

Society of Biology Graduate Students
April 25th, 2013
Annual General Meeting
B&GS 0165

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**SOCIETY OF BIOLOGY GRADUATE STUDENTS
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA**

**April 25th, 2013
3:30pm**

1. Ratification of agenda
2. SOBGS budget presentation
3. SOBGS funds survey report
4. OE3C donation presentation
 - a. Motion for SOBGS donation to OE3C
5. SOBGS funds to be used for elected representatives & ad hoc constitution committee lunch
 - a. Motion for SOBGS funds to be used for elected representatives & ad hoc constitution committee lunch
6. Revised SOBGS constitution
 - a. Motion to accept constitution revisions
7. Committee Reports
 - a. Chair
 - b. SOGS
 - c. Undergraduate education committee
 - d. Graduate education committee
 - e. Seminar committee
 - f. Outreach committee
 - g. Social committee
 - h. PSAC Local 610 Union representative

- i. Research committee
 - j. Ad-hoc constitution committee
- 8. New business/open forum

Orders of the Day

Motion 1

Whereas the Ontario Ecology, Ethology and Evolution Colloquium (OE3C) hosted at UWO this year will be attended by researchers from across the province, and;

Whereas the OE3C represents an excellent opportunity to showcase the UWO Biology Department and;

Whereas the SOBGS membership will benefit from supporting this conference;

Be it resolved that (BIRT) the SOBGS donate \$50 to OE3C 2013 for the purposes of a student merit award.

Motion 2

Whereas the elected representatives of the SOBGS have fulfilled their duties admirably during their term of office, and;

Whereas the ad-hoc Constitution and Bylaws committee has also performed admirably in revising SOBGS policy documents;

BIRT funds be allocated from the SOBGS budget to provide lunch (no alcohol) at the grad club for the SOBGS elected representatives and ad-hoc committee members as compensation for duties performed.

Motion 3

Whereas the ad-hoc Constitution and Bylaws committee has made substantial revisions to the SOBGS Constitution, and;

Whereas these changes are recommended to clarify and improve the functioning of the SOBGS;

BIRT the revised Constitution replace the existing Constitution and Bylaws of the Society, effective immediately.

BIFRT the Graduate Handbook be updated to reflect these changes.

SOBGS Expense Report

Expense report: 2012-2013

Revenue

SOBGS

SOGS	\$898.00
Biology Formal Tickets	\$3,140.00
Left over funds from previous year	\$350.00

Fund Raising

Bio-formal	\$1,100.00
BGRF	\$1,000.00

Department Subsidies

BGRF	\$1,807.21
Laudenbauch	\$400.00

used for travel expenses for the BGRF Speaker

Total Income **\$8,695.21**

Expense

BGRF

	\$100.00	Prizes
	\$1,756.35	Meals and refreshments
	\$500.00	Guest speaker expenses
	\$950.86	Poster Board Rental
	\$3,307.21	

Bio-Formal

	\$3,707.56	Venue Rental
	\$31.00	General costs for decorations
	\$199.80	Insurance
	\$82.00	DJ
	\$79.82	Audio Equipment Rental
	\$30.00	Printing Tickets
	\$4,149.18	

Social events

	\$75.00	Halloween
	\$75.00	Festivius
	\$65.00	BBQ – anticipated
	\$215.00	

Miscellaneous

	\$50.00	Faculty & Staff and SOBGS Member of the year awards-Anticipated
	\$50.00	Other – Discretionary
	\$200.00	SOBGS Executive Lunch-Anticipated
	\$300.00	

Total Expenses **\$7,952.39**

<u>Surplus/ (Deficit)</u>		<u>\$742.82</u>
Projected 2013-14		
<u>Revenue</u>		
SOBGS		
SOGS	\$775.00	projected based on 80% attendance
Biology Formal Tickets	\$3,140.00	
Left over funds from previous year	\$742.82	
<u>Fund Raising</u>		
Bio-formal	\$1,000.00	
BGRF	\$1,000.00	
<u>Department Subsidies</u>		
BGRF	\$1,850.00	
Laudenbauch	\$400.00	used towards travel expenses for BGRF Speaker
Total Income	\$8,907.82	
<u>Expense</u>		
BGRF		
	\$100.00	Prizes
	\$1,750.00	Meals and refreshments
	\$400.00	Guest speaker expenses
	\$1,000.00	Poster Board Rental
	\$3,250.00	
Bio-Formal		
	\$3,700.00	Venue Rental
	\$50.00	General costs for decorations
	\$200.00	Insurance
	\$82.00	DJ
	\$100.00	Audio Equipment Rental
	\$30.00	Printing Tickets
	\$4,162.00	
Social events		
	\$75.00	Halloween
	\$65.00	Festivius
	\$65.00	BBQ
	\$205.00	
Miscellaneous		
	\$50.00	Other – Discretionary
	\$200.00	SOBGS Executive Lunch
	\$250.00	
Total Expenses	\$7,867.00	
<u>Surplus/ (Deficit)</u>		<u>\$1,040.82</u>

SOBGS Finances - Survey Report

April 21, 2013

Mathew Vankoughnett - SOBGS Chairperson

Brian Sutton-Quaid - SOBGS Principal SOGS Representative

Background: SOBGS sent out a survey regarding how societal funds should be used. The following is the email sent out, summary of results, and conclusions.

1. Original survey email sent to Biograds

Dear Biograds,

Recently the SOBGS executives have debated on the proper use of SOBGS funds. As a departmental society we can and have previously been asked to support graduate student events inside and outside the department, and in some cases, outside the university. Since SOBGS is currently rewriting its bylaws and constitution, I ask for your opinion on how SOBGS funds should be used. The information gathered will then be used to help formulate our bylaws. Please email me the answers to the following by Friday the 22nd at 4pm.

