

## **BGSC Open Meeting Minutes- July 6, 2020**

1. Motion to approve agenda for July 6, 2020
  - a. Coco, Ryan
2. Motion to approve minutes from June 22, 2020
  - a. Riley, Heather
  - b.
3. Cale puts forward motion to create EDI representative position, as described here:

### Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee Representative (2 representatives)

1. Attends and represents the Society's concerns at Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) committee meetings, and is entrusted with a full vote on behalf of the Society
2. Receives equity training from the Department of Biology and/or Human Rights and Equity Office
3. Promotes equitable practices and diversity/inclusion initiatives within the department, both professionally and interpersonally
- 4.
5. Vote to create EDI representative position - unanimous decision
6. Vote to elect Sam and Kristen as EDI representatives
  - a. Sam voted in
  - b. Kristen voted in
7. Updates
  - a. Update from co-chairs
    - i. Working on anonymous workplace climate survey with Sam, Kristen - TBD
    - ii. Website "Applying" page has now been updated
    - iii. Scholarship updates - TBD
    - iv. Continue checking Slack
    - v. Priorities for rest of summer: introducing mentorship program, update TA evals for online courses, plan orientation, continue EDI efforts in coord with EDI committee, make sure all BGSC positions are filled
8. Updates from representatives:
  - a. QUBS -n/a
  - b. Faculty and Staff - meeting Thursday
    - i. Welcomed two new faculty members who both started July 1st
    - ii. Black Studies minor proposed by Genders Studies department - looking for biology courses that might apply. Some courses were suggested by faculty but reach out to Ken Ko with more if applicable. Also looking for interdisciplinary reach - could have partnership with Biology
      1. Mandatory indigenous history/knowledge credit?
    - iii. Graduate studies committee

- iv. Suggestions about gateway - mixed reactions from students vs. profs. Priorities - building relationships between grad students, writing a proposal, having proposal by both course coordinator and student's supervisor, support for both MCIB and EEB students, peer marking. Any further comments/suggestions are appreciated.
  - v. Intl students not able to reach Canada not being paid - not possible without valid Cdn bank account and so can't receive funding from dept or supervisor until they can come to Canada. It was pointed out that they still need to pay tuition and cover cost of living regardless of where they are. Currently will be a case-by-case basis.
  - vi. New phytotron manager
- c. Alumni/Graduate Committee - seminar series update 2 (Dave Ensing)
    - i. Seminar was successful but hoping for better turnout. Dave provided great resources/tips for applying to federal jobs. Could post on slack channel and/or email.
    - ii. Next is Bronwyn from E&CC - tomorrow!
    - iii. Jessie is looking for more speakers, especially from MCIB!
  - d. SGPS - no meeting until August
  - e. RTPs - n/a
  - f. International -
    - i. See bank account issue above.
    - ii. Difficulties in circulating information because don't have contact info
  - g. Union - none
  - h. EDI -
9. Update from Social coordinators -
- a. Hiatus from BEERS & CIDERS until fall
  - b. Book club - need to reschedule first meeting due to Desmond Cole talk at same time from Hamilton Library (Facebook Live - July 28th 4pm)
    - i. Riley sent emails to HR about moderating - no reply yet.
10. Update from Academic - TA evaluation forms for online TAs - TBD from Hayden
11. BGRS update - survey
- a. Survey set up on FB/email - will send a reminder to vote
  - b. Possible to have during orientation week?
12. Discussion
- a. This is Cale's last meeting!!!! Tragic. Saskatchewan is very lucky - we will miss him very much.