

BGSC Open Meeting Agenda - January 25, 2021

1. Motion to approve agenda for Jan 25, 2021
 - a. Hana, Peiwen
2. Motion to approve minutes from Jan 11, 2021
 - a. Heather, Emma
3. Updates
 - a. Update from co-chairs (Regan & Nell)
 - i. Unconscious bias seminar this friday Jan 25th at 12:30pm
 1. Discussion about ways to implement EDI in the dept, make it more inclusive
 - ii. Zoom working session on Jan 18th went well! ~ 12 attendees
 1. Had 2nd one this week
4. Updates from representatives:
 - a. QUBS (Adam) - no update
 - b. Faculty and RTP (Hana) -
 - i. Meeting this morning
 - ii. Head Report: Laura Nagel has left but currently continuing as adjunct
 - iii. Arts and Science Strategic Plan to increase collaboration
 1. Strengthening research prominence - as part of this, increasing collaborative research across faculty within and across departments, with external partners. Can come to Arts and Science with idea for a collab project and they'll put you in touch with potential collaborators. Collab funding opps. Requested bio dept think of interdisciplinary projects and challenges specific to interdisciplinary work
 - iv. Grad student teaching
 1. Could free up faculty teaching time by getting senior grad students to teach
 - a. Funding from fac of arts and science
 - b. Also potentially co-teaching with a prof
 2. Teaching fellowships exist - would top up usual bio TF to match current Faculty avg (12-15k)
 3. Old course or a new one like current topics in biology
 4. Concerns about grad student time and also doing research, maybe more at end - gets student teaching and course design experience
 - v. Intl student tuition
 1. Phd students now paying domestic tuition, eliminated ITA but getting same QGA and domestic stipend as domestic students

2. Continuing students can accept new agreement or stick with old one
3. Also applies to overtime phd students
- vi. Lab rotations program
 1. Idea is having incoming msc students rotate through labs
 - a. Point is to make grad studies more access to marginalized groups
 - b. Need to decide number and length of rotations, stipend considerations
 2. Chris - does this increase participation of marg groups?
 3. Maria - could be part of a pre grad school program
 - a. offer workshops and courses too to prep students for grad school within it
 - b. Would there be funding for it? Potentially from human rights office and also bio dept
 4. Could be another way to add on to recruitment - less on PIs to individually recruit students themselves
 5. Next step - iron out number and duration of rotations, how dept will contribute
 6. Was vote on whether should pursue - majority said yes
- vii. Water usage in Biosci significantly up since June - let Darlene know if you're using lots of water or if you see leaking
- c. Alumni/Graduate Committee (Jessie) -
 - i. Website - meeting last week, got survey results back
 1. Main focus is to make info easier to access on the website
 2. Compiling list of main to dos based on survey, next meeting decide action for how to work on them
- d. SGPS (Emilie & Chloe) -
 - i. Lab operations during covid
 1. All instructions for how to proceed during covid should come from lab individually, avoid blanket dept-wide lockdown
 - a. For concerns contact your lab manager or supervisor directly, if you had permission before to be in lab you should still be able to do work normally
 - ii. Rebate coming for health and dental fees for fall and winter
 - iii. SGPS beyond boundaries conference in march
 1. Have 5 deans to take part in panel, still have applications open for students who want to present work, link: www.SGPS.ca/sbbc/
 - iv. Canadian Federation of Students meeting
 1. VP Community Anthony Lomax is attending
vp.community@sgps.ca

2. It's a lobbying week where students from Canadian unis can meet with MPs and gov officials to bring forth issues impacting students
3. He's collecting concerns students have and want him to bring forth. Chloe and Emilie have brought forward the NSERC funding concerns - if you would like to give input you can email him or contact Chloe and Emilie
- v. SGPS elections - nominations close tomorrow, voting closes on the 9th
- vi. Subcommittees across Queen's
 1. Apps open - need students to sit on these, link:
<https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/Portal/BoardApplication>
- vii. SGPS social events
 1. Emilie posted social events for Jan earlier on fb
- viii. Show and Tell event
 1. New social commissioner Kel has created a show and tell event
 2. Get students w interesting skill to teach students interested in learning things, e.g. houseplants, loom beading
 3. Looking for ppl interested in hosting these events, email:
social@sgps.ca
- ix. Hybrid courses will be online until after the reading week
- x. Mitchell hall covid testing reopened
 1. Considering testing asymptomatic individuals
 2. Open in days now instead of evening only
 3. Now testing criteria are set by Ontario gov. Considering testing ppl asymp bc ppl coming back from winter break
 4. Queens upper leadership looking for vacc policy, rules and expectations
- xi. ARC fee refund
 1. Might see refund arc fees for the semester now that gyms aren't open
- xii. NSERC CGS M update
 1. Brought up with speaker of SGPS and Courtney Bannerman
 - a. NSERC is set by Canadian gov, same amount by tri-agencies
 - b. Courtney on lobbying group for Canadian students, will ask why NSERC hasn't increased over next two decades
 2. Brought issue to Anthony Lomax (VP Community), he will bring up in CFS meeting
 - a. Emilie: Certain provincial scholarships (Quebec, UBC, Alberta) higher than nserc - what's the point in competing for federal scholarship when less than provincial scholarships and less than min wage. Tuition has increased