- 1) Should SOBGS funds be used strictly for events that only benefit the entire Biology Department?
- 2) Should SOBGS funds be available for events that target specific streams of the Biology Department?
- 3) Should SOBGS funds for subsections / specific streams of the department rely on equal quantities being available for other streams?
- 4) What qualifications should proposed expenditures meet before SOBGS provides funding?
- 5) If you had \$500 dollars to spend, how would you distribute the money?
 - a) SOBGS-organized research forums (Biology Graduate Research Forum)
 - b) SOBGS social events (Halloween, Festivus, Formal)
 - c) Financial support for stream-specific events
 - d) Other (please be specific)
- 6) Other ideas or comments

Thank you,
Mat

2. Executive Summary

- Values differ among the streams, with Ecology & Evolution representing a distinctly different demography from both Cell & Molecular and Physiology & Biochemistry.
- Stream-specific funding is supported by the membership under the condition of funding being available to all streams.
- The membership is united in their desire for adjudication of fund dissemination.
- Opinions differ on what constitutes acceptable use for stream-specific funds and how to adjudicate dissemination.

Changes that will be implemented immediately:

- Funds will be earmarked when they are raised for a specific event or purpose and will only be used for those purposes.
- Departmental grant funds from SOGS will be earmarked for whole-membership events.
- Ad-hoc committees may be formed for the purpose of fund-raising for stream-specific events.
- A financial report will be presented by the new SOBGS Chairperson each year to keep the membership better informed of the Society's finances.

3. Summary of Results

Department stream	Number of respondents
Cell and Molecular	8
Physiology and Biochemistry	7
Ecology and Evolution	18
Total	33

Department stream	Number of students enrolled as of Jan 1st, 2013
Cell and Molecular	63
Physiology and Biochemistry	32
Ecology and Evolution	67
Total	162

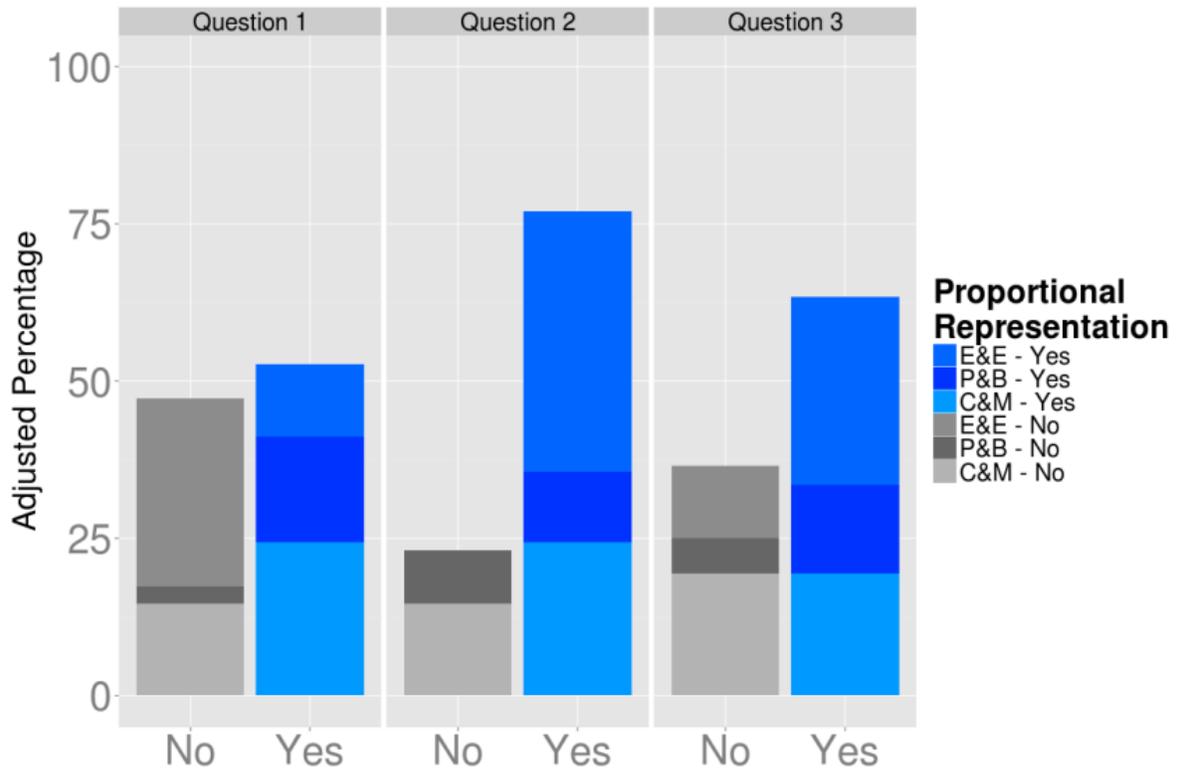
Cumulative data were adjusted to match proportionality in the membership.

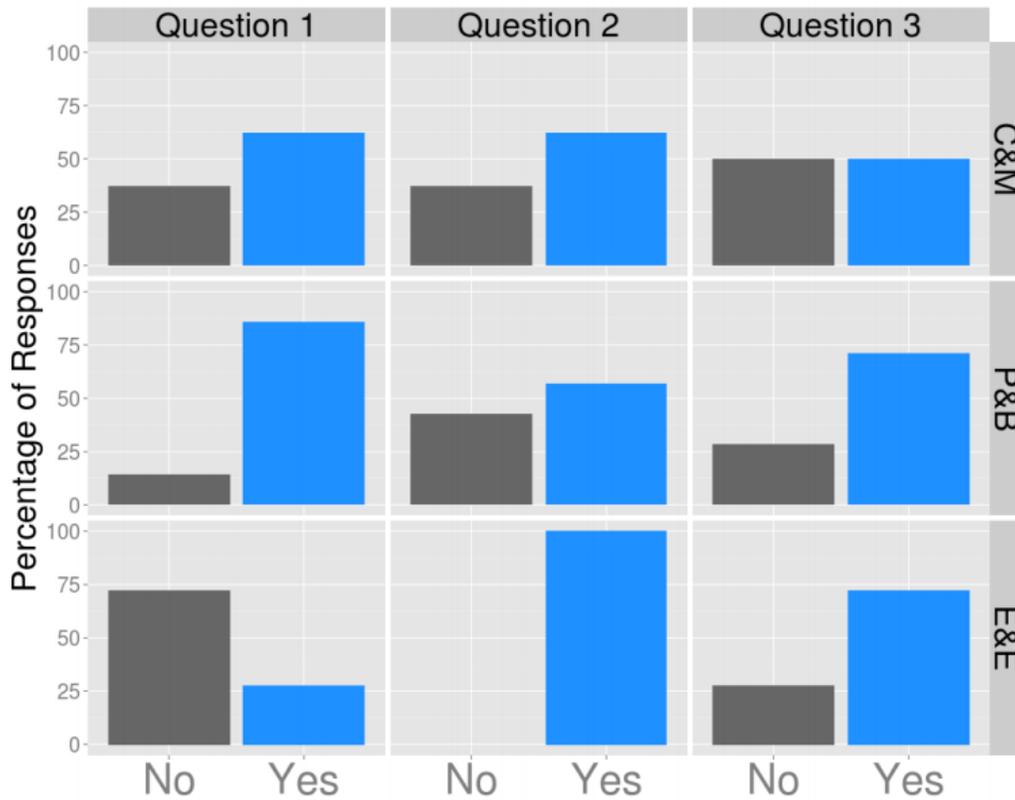
Cell and Molecular: Average response (n=8) * 63 / 162

