

## BGSC Meeting Minutes - April 13, 2020

1. Motion to approve agenda for April 13, 2020
  - a. Peiwen, Jenna
2. Motion to approve minutes from March 31, 2020
  - a. Hayden, Emilie
3. Updates
  - a. Update from co-chairs
    - i. Vote for new QUBS rep - Megan or Allen?
    - ii. Allen - presented fantastic presentation re his experience at QUBS
    - iii. Megan was not here; held vote for Allen which was unanimous
4. Updates from representatives:
  - a. QUBS - Welcome Allen! (Allen will let Steve know that he has filled this position)
  - b. Faculty and Staff - Faculty meeting notes - Jenna
    - i. Graduate courses in summer for next year may be moving remote/online
    - ii. PhD stipend is not changing
    - iii. Deferring degree in response to Covid - will lose stipend for summer but not health/benefits (until August)
    - iv. Research during covid - will try to alter projects to exclude field studies. Most remote research will be cancelled. International research likely not possible for 2 years. Students encouraged to do lit reviews, etc. instead if not possible to collect data. (overnight stays at QUBS off the table)
    - v. Field research in Kingston may be able to continue as long as you are staying at home
    - vi. In general, field research will be on case-by-case basis.
    - vii. Intl students - case-by-case for deferrals, will also depend on country of origin
    - viii. Recruitment for graduate students - may slow down but no plans of stopping so far.
    - ix. Special cases - students with dependents - can exit and re-enter program if they have to take leave
    - x. Brought the tuition waiver letter to the faculty - Regan and Cale
      1. Letter by Heather, Harsha, Regan and Cale
      2. See previous meeting notes - SGPS suggested we recruit faculty on our side (Politics, Gender Studies have apparently received backing from their faculty)
      3. For us, not well discussed very much by our faculty.
      4. Might be a better strategy to contact faculty individually.
      5. As it stands, students may be able to appeal on individual cases (we think this would be a waste of time/effort). Also, no criteria for being considered was discussed. This also places all the financial

burden on the supervisor (unfair that this money is supposed to come from research grants)

6. We can keep applying pressure.
7. Also see notes from SGPS AGM below

- c. Graduate Committee - ??
- d. SGPS - Meeting minutes from AGM
  - i. Note another meeting tomorrow
  - ii. In total the meeting was 5 hours!
  - iii. Emergency Bursaries
    1. Cancelled all pre-covid bursaries and now just have Emergency Bursary
    2. Proof of application to OSAP, or bank statement that proves need (whether domestic or intl)
    3. Apparently only 36 spots, but this might be the only option.
    4. Bursary will be granted based on need
    5. Will be closing application soon
    6. Total award ~\$500-600
  - iv. Tuition waiver
    1. Overwhelming response of support from SGPS execs and members in general, but some details need to be figured out
    2. Also discussed % reductions rather than complete waiver
    3. Large majority (~140 votes) in support
  - v. Online TAs over summer - students will still get guaranteed stipend but not additional income from extra TAs
  - vi. Salary adjustments for Commissioners - discussed in regards to end of Student Choice Initiative (administrative details)
  - vii. Speak to Mike or Emilie before meeting tomorrow if you have any questions or topics to bring up! (Emilie will email this to the biograds list)
- e. RTPs - update from Kristen
  - i. Note from Cale & Regan - the voting issue will not be forgotten
    1. Original plan was to do a new vote at the Faculty retreat in April - hopefully we can push forward with this
    2. Jenna will forward minutes for next meeting so we can put forward a vote.
    3. We will set up meeting with Leo (our SGPS contact) to discuss this at some point
  - ii. Thank you for all the hard work Kristen!
  - iii. Offer has been made!
- f. International - Petition to suspend summer graduate tuition update
  - i. International student tuition report update
    1. Note other departments have written letters re waivers; see above
  - ii. Other updates

1. Payments sent to all students that applied to bursaries in Oct. 2019 (\$1500) Hoping to open this application to all intl students
  2. Two new awards for intl students to apply for (\$1200 and \$500)
- g. Union - Petition to suspend summer graduate tuition update
  - i. Update from heather - union is still committed to at the very least a reduction, but are really hoping for full waiver for all students. Union is also reaching out to other departments and starting a Twitter campaign.
  - ii. Also video campaign of grad students - Heather will send info if anyone wants to participate
5. Update from Social coordinators -
  - a. Radio trivia has been a great success so far - we will continue this
  - b. Mini-beers idea (Riley)
    - i. Roundtable - groups can give mini-presentations on a particular topic via Zoom?
    - ii. Riley will look into this - possible topic = birds?
    - iii. Could be a nice distraction in isolation!
6. Update from Academic
  - a. Hayden reached out to legal office regarding Intellectual Property (as brought up by Leslie) and they agreed there should be more oversight. They passed Hayden onto their contacts for more info
  - b. Trying to find someone with more info on for seminar - Leslie had attended
  - c. Hayden reached out to Leslie and is waiting to hear back
  - d.
7. BGRS update
  - a. Coco got in contact w funders - trying to keep SGS money until Sept. Principal's office has not yet replied.
  - b. Coco will update ASAP
8. Discussion - many BGSC positions will be available in the fall
  - a. Let Regan and Cale know of your intentions - if you plan on leaving, leaving council, switching positions, or staying in the same position
  - b. If your position needs replacing, find a proxy for the summer transitional period
9. OGS candidate selection - Riley was previously involved and will look for an update with the Grad Committee
10. Projects
  - a. Resources for Graduate Students during the pandemic
    - i. A few volunteers
    - ii. Eg Intl Awards, SGPS bursaries, etc.

- b. Alumni - non academic seminar
  - i. Jessie was working on this
  - ii. Updating alumni list... which is in hard copy at Biosci
  - iii. Good opportunity for non-academic seminars considering covid. Invite alumni that have transitioned to come speak.