

## **BGSC Meeting Minutes- March 2, 2020**

1. Motion to approve agenda for March 2, 2020
  - a. Jenna, Ryan
2. Motion to approve minutes from February 10, 2020
  - a. Riley, Coco
3. Updates
  - a. Update from co-chairs
    - i. Update on the Grad Vote
      1. Mike initiated survey among SGPS reps
      2. SGPS (Leo) contacted us and reached out to SGS - apparently it is legal - the university is only required to receive our feedback and not necessarily our votes
      3. This upcoming hire we will not have a vote... but we can attend all lunches and be very involved!
    - ii. Biol 537 poster judging
      1. We encourage everyone to judge! Should stick to our own fields but outside of our lab group. Each judge is assigned to 5 posters (in previous, some judges did 5, others did 2, so this is more standardized)
      2. Judging session is Friday March 13th 2:30-5:30pm in Biosciences Atrium
    - iii. Thanks to those who came to D&D night
      1. It was very successful! Yay!
4. Updates from representatives:
  - a. QUBS - none. Still winter.
  - b. Faculty and Staff - February meeting was cancelled; nothing to report. Next meeting in March (TBA)
  - c. Graduate Committee - none
  - d. SGPS -
    - i. As noted above, Mike brought up the survey
    - ii. A contact with Arts and Science was recommended (why?)
    - iii. Fall reading week moved from Thursday to Friday - survey of students will come out soon
    - iv. Standardizing reading break among grad students
    - v. Intramurals are a thing
    - vi. SGPS fee (\$103) will become mandatory. Student can view how fee is broken up. (This is because a group of universities took this issue to Canadian supreme court against ON provincial government and won. yay).
    - vii. Coronavirus-related harassment discussed. SGPS formed working group to tackle this issue

- viii. Change in PhD tuition fees for International students to be the same as domestic students? This working group report will be out ASAP, which will provide some clarity
  - ix. Proportional representation
  - x. Professional headshots Jan 30th
  - xi. Excel workshop still happening. March 9th
  - xii. Conference - International representation - 25 tickets left!
  - xiii. DJ Night at Grad Club
  - xiv. Winterlude trip successful
  - xv. SGPS Got Talent - March 15th
  - xvi. Maple Madness at Little Cat
  - xvii. Teaching Excellence awards - March 18th deadline for nominations
  - e. RTPs - candidate interviews starting next week -
    - i. First lunches are March 10th, 13th
    - ii. Seminars TBA
    - iii. We have feedback forms for the lunches and seminars
  - f. International - Poster making, solidarity walk-out
    - i. Report TBA - so far information seems to be conflicting.
    - ii. Climate strike is cancelled (?)
    - iii. Everyone should come to walk-out on Wednesday!
    - iv. Questionnaire for department Intl students about concerns that Peiwen and Harsha can address with SGPS
  - g. Union - ??
    - i. Training event for TAs - decolonizing education - late Spring
    - ii. Health and Safety office - accessibility issues - there is funding available for upgrading buildings in terms of safety
    - iii. Updating Time Tracker app
    - iv. Issues with TA training - make sure you are being paid for TA training hours
      - 1.
5. Update from Social coordinators -
- a. BEERS and CIDERS
    - i. BEERS will pick back up March 11th - photo montage, storytelling of Brazil trip (Riley, Hayden, and Allen)
    - ii. Other TBA talk ideas - Goop, Beer 101, Birds vs Fish
  - b. St. Patrick's day activities
    - i. As usual, pancakes. Tuesday this year!
  - c. Anything else? - hide n seek (last year was very fun!)
    - i. March 22nd!
6. Update from Academic - None

7. BGRS update -
  - a. Keynote and Plenary #1 are booked
  - b. Figuring out hospitality and food plans
  - c. Recruiting student speakers ASAP
  
8. Special projects - event/fundraising ideas?
  - a. Hide and seek will be March 22
  - b. Spring BBQ/courtyard revitalization. Could be by donation?
    - i. May also have this after BGRS (which ends at 4pm)
  - c. Easter egg hunt?
  - d. Bucket hat fundraising?
  
9. Squirrel status update - it is still in the ceiling. Animal control set a trap but hasn't caught it yet