Physiology and Biochemistry: Average response (n=7) * 32 / 162

Ecology and Evolution: Average response (n=18) * 67 / 162

- 1) *Should SOBGS funds be used strictly for events that only benefit the entire Biology Department?*
- 2) *Should SOBGS funds be available for events that target specific streams of the Biology Department?*
- 3) *Should SOBGS funds for subsections / specific streams of the department rely on equal quantities being available for other streams?*





1) *Should SOBGS funds be used strictly for events that only benefit the entire Biology Department?*

Example responses:

- I believe they should be used primarily for the benefit of the whole department, but I also believe that they should be used for the benefit of the majority.
- If there are leftover funds every year, I think these should be allotted to special projects that select biology groups may be undertaking. I think the majority of the funds should go to events that benefit the entire Biology Department - I think these are really important for creating community and bringing together people in the department that might not otherwise have a chance to connect.
- As much as possible, although a set amount of supplementary funds could be made available for stream-specific activities.
- Yes, funds should be used for events that are only meant for the entire department unless there are multiple events that will cover all students involved ie. stream based events would be okay.
- Depends... I think funds should always be used with the best interest of the department in mind.
- I think there should be a subcommittee with 2 reps from each stream that get to decide where SOBGS funds are allocated. By SOBGS funding a conference that is stream-specific, it still benefits the society as well as the department as a whole (shows internal support).

Summary:

On average, the membership feels that funds should be used only in the best interest of the entire biology department. However, this question exemplified the divergence of priorities among streams, with E&E expressing strongly against funds being used only for the benefit of the entire department while C&M and P&B felt the opposite.

2) Should SOBGS funds be available for events that target specific streams of the Biology Department?

Example responses:

- Yes, but only allocate a specific amount per stream per year that goes to actual recognized academic events (conferences, regional workshops, etc. Not funding a pub crawl, lunch, etc).
- Anything outside of academics that targets specific streams (especially social events) should be avoided.
- The demography of students within different streams is so variable that the less represented streams might be marginalized or just not have the numbers to make use of this opportunity for funding.
- Grouping the grad students by stream is not the only way they could be grouped.
- No, they should be for joint events so people can interact.
- If an event can benefit a group as large as an entire stream it should be fully supported by SOBGS.
- If funds are available to allocate to different streams, then I see no reason to not give each stream a small budget based on the amount of students.

Summary:

SOBGS members agree that funds should be available for stream-specific events. This is in contention with the observations from Question 1, and highlights the need to explore the data on a per-stream level. This question united the respondents from E&E with 100% favor for stream-specific events, whereas C&M & P&B were more moderate in their support.

3) Should SOBGS funds for subsections / specific streams of the department rely on equal quantities being available for other streams?

Example responses:

- Yes. They should be available, but when deciding how to give money, efforts should be made to create equal value among the streams. For example, \$100 to support a colloquium for E&E creates value for more people than a \$100 travel award for P&B or C&M students.
- Yes, in the long term but not necessarily within a given year.

- No. The amount of funds available should be per graduate student. That way each stream can be given an amount of money based on their size and representation within graduate students. If P&B has 25% of the graduate students they should receive 25% of the total available funds.
- Yes, if funds are available for each stream, that would be ideal.
- It should be a flexible scale that isn't so rigid as to cost one stream because another doesn't have an equally valued event occurring at the same time or even in the same year. Though, there should be limits so that one stream does not always benefit at the expense of the others.
- Yes, as long as the other streams are given the opportunity to have the same/similar event.

Summary:

SOBGS members agree that for funds to be made available for stream-specific events there must be equal funds available to all streams. C&M was divided on this issue while both P&B and E&E supported the equal availability as a necessary clause in the distribution of funds to subsets of the membership.

4) *What qualifications should proposed expenditures meet before SOBGS provides funding?*

Example responses:

- Without knowing the SOBGS budget and the way it is currently set up this is hard to answer. I would suggest that a certain proportion of money be placed aside for events that bio grad students could apply for. When considering the application for funds we should consider previous funding, potential impact, or if you are matching funds raised by the group. I'm not terribly keen on funding a clique.
- I think SOBGS funding should be targeted for specific things before proposals are even laid out. For example, it is for conference costs only, for prizes only, for speakers only, or a mix, so that everyone is clear from the get-go on what sorts of proposals can even apply for funds instead of doing a case-by-case basis.
- Benefits the 'health and well-being' of the Bio Dept.
- Are alternatives available that spend the money differently and could be argued to have more positive impact for the entire membership of the Society?
- If those events have already tried other forms of funding and are in a bind.
- A 1-page written proposal should be submitted. The quality of the writing is less important than the content. This proposal should include anticipated benefits to the department, such as the number of students from Western Biology expected to benefit directly, as well as any spin-off benefits (such as positive impressions of the department created among students from other universities or departments). Preference should be given to proposals that benefit students from all three streams and for proposals benefiting the most students.

- Vote by ALL grad students, or at least send out an e-mail providing everyone the opportunity to vote. This would avoid the conflict of interest issue of a vote by SOBGS members (a subset of grad students, perhaps weighted towards one stream). If people choose not to vote, then allocation of SOBGS is likely not a concern to them anyways.

