

## BGSC Exec Meeting Agenda - November 30, 2020

1. Motion to approve agenda for Nov 30, 2020
  - a. Emma, Heather
2. Motion to approve minutes from Nov 16, 2020
  - a. Hayden, Sam
3. Updates
  - a. Update from co-chairs (Regan & Nell)
    - i. Female mentorship appreciation campaign
      1. Have had at least 20 responses
4. Updates from representatives:
  - a. QUBS (Adam) - No update as monthly staff meeting is this week. We will likely be discussing reduced operating at the station again this coming summer . Not surprising but still disappointing.
  - b. Faculty and RTP (Hana) -
    - i. Dean Crow
      1. Talking about plans for getting people back on campus once vaccine is out, maybe next fall, encouraging depts to have social events
      2. Initiative to change funding for phd international students - eliminate ITA for phd intl students - trying to get more international students to queens
      3. Decision req board req
      4. Access to biosci - no shutdown planned so far
      5. Info on intl research like Eckert lab in US - no one really knows, will proceed on case by case basis, depends on guidelines from individual countries
      6. Heads report - John Smol received Massey Medal
      7. NSERC summer awards will proceed as usual
      8. Winter term will be almost entirely remote
        - a. But 537 students can come on campus, supervisors can apply for them to get access
        - b. Biol 403 also on campus in new labs in biosci
      9. Black Studies program has been approved, includes 3 undergrad bio courses
      10. TA allocations for winter done now - if you haven't received yours contact Dan Lefevbre
      11. Looking for ways to attract more BIPOC students

12. Construction in phytotron done - construction in aquatics lab should be done next week
  13. Issues with groups of undergrads working in biosci - concerns for covid safety, thinking of ways to keep them out
  14. Fill out website survey if you haven't already, email sent around earlier this week
  15. Changes to Guide to Grad Studies approved
- c. Alumni/Graduate Committee (Jessie) -
- i. Meeting last week, Guide to Grad Studies
    1. Suggested new rule that committees must submit issues with thesis at least 10 days before - but apparently it's already a rule that problems should be submitted 5 days before - agreed to include 5 days in Guide and make this rule more clear.
      - a. So if someone reads your thesis the night before and found a problem you can't fail defense because of it, they need to tell you at least 5 days in advance
    2. Feedback - if you fail or get referred your committee must give you feedback shortly after
    3. Also agreed to more clearly define what needed for MSc thesis - they were hesitant to add it in because it changes between subdisciplines - agreed to add to Guide that supervisor and committee define thesis with student, should be established early on
  - ii. EDI rep elected for grad committee, proposed to include more resources for bipoc students in gtgs
  - iii. Website - fill out survey for feedback
    1. Survey link for bio website:  
<https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.office.com%2FPages%2FResponsePage.aspx%3Fid%3DO8se1rE41UKCxO-yg4uSXMMy8XqnXQ25HjNOzgnvu72JUMzhNQkwwUTBIMUdOSTZRRkhGQTgxNE9INC4u&data=04%7C01%7Cad142%40queensu.ca%7C0c266a7125994ea0b6db08d8926c869e%7Cd61ecb3b38b142d582c4efb2838b925c%7C1%7C0%7C637420342114596700%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&data=XGB5VG3fO69yIhk97phcyTMzBylbyhpD%2BTHCCHy9q7c%3D&reserved=0>
- d. SGPS (Emilie & Chloe) -

- i. Fall general meeting - bus pass subsidy should arrive in student accounts around 15th Dec, can put that towards next terms fees or in solus can apply to receive credit to bank account
  - ii. SGPS hosting Beyond Boundaries conference at the end of March - it will be a multi-disciplinary panels around different topics, expand knowledge between fields
    - 1. Call for abstracts and presenters up now
    - 2. Conference abstract- <https://sgps.ca/sbbc/>
  - iii. Also encouraging each faculty grad student council to include a spot for equity and intl reps - which we already have
  - iv. Final Cooking with Grandmas Dec 16th - grandmas super excited for this one - potentially may receive cookies from grandmas delivered to your house
  - v. Indigenous grad liaison organizing writing group for Indigenous students
    - 1. Writing group- [indigenous@sgps.ca](mailto:indigenous@sgps.ca)
  - vi. New social commissioner, planning fun events - plant themed show and tell, crafting event - deliver free holiday craft kit to your house
    - 1. Plants - <https://sgps.ca/event/sgps-show-and-tell-plants/>
    - 2. Holiday - <https://sgps.ca/event/sgps-holiday-crafting/>
  - vii. SGPS budget presentation - excess of over \$100,000, considering giving students a rebate, but likely will be put into reserve fund for next year
  - viii. Approved new draft for new election policy - making changes in case next elections have to occur online - got rid of need for hard copies and signatures
- e. International (Harsha & Peiwen) -
- i. Intl tuition fee structure will change, look more like domestic, email will be sent out - might lose ITAs
  - ii. Intl students TAs across Queen's can TA wherever they are now - starting Jan should be good to go with this
- f. Union (Heather) -
- i. Intl students can TA or RA where they are,
  - ii. Main goal for union, improve infrastructure and communication between exec and gen members and vice versa - forming union structure committee, looking for members - exec members holding virtual office hours
  - iii. Bargaining year for unit 1 collective agreement, main priority for 901, fighting for better collective agreement
  - iv. At next special general meeting Fri Dec 11th electing a bargaining committee - gen members can join, engage in survey - e.g. how to improve

