taken away this semester. The BGSC has written a letter to the faculty (incorporating
student feedback). Essentially, faculty is largely interested in our opinions but there were some strong dissenting opinions.

b. Main concerns from faculty (gathered by Brian and discussed at meeting)
   i. incomplete or biased feedback - we are working with Sharon to standardize and formalize information sheets post seminars, etc.
   ii. Grad student perspective is limited - this is true for the students-at-large but not true for the student rep, who reads 100+ applications and attends all seminars
   iii. Implications will not affect students, who are only in the department for 2-6 years.

c. Meeting notes from Regan and Cale
   i. Asked for reasoning re. Taking vote away
   ii. Much appreciation of the letter
   iii. Many faculty had no problems
   iv. Quantitative inconsistent feedback was common concern - we have drafted feedback forms and sent to Sharon (who is leading current hiring committee) (forms for both seminars and student lunch)
   v. Concerns about volume of feedback - forms and enthusiasm from faculty should help.
   vi. Student perspective - we argue this is also important and our opinions are still valuable. We still have 1 vote out of 6.
   vii. Shortlisted candidates’ research program (in keeping with confidentiality) could be sent to all students
   viii. Proportional voting system? Depends on the number of faculty on the committee - we could try to keep our vote at a consistent 20% (small search committees would have disproportionately high contribution from the students)
   ix. Lack of EDI training - maybe the rep can have some more training (as should all members of the search committee). Ie in additional to standard TA training - there is a course offered by the university. This is also reasonable
   x. Make a committee to discuss making changes?

9. International grad rep vote
   a. Positions granted to Harsha and Peiwen