Summary:

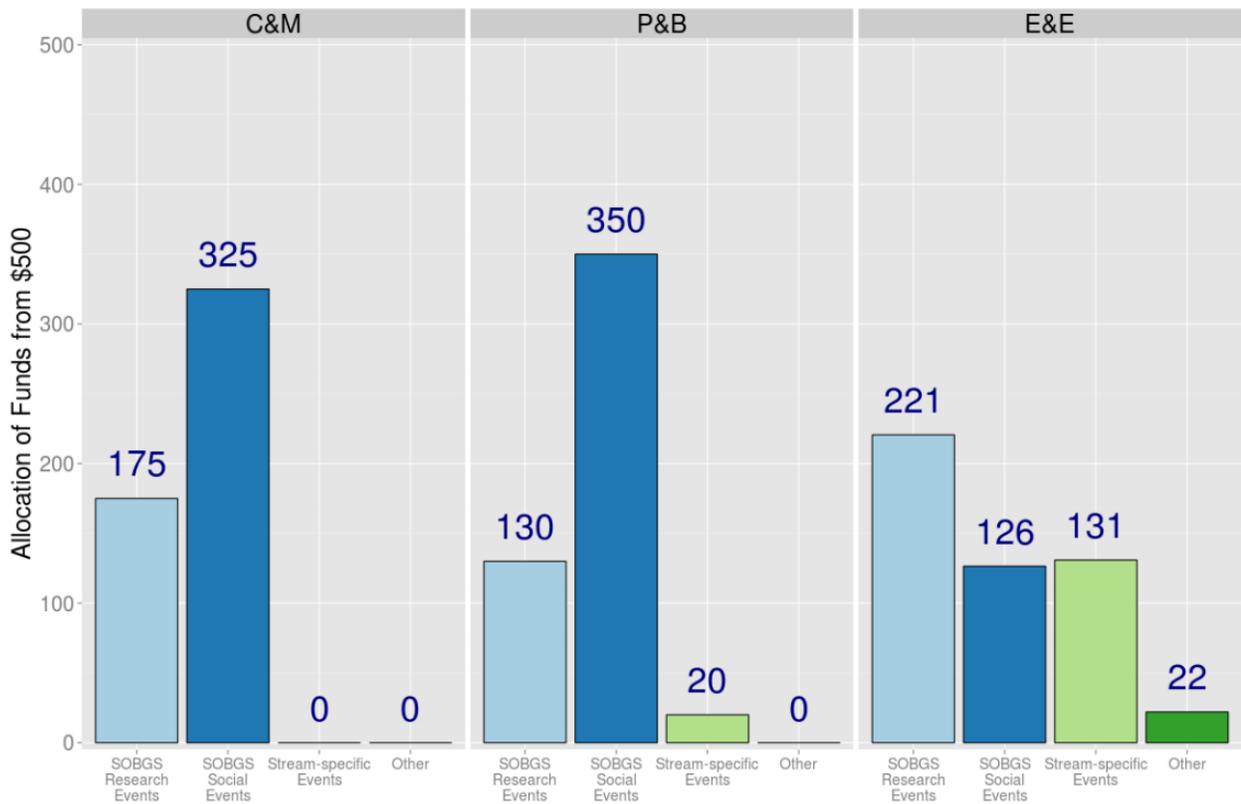
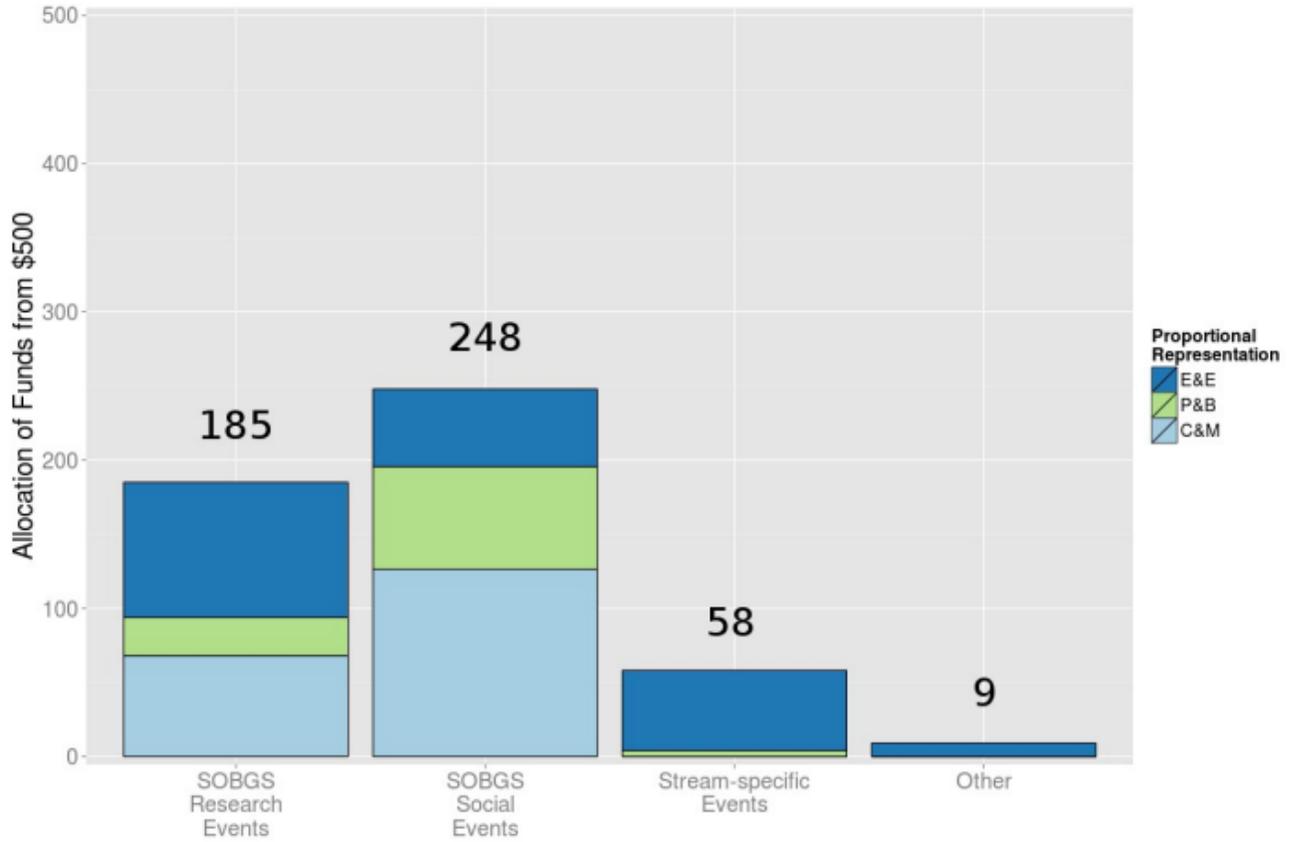
A proposal should be completed by those requesting the funds and this proposal should be evaluated by a governing body. Either the Elected Representatives, a purpose-specific committee, or the entire membership should act as the governing body.