- current collective agreement - if you have issues with current one this is chance to voice those - Heather will send email saying it's coming up
- v. Couple other committees looking for members to join - bargaining, social justice committee which is prioritizing bursaries, email Perna Subaramanian (equity.psac901@gmail.com)
  - vi. Grievance committee looking for members to join - if want to email them or union structure committee email [cochiefsteward2.psac901@gmail.com](mailto:cochiefsteward2.psac901@gmail.com) and/or chiefsteward1.psac901
  - vii. RSVP link for the special general meeting (where the bargaining committee is struck)-  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScIwnZnwgMYOKQCtoSDuDI2ijvbZcQ606m8i90JTsuFEQO\\_Iw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScIwnZnwgMYOKQCtoSDuDI2ijvbZcQ606m8i90JTsuFEQO_Iw/viewform)

g. EDI (Sam & Kristen) -

- i. Meeting on 20th
- ii. Scholarships - new Biology Faculty's Award of Excellence - 20k - asking whether they can start advertising and where
- iii. Advertising other BIPOC-oriented scholarships - Robert Sutherland Fellowship - OGS, Queen's has 2 allocations for Aboriginal students
- iv. Looking into other scholarships, i.e. NSERC might have scholarship allocations for BIPOC students - TD Bank might have some - generally putting together a scholarship list for the list of resources
- v. Training
  - 1. Plans for microaggression workshop for faculty Jan 18th or Feb 1st - also planning one for grad students, prob jan or feb
- vi. Also suggestion to host screening of Picture a Scientist, potentially with discussion in breakout rooms after
- vii. Making feedback form for future EDI workshops and getting trigger support from Peer Support Centre
  - 1. PSC said they're available - but need to include undergrads for them to provide support - might need to go through Grad PSC for just grad talks
- viii. Outdoor subcommittee, Shelley is supposed to set up meeting about funding for this
  - 1. Funding will be used for apparel and equipment for field work and field courses, undergrads and grads
- ix. Shelley met with undergrad committee, Maria putting together list of opportunities and scholarships, possible teaching workshops but no one has volunteered yet for these
- x. Maydianne Andrade - will have to postpone talk by her (Regan)

- h. Post-doc (Wendy) -
    - i. Maybe having postdoc rep won't be functional at this time - will withdraw from BGSC for now
  - i. Undergrads (Danica) -
    - i. Presidents - thank BGSC for help with "R you confused" event,
    - ii. Bit of an issue with undergrads in specializations - biopsych feels not enough info, wanted to start their own DSC - put out survey for all bio years to give input and feedback and other course info they want to share
5. Update from Social coordinators (Ryan & Emma) -
- a. Bio Grad trivia: Night 2 was a success and our final night of the first series will be on Thursday Dec. 10th at 8pm.
  - b. Biology holiday card contest is currently underway, so hopefully people are aware and are brewing up some fun ideas. Deadline for e-card submission is Friday Dec. 11th!
  - c. Bio talent show - dec 17th? Friday, maybe too soon
    - i. Option to pre-record or do live
6. Update from Academic (Hayden) -
- a. R you confused went well
  - b. TA forms set to go for next semester
7. BGRS update (Allen) -
- a. Just submitted 4 funding applications, hopefully they will get back to him in next week or so
  - b. Plenary speaker - Dr Lougheed wanted to invite an Indigenous speaker, hoping to have them as plenary speaker for BGRS as well
8. Discussion
- a. Two potential positions and/or subcommittees: (write up a plan and introduce to biograds in Jan?)
    - i. Divestment
      - 1. Could work with Divest Queen's or have their own divestment related initiatives - Nell can put together description of position, send it out to biograds in Jan to see if anyone is interested. When we had elections, a lot more interest than positions, good to have more positions
      - 2. Another alternative - having a general environmental rep
        - a. Environmental justice associated position
        - b. could introduce initiatives like clothing swaps

- c. could do divestment now until they get divested
- d. Could also be someone who's also on environmental committee - Paul Grogan and Vicki Friesen on this - but no meetings for it since covid started - might be worth reaching out to Paul and Vicki

ii. Recruitment

1. They could work on making sure we're advertising grad student positions in dept, could attend EDI meetings and make sure there's an EDI focus on recruitment, could work with Riley running twitter account
2. Logistically might need to think about what they could do, individual supervisors ultimately choose who they accept
3. Currently not much social media advertising that positions exist - part of position could be making sure that advertising efforts are reaching people from underrepresented groups
4. Should involve EDI committee in these discussions - they have more of a focus on supporting than recruiting students but could work with them for this position
5. Getting a grad student heavily involved could be good because a student might have more of a sense what other future grad students looking for in a position - e.g. if they're more active on twitter, see more things circulating
6. Could involve making infographic on application process, other things like that the person could think of
7. Dept might be willing to pay for this position like they do for the social media TA on twitter - might have to push for this to be paid though