

BGSC Meeting Agenda - March 31, 2020

1. Motion to approve agenda for March 31, 2020
 - a. Mike, Matt
2. Motion to approve minutes from March 2, 2020
 - a. Riley, Ryan
3. Updates
 - a. Update from co-chairs
 - i. Meetings online until social distancing ends
 - ii. Update on the Grad Vote - Leo Erlikhman from SGPS
 1. They are compiling a list of every department and whether or not students have votes.
 2. So far it is allowed but we can shame them based on the arguments the faculty have provided to remove our vote.
 3. We can look for inconsistencies to build our case, and focus on the fact that removing our vote is counter to many of the narratives that the university is pushing (e.g. interdisciplinarity, etc.)
 4. Note that one of the faculty criticisms is that not all students attend meetings, provide feedback, etc. to counter this we have tried to provide a (more) quantitative approach to our feedback.
 5. So far Dean is supportive - our best bet is to keep pressuring and to gather more evidence, and getting support from other departments. We can even try to get an article in Queen's Journal, etc.
 6. Big note - the university will continue to fund stipends for degrees that are delayed because research is not possible due to covid!!! Great news - but would be good to have more detail. We can update at SGPS meeting tomorrow.
 7. University will also guarantee RAship money.
 - iii. Thanks and good luck to Matt.
4. Updates from representatives:
 - a. QUBS - ??
 - i. New QUBS BGSC rep position is open because Matt is leaving - they prefer someone who has experience at QUBS/is doing field work there this summer
 - ii. QUBS is preparing to go ahead with field season but with extra caution. But the University has not provided any direction so far.
 - b. Faculty and Staff - Any word from faculty on moving forward?
 - i. Faculty meetings moved to Zoom for now. No agenda or date planned yet. Jenna will update ASAP
 - ii. Would be good to have update on results "essential research" survey.. Apparently some people have permission.

- c. Graduate Committee - Riley/Jessie - OGS meeting?
 - i. No news so far.
 - ii. Upcoming defences will likely be on Zoom
- d. SGPS - Meetings happening online?
 - i. Covid-19 - all SGPS meetings will be online. SGPS has sent out documents about their policies. Note that several wellness services and academic advisors are still available
 - ii. Note that emergency bursaries are available to SGPS students
 - iii. Peer survey results
 - iv. Meeting covered updates on events
 - v. Increase in number of graduate senators to 3 from 2. One position must be held by a MSc student
 - vi. Beyond Boundaries conference
 - vii. First report from Indigenous student liason
 - viii. JDUC will be renovated in the next few years - SGPS got their areas approved - SGPS space will have massive improvements, yay.
 - ix. Restructuring of council - essentially there will be no changes.
 - x. SGPS aims to have more involvement with department-level council elections. Eg having reports of how many people voted, etc.
 - xi. Tuition cancellation - may be addressed in next SGPS meeting.
- e. RTPs - Please submit your feedback, final candidate talks/interviews were last week
 - i. Final meeting upcoming
 - ii. Send Kristen feedback ASAP!!!
- f. International -
 - i. Survey - at least 2 of intl Biology grad students are out of Canada - but have gotten exceptions and will be able to get back.
- g.
- h. Union -
 - i. See summer tuition notes above.
- i. Petition to suspend summer graduate tuition (applies to multiple reps)
 - i. We should push for summer tuition cancellation - esp concerning intl students; overshooting degree time can become extremely costly.
 - ii. We could write our own letter to petition the SGPS, petition alongside the union, or go directly to Dean of Graduate Studies, or all of the above.
 - iii. (this is an unusual situation but the grad students are not able to use facilities, conduct research and therefore shouldn't be the ones to take the hit).
 - iv. Harsha can begin drafting a statement
 - v. And we will have more updates from SGPS soon
 - vi. Can also talk to Faculty to see if they would support us.

- vii. Notes from Heather - Union working on suspending summer graduate tuition, you likely saw the email that went around asking for signatures as well as the response from the provost. No word yet on what the plan is moving forward but there is a meeting next week so more updates after that.
 - viii. ** see note above from Leo re degree completion dates changing due to covid.
 - ix. Notes from Leo
 1. SGPS received the same response that the Provost sent out last week.
 2. Leo thinks that suspending tuition would be very likely because they would have to involve the province
 3. At the very least there is the Emergency Relief Fund & bursaries that students can apply to if they find themselves in dire need.
 4. Note that everyone is welcome to the general meeting, so we can attend on zoom to vote on these decisions.
 - 5.
5. Update from Social coordinators -
- a. Brainstorm online social events (e.g. obviously no offline social events)
 - b. Grad Club Trivia on CFRC - can do Zoom conferences - can compete against each other rather than only submitting to the grad club email. Ryan will update Facebook group and come up with a plan
 - c. Short story contest - present over zoom
 - d. Could still do BEERS & CIDERS talks over Zoom - Riley is willing to do the talk she was planning
6. Update from Academic - Intellectual property and grad students (Leslie), an idea for an online seminar?
- a. For example, ensuring that undergraduate thesis students become co-authors on future publications after they have left
 - b. The university has 2 lawyers that deal with these things
 - c. Hayden notes that the SGS has a guideline re intellectual property - but no guidelines to what is considered IP
 - d. This will become a big issue with covid - because academia will be moving to publishing older data, meta-analyses, etc.
7. BGRS update - delayed/postponed
- a. Cancelled until further notice... but we have funding, and we want to hold this so it doesn't affect our application process for the following year.
 - b. Coco will look into this because we have already procured the funding - and give them a heads up that the event is delayed
 - c. Will try to hold event in June, maybe

- d. Apparently, if we do not hold the event before the new fiscal year (may) we will have to return the funding.
- e. Possibility of having on Zoom? Will still wait until June to see what the covid situation is like, given that we do have funding.

8. Projects

Leave of absence possibility? See notes above.

Online events - see notes above.

Time to start thinking about next year/proxies for the summer

- Normally we have monthly meetings in the summer. This is a good transition period for positions that are being transferred.
- Cale will probably stop coming to meetings in June and try to find a replacement by then.
- All positions that are leaving should start trying to find their replacements! Don't need to discuss this second but we should be thinking about this.