Four criteria that appear important to the membership are:

- a. **Quantity** requested
- b. **Purpose**
- c. Expected **impact**
- d. **Value** to/for the membership

5) *If you had \$500 dollars to spend, how would you distribute the money?*

- a) *SOBGS-organized research forums (Biology Graduate Research Forum)*
- b) *SOBGS social events (Halloween, Festivus, Formal)*
- c) *Financial support for stream-specific events*
- d) *Other (please be specific)*



Summary:

SOBGS members value academic and social events for the entire membership more than stream-specific events. The value systems of C&M and P&B are similar, while the value system of E&E differs. The major difference was the valuation of stream-specific events, which were valued by E&E but valued negligibly by C&M and P&B.

6) *Other ideas or comments*

Example responses:

- Set a threshold above-which the entire board/student body is informed of the transaction, ie. if SOBGS spends above \$500 then all graduate students are notified.
- SOBGS could vote to form an ad hoc committee for the purpose of fund-raising for stream-specific events, but the funds could certainly not come from those raised by/for social committee or those raised by SOGS reps.
- If a group of students is hosting/organizing a conference, I think SOBGS should be involved to some degree. This could be sponsoring a social or some other element, but it demonstrates SOBGS support to grad student endeavors and as a host.

Summary:

1. SOBGS should notify the entire membership when there is a transaction over a certain amount. However, this should only be the case when we are taking funds from that given by SOGS, not funds that have been raised for specific reasons, such as BGRF or formal.
2. An ad-hoc committee could be formed for the purpose of fund-raising.

Changes that will be made towards addressing the results of this survey

1. Funds will be earmarked when they are raised for a specific event or purpose and will only be used for those events.
2. Councilor participation funds from SOGS (departmental grants) given to SOBGS will be restricted to whole-membership events.
3. Ad-hoc committees may be formed for the purpose of fund-raising for stream-specific events.
4. A financial report will be presented by the new SOBGS Chairperson each year to keep the membership better informed of the Society's finances.

SOBGS Chairperson Report

Matt Vankoughnett mvankou@uwo.ca

1. SOBGS executive:

The SOBGS executive has been working hard to represent the membership across all committees. We have written letters voicing our opinion and concerns on several issues occurring inside and outside the department, such as

- a) Removal of the Bio 2290's literacy component and subsequent replacement by a condensed version of the Bio 2601 labs.
- b) University strategic plan.
- c) Support for Marks Bernards renewal as Department Chair.

2. Collaborations with other Societies:

I have started collaborating with the Biology Undergraduate Society (BUGS). BUGS will organize two graduate student seminars during the academic year, where two to four graduate students will present their research to undergraduate students.

3. New Awards:

We have also created two new yearly awards given out at the Biology Formal. The first award, titled the 'SOBGS Faculty and Staff Award', is presented to a staff or faculty member that has made significant contributions to SOBGS over the past year. The second award, titled the 'SOBGS Member Award', is presented to a SOBGS member that has gone above and beyond general membership duties to improve the graduate student environment over the past year. Both awards are voted on by the membership prior to the Biology Formal.

4. Biology Graduate Research Forum (BGRF):

Planning for the next BGRF has begun. Allison Camiletti has taken over as BGRF Chair and will do a great job.

5. Constitution:

If you are reading this package, you will be aware that we have taken a considerable amount of time to rewrite the Constitution. A big thank you goes to Brian Sutton-Quaid and the rest of the ad-hoc committee for spear heading this project.

6. Future plans:

Creation of a financial budget.

Thank you,
Mathew Vankoughnett

SOGS report

B. Sutton Quaid *bsuttonq@uwo.ca* (principal representative)

Tim Hain *tjhain@uwo.ca*

Joanna Konopka *jkonopk@uwo.ca*

Matthew Turnbull *mturnbu7@uwo.ca*

Nico Munoz *nmunoz@uwo.ca*

Magda Konopka *mkonopka@uwo.ca*

Catherine Dieleman *cdielem@uwo.ca*

Hello colleagues!

This year has been busy at SOGS and Biology has had a strong presence at Council. SOBGS has been represented at SOGS this year by Catherine Dieleman, Tim Hain, Joanna Konopka, Ashley Warnock, and myself. Ashley Warnock has recently resigned from her position as a SOGS SOBGS Representative after a long history of serving as a Councillor and an Executive at SOGS. We are grateful for her service and dedication. SOBGS elected Matthew Turnbull to replace Ashley.

The new president of SOGS is Kevin Godbout. His political platform is ambitious and he intends to shake things up with the university administration. Among his goals, Kevin hopes to bring post-residency fee structures to our tuition framework, which would reduce tuition as grad students accomplish major milestones like course work and comprehensive exams.

Any students interested in pursuing election for a SOGS SOBGS Representative position in the September elections are encouraged to meet with any of the current Councillors and also to fill-in as Alternate Councillors (Proxies) over the summer, when possible.

Attendance of your Biology representatives at monthly SOGS Council meetings has been complete, with one exception based on a technicality. This has resulted in an exemplary 96% attendance record to-date. This record of attendance is detailed in the table to the right. The OUT column indicates attendance for the entirety of the meeting when it is left blank.

I will happily answer questions about SOGS at the SOBGS General Meeting or any time via email.