over the last two decades but the NSERC CGS M grant hasn't increased since 2004. Cost of living has also increased - all these factors together grant should also increase

- b. CFS meeting is Feb 16th to 19th - if anyone wants to suggest other things to put forward or have data that would help lobby case send to emilie 14enr2@queensu.ca
 3. Chloe presented what has changed since lockdown - posted on fb. Contact supervisor if you're having problems related to working in lockdown. If having trouble getting into lab and supervisor can't help contact Justine Aman, email: president@sgps.ca
- e. International (Harsha & Peiwen) -
- i. Intl student fee changes
 1. PhD students: reduction in tuition fees, as mentioned above
 2. Msc students: those who have ITA won't lose it but new Msc coming in will have trouble
 - ii. Bad news - intl students who haven't come to canada and don't have SIN can't TA - one student is having this trouble, causing serious money issues
 1. Shelley advocating somewhat, that student has had their QGA funding pushed up but still facing heavy losses bc can't TA
 2. BIPOC fund - not been authorized but hopefully once it is student can receive first such award
 3. Any better ideas on how to help student?
- f. Union (Heather) -
- i. Meeting upcoming this week
 - ii. Union has RA position available to help with Affordable Housing Working Group and Political Action Committee, Heather will forward it to biograds
- g. EDI (Sam & Kristen) -
- i. Putting together priority list for fundraising to present to dept
 1. General scholarship money that's EDI oriented - money from Dean's Equity Fund, also money donated by Society of Conservation Kingston Chapter. Developing list of priorities to help people donate to specific causes
 - a. Bio field course scholarship, field equipment for grad students
 - b. Summer research award like SWEP for minorities
 - c. Money for lab rotation or bridging year
 - d. Potential travel fund for minorities to go to conferences, or connecting ppl to existing funds

- e. Intl students - few profs pushing for funds to be oriented toward them, especially given pandemic
- ii. Equip loaning program
 - 1. Ensuring safety for lending
 - 2. How to store equipment and and acquire it, how to manage funds for equipment
 - 3. How to manage physical donations
- iii. Event
 - 1. Next Monday (Feb 1st), faculty, staff and postdocs doing workshop on microaggressions, one for grad students pushed to april
 - 2. Unconscious bias workshop this friday, have trigger support for that, someone from gpssc
 - 3. Picture a scientist screening mar 24th
 - a. 2 discussion periods, one right after for more emotional discussion, later a bigger discussion that talks more about what we can do queens, admin stuff associated with some of the problems, these will be 11 am and 8pm
 - b. Will start advertising those soon
 - 4. New EDII TAship, Shelley looking for tasks and initiatives for that TA to work on
 - a. If we have suggestions for EDI initiatives tell Sam and Kristen and they'll talk to Shelley about it
 - 5. Possible award for labs or ind who are working toward sense of community in dept - thanking students for contributed to deptl unity
- iv. Survey
 - 1. Ppl looking for sense of community
 - a. Paint nights, trivia nights, increase ads or have more events
 - b. Maybe collab between undergrads and grads
 - c. Maybe can brainstorm events - not just trivia - get to know each other, esp for 1st years
- v. Outdoors
 - 1. Looking at funding - getting set up so can get donations incoming - from alumni, faculty, greater community - approach places like mec for money or gear donations in return for sponsorship, ad for them on campus
 - 2. Funding
 - a. Directly to fill equipment gaps - hoping for community donations of old equipment

6. Update from Academic (Hayden) -
 - a. Setting up workshops for TAing - giving constructive feedback and marking written work
 - b. One on writing later on - 15 feb 2-3pm

7. BGRS update (Allen) -
 - a. Plenary speaker - asking for suggestions, will have dept vote
 - b. April 23rd - 2nd last friday in april
 - c. Mixture of trad 15 min presentations and other types - e.g. speed talks that are 5 min, 15 min recorded talks where presenter can interact with attendees in the chat
 - d. Instead of breaks with silence, wellness breaks with mediation type things
 - e. Maybe using rest of funding on an event in the summer
 - f. Email allen if anyone has other ideas

8. Discussion
 - a.