Sincerely,

Date	Name	IN	Notes	OUT
2012-10-25	Catherine Dieleman	06:06		08:10
2012-10-25	Tim Hain	06:06	Alt. M. Konopka	07:50
2012-10-25	Joanna Konopka	06:06		07:50
2012-10-25	Brian Sutton-Quaid	06:06		
2012-10-25	Ashley Warnock	06:06		
2012-11-29	Catherine Dieleman	06:06		07:15
2012-11-29	Tim Hain	06:06		07:35
2012-11-29	Joanna Konopka	06:06		07:15
2012-11-29	Brian Sutton-Quaid	06:06		
2012-11-29	Ashley Warnock	06:06		
2013-01-31	Catherine Dieleman	06:10		07:15
2013-01-31	Tim Hain	06:10		
2013-01-31	Joanna Konopka	06:10		08:15
2013-01-31	Brian Sutton-Quaid	06:10		08:15
2013-01-31	Ashley Warnock	06:10		08:20
2013-02-28	Catherine Dieleman	06:11		07:15
2013-02-28	Tim Hain	06:11		
2013-02-28	Joanna Konopka	06:11		07:20
2013-02-28	Brian Sutton-Quaid		Alt. form unsigned	07:15
2013-02-28	Ashley Warnock	06:11		07:25
2013-03-21	Catherine Dieleman	06:07		08:30
2013-03-21	Tim Hain	06:07		
2013-03-21	Joanna Konopka	06:07	Alt. J. Matheson	07:55
2013-03-21	Brian Sutton-Quaid	06:07		
2013-03-21	Matthew Turnbull	06:07		

Brian Sutton-Quaid

Biology Undergraduate Education Committee (BUEC) report

Eric Diehl ediehl@uwo.ca

Ian Willick iwillick@uwo.ca

The BUEC is responsible for making recommendations and developing policy on all matters relating to undergraduate education in the Department. The committee is of the chair (Dr. Denis Maxwell), five additional faculty members, the biology counselors, biology technical director, an undergraduate student representative, and two graduate student representatives, Ian Willick and Eric Diehl. This year, the committee's discussions have focused on several key issues, ranging from course alterations to exam policy. The first major discussion was the vote to remove the core course Evolution (Biology 2486) from the curriculum. The committee agreed that Biology 2486 should be removed to lighten the mandatory course load in the second year of most biology modules. This removal was balanced by a greater emphasis being placed on evolutionary concepts in first year biology (Biology 1001, 1002) as well as the addition of three new evolution courses at the 3000 level; the first of these is Biology 3467 – Evolution and Reproduction to be taught by Dr. Amanda Moehring.

Another major issue was the discussion of the makeup exam policy in the department. Prior to this year, there had been no policy on content, format, or timing of makeup exams. Furthermore, there was no policy in place necessitating makeup exams. The committee set out to implement a department wide policy guiding these exams. Some faculty members expressed concerns about the possibility of additional workload if they were forced to create a completely different exam for the makeup. These faculty members felt that a long-answer makeup exam would avoid this. Other members of the committee, including the graduate representatives, felt that this may lead to unfair differences in format between the exam and the makeup. Students writing the makeup may be put at a possible advantage or disadvantage depending on their personal exam writing strengths. Ultimately, it was decided that due to individual circumstances in individual courses, a strict department wide policy could not be implemented. The accepted policy is as follows:

- 1) Any student that has been granted accommodation from writing a scheduled mid-term test will be given a reasonable opportunity to write a make-up.
- 2) Instructors will generate make-up midterm tests that are equivalent to the regular mid-term with regards to content and the level of difficulty. Instructors should also endeavour to use the same test format (e.g. multiple choice).
- 3) Students who have been granted accommodation but who are unable to write a make-up midterm will have the marks allocated to the test moved to the final examination. However, their final exam must include content covered on the missed midterm test and therefore their exam would differ from the regular final exam given to other students.
- 4) Varsity athletics will not be permitted to have one of their coaches proctor their mid-term.

Finally, the committee discussed the proposed removal of Biology 2290's literacy component and subsequent replacement by a condensed version of the Organismal Physiology (Biology 2601) labs. Biology 2601 would have its lab component eliminated. Faculty on the committee were generally in agreement with the proposal; the two graduate representatives were not. We felt that the proposed removal of the only major literacy component in the second year would be detrimental to the overall education of undergraduate students. Members of the committee representing the physiology and biochemistry stream expressed concern of at the lack of animal physiology based labs. Some faculty representatives felt that it is not be the department's responsibility to teach writing skills. If a student has issues with writing, they should take advantage of external resources (e.g. the writing center). After discussing the proposal with SOBGS executive committee, the graduate student reps. drafted a letter to Dr. Maxwell and Dr. Macdougall Shackleton expressing our concerns. Dr. Maxwell reiterated the position that the benefit of exposing students to physiology in Biology 2290 outweighs any loss of the writing component. Dr. Macdougall Shackleton assured us that the proposal will not affect the number of TAships available. A decision has yet to be made on this issue.

SOBGS Graduate Education committee report

Haroon Sheikh hsheikh6@uwo.ca

Jordan Epstein jepstei@uwo.ca

AWARDS

- Best Thesis awards went to Erin Fraser (JD Detwiler Award), Liam McGuire (Dr John Arnold Award), and Alex Gerson (Chunfang Hu Award).
- 10 Biology Graduate Travel Awards in support of conference travel during Nov-April, in amounts ranging from \$200-\$500.
- 10 Graduate Thesis Research Awards recommended to the Faculty of Science, in amounts ranging from \$200-\$1500 (all applicants received an award).
- NSERC: MSc 7 awarded (total applications 21); PhD 7 awarded (total applications 20).
- All OGS (MSc and PhD) were ranked and sent forward (final numbers not known as of now).

OTHER BUSINESS

- Biology graduate handbook has been updated and revised.
- The PhD comprehensive exam forms have been updated.

Seminar Committee Report

John O'Leary *olearyj6@gmail.com*

Alana Demko *ademko@uwo.ca*

Julia Matheson *jmatheson@uwo.ca*

Committee Composition:

Chair – Dr. Jim Staples

Faculty – Dr. Zoë Lindo & Dr. Danielle Way

SOBGS Reps – Alana Demko, Julia Matheson & John O'Leary

Graduate Volunteers - Ani Chokroborty Hoque & Jennifer McDonald

Summary:

Since September, our current seminar committee has worked hard to organize our weekly departmental seminar series. As a department, we hosted a variety of speakers from different universities who also met with students and faculty in both one-on-one meetings and in larger groups at lunch and/or dinner.

2013 Visiting Speakers (with graduate student invited speakers italicized):

Chris Hittinger (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Andrew Wilde (UofT)

Doug Currie (ROM/UofT)

Tony Williams (SFU)

Jason Brown, Katrina Laurent & Catherine Martel (UWO PostDocs)

Dave Rollo (McMaster)

Marc Johnson (UT Mississauga)

Charlie Hoffman (Boston College)

Jennifer Baltzer (Wilfrid Laurier University)

Ian Dworkin (Michigan State)

Ben Houlton (UCDavis)

Michael L. Schummer (Long Point Waterfowl)

New Initiatives:

This year, in addition to the 3 SOBGS representatives, there were 2 graduate volunteers. This was helpful as it provided back up for anyone needing coverage for seminar-related tasks. Since the volunteers were previous experienced members, no additional training was required.

As a committee we also drafted new guidelines for the operations of the committee and seminar hosting guidelines to provide clarification and better organization (see attached).

Looking Forward:

The seminar committee will need to examine the results of the survey sent out last month to determine the best time of day for the seminar series in September 2013.

SOBGS Outreach committee report

Aimee Houde *ahoude@uwo.ca*

Ross Breckels *rbreckel@uwo.ca*

Duties

Attended Outreach Committee meetings in October and February

- Discussions on organizing the open houses and updating the Biology website

Represented SOBGS at the fall and spring open houses. List of jobs include:

- Brought visual displays from the Biology Museum
- In charge of student demonstrations
- Involved with student recruitment

Created SOBGS website on new Cascade server. New site includes:

- Frequently asked questions (FAQ) page
- List of publications
- Events page
- Link to Graduate Handbook, SOBGS constitution, Facebook page, and seminar guidelines
- Last SOBGS meeting minutes
- List of representatives

Volunteering at OE3C

- Received Biology Graduate Student pamphlets from Beth and Carol in the main office
- Advertising Biology Graduate Studies sometime during the OE3C May 2-4th.

Social committee report

Kayla Gardil *kgradil@uwo.ca*

Jenna Siu *jsiu29@uwo.ca*

Joy Menghan Wang *jwang526@uwo.ca*

Hosted Events:

We have organized traditional events such as the Halloween and Festivus party, departmental t-shirt sales during first semester and the annual bio ball at the end of the year. We fundraised for bio ball by having raffles and bake sales, which was one of our main ways of fundraising.

New Initiatives:

One new initiative we implemented this year included holiday caroling as a fundraiser. A group of volunteers delivered carols when requested, not just in the biology department, but around campus. We got a lot of positive responses from carolers and those that received carols and raised over \$150 from it.

Another new event we organized was the Biology Coffee House in March. This was a free event at the Grad Club where biology students and faculty signed up to perform musical numbers. This event was very well attended and received a lot of positive feedback.

We also tried to increase departmental participation and attendance to the annual bio ball by having a slide show and awards (recognition and humorous awards) where input and voting was open to all graduate students and faculty. These additions were well received and attendance did increase from last year.

Lastly, we are in the process of making a transition manual for next year's social committee. This should be helpful for future planning in general, but especially for new graduate students who might join the committee. It includes expectations for events, a list of contacts, budgets for events, and feedback and suggestions to improve for future years.

Upcoming Events:

An upcoming event will be the summer BBQ at the end of July/beginning of August at Gibbon's Park.

SOBGS Union Representative report

Chris Austin caustin89@gmail.com

I had four goals for my position, and I want to explain how I have met each of them.

1. Ensure that all TAs in the biology department are represented at the executive meetings.

I attended executive meetings this year and used my voting right when it was my turn to represent the needs of biology TAs. I expressed concerns over low levels of extended health plan (EHP) for half TAs and advocated for parity with full TA EHP amounts.

2. Communication to all TAs in the biology department on union related issues.

I used the stewards network to pass pertinent information to TAs in the biology. I also attended many of the steward hospitality events held for our department.

3. Represent any TA that needs union assistance for any workplace related matter with course supervisors, graduate chairs or administration.

I communicated with TAs that were affected by lump sum and overwork issues in our department.

4. Help see biology TAs through the turbulent times of contract renegotiations.

I was a member of the negotiation committee, as well as the biosciences rep on the bargaining team. I kept TAs informed as much as possible, given bargaining constraints, and helped deliver the completed package through to ratification.

It has been a pleasure serving the members of our society, and I wish continued success to all TAs across the university.

Sincerely,

Chris Austin
SOBGS Union Representative

Research committee representative report

Christina Castellani ccastel3@uwo.ca

Dear SOBGS members,

Here is an update of what has been happening since September 2012. The research representative position is meant to sit in on Research meetings in the Department of Biology and serve as a member of the committee. There have not been any meetings yet this year of that committee so I have not been able to be involved in those activities at this time. Currently, I am working on compiling a list of other grants and awards that may interest students in our department.

Thank you,

Christina Castellani
PhD Candidate
Department of Biology
The University of Western Ontario

SOBGS ad-hoc Constitution and Bylaws committee report

Brian Sutton-Quaid *bsuttonq@uwo.ca*

Aimee Lee Houde *ahoude@uwo.ca*

Maja Milojevic *mmiloje2@uwo.ca*

Timothy Hain *tjhain@uwo.ca*

Matthew Turnbull *mturnbu7@uwo.ca*

SOBGS Elected Representatives voted in the fall of 2012 to form an ad hoc committee dedicated to updating the governance documents of our Society. This group has cumulatively invested over one hundred hours of effort while they took on the task of drafting new governance documents for our Society. The result of their efforts is the draft Constitution which we will all have a chance to vote for at this General Meeting.

The changes proposed by this ad hoc committee are comprehensive and detailed. The new language represents a dramatic improvement over the old rules and will help our Society achieve new levels of professionalism. This will be important as our department continues to grow and new challenges are uncovered.

I hope you will join me in thanking Aimee Lee Houde, Maja Milojevic, Matthew Turnbull, and Tim Hain for their contributions to our Society. I'm sure I speak for all of the members of this committee when I say that we hope you will read the document and also that we hope you will vote to ratify this new language.

Sincerely,

Brian Sutton-Quaid

**Society of Biology Graduate Students
Proxy Form**



Issuer Information

First and last names

Student #

Email address

Alternate Information

First and last names

Student #

Email address

Authorization

Signature of member

Signature of proxy

Appendix 1: Revised Constitution of the SOBGS

Constitution - Society of Biology Graduate Students of the University of Western Ontario

Date: 16 April 2013 5:12pm

1 Name

1.1 The name of this organization shall be "The Society of Biology Graduate Students of the University of Western Ontario" hereinafter referred to as the "Society", colloquially known as the Society of Biology Graduate Students (SOBGS).

2 Purpose

2.1 The purpose of the Society shall be to represent the best interests of Biology graduate students including but not limited to academic excellence, professional development, and social networking.

2.2 The Society shall act as the recognized organization through which the Department of Biology graduate students may leverage their collective will and enrich the graduate student experience.

3 Powers and Jurisdictions

3.1 The jurisdiction and powers assumed by the Society through this Constitution and any amendments thereto arise from self-governing authority and do not require the approval of any authority other than that of the Society itself.

3.2 The governing body of the Society shall consist of members elected by and from the general membership of the Society.

4 Membership

4.1 The requirements for full membership in the Society shall be registration in the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies of the University of Western Ontario as a full-time or part-time graduate student in the Department of Biology.

5 Elected Representatives

5.1 The Society shall be represented by the following Elected Representatives:

5.1.1 A SOBGS Chairperson

5.1.2 A SOBGS Principal Representative to the Society of Graduate Students (SOGS)

5.1.3 SOBGS SOGS Representative(s)

5.1.4 A PSAC Local 00610 Union Steward SOBGS Representative

5.1.5 Graduate Education Committee SOBGS Representative(s)

5.1.6 Seminar Committee SOBGS Representative(s)

5.1.7 Undergraduate Education Committee SOBGS Representative(s)

5.1.8 Research Committee SOBGS Representative(s)

5.1.9 Outreach Committee SOBGS Representative(s)

5.1.10 SOBGS Social Committee Representative(s)

5.2 Duties for these positions are described in Section 12.

6 Meetings

6.1 Decorum

6.1.1 Responsibility for maintaining decorum and preparing the agenda will normally rest with the Chairperson. If the Chairperson is not present then the responsibility will pass to the Principal SOGS Representative.

6.1.2 Society members shall conduct themselves honourably and respectfully at all times.

6.1.3 The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order may be proposed at any time by a Society member and will then be invoked upon being seconded by another Society member, in a manner consistent with the Constitution of the Society.

6.2 General Meetings

6.2.1 General Meetings may be called at an Elected Representatives Meeting (Section 6.3), by any Elected Representative, and the call will succeed if seconded.

6.2.2 The Chairperson shall ensure that a General Meeting of the Society occurs at least once per academic year (September 1 through August 31).

6.2.3 General Meetings will be chaired by the individual responsible for calling the meeting.

6.2.4 Notice of a General Meeting, including an agenda, shall be advertised through the biology graduate student electronic mailing list at least 5 business days in advance of the General Meeting.

6.2.5 All Society members shall be entitled to attend General Meetings. Only Society members shall be entitled to:

6.2.5.1 move, second, and vote on motions

6.2.5.2 assign proxy, as defined in Section 6.2.6

6.2.6 A proxy holder must be a Society member. Any Society member attending a General Meeting may hold a maximum of two proxy votes. A proxy form will be made available to the Society membership at notice of the General Meeting by the meeting chair. The signed proxy must be submitted to the meeting chair at the opening of the meeting, and shall be valid for the period of the meeting.

6.2.6.1 The proxy form will be adapted from the current SOGS General Meeting proxy form.

6.2.7 Quorum for a General Meeting shall consist of 10 percent of the Society membership and will be counted by those in attendance, excluding proxies. The meeting chair will be responsible for determining the number of Society members and calculating quorum.

6.2.8 Motions can be carried by a simple majority vote (greater than 50%), unless stated otherwise, either by secret ballot or show of hands at the discretion of the meeting chair.

6.2.8.1 The meeting chair has no voting rights.

6.2.9 Motions made and carried at a General Meeting shall be binding on the Society.

6.3 Elected Representatives Meetings

6.3.1 Elected Representatives may convene meetings to discuss matters concerning the Society.

6.3.2 Elected Representatives Meetings may be called and chaired only by Elected Representatives.

6.3.2.1 A request for an Elected Representatives Meeting, communicated to the Chairperson from an Elected Representative, will obligate the Chairperson to call a meeting within 4 weeks time.

6.3.2.2 Any other Society member may attend and speak at a meeting, providing that the individual is recognized through a simple majority vote (greater than 50%) of Elected Representatives in attendance.

6.3.3 Quorum for an Elected Representatives Meeting will be half plus one of the Elected Representatives.

6.3.4 Proxy voting will not be permitted for Elected Representatives Meetings.

6.3.5 Resolutions from such meetings must be ratified at a General Meeting before they are considered binding on the Society.

7 Elections

7.1 All Society members are eligible to seek election.

7.2 Elections shall be held on the first Monday following September 20 of each year for all positions, unless stated otherwise.

7.2.1 Elections will be held for Seminar Committee Winter Representative(s) on the first Monday following January 10 of each year (Section 12.7.1).

7.3 Elected Representatives shall take office immediately upon election and fill their position for one (1) year.

7.4 The current Chairperson will act as an election coordinator. If the Chairperson is unavailable (e.g. due to graduation), the current Principal SOGS Representative will act as election coordinator, followed by the most senior Elected Representative as determined by number of terms served. In the event of a tie for seniority, the election coordinator will be determined by draw of lots.

7.5 The election coordinator will begin notifying the Society membership of the election date and call for nominations no later than 10 days before the elections are held. This will include, but not be limited to, the biology graduate student electronic mailing list.

7.6 Nominations for all Elected Representative positions shall be received by the election coordinator. Nominations must be submitted by hardcopy or email, and Society members may nominate themselves.

7.7 Elections shall be conducted by email ballot.

7.8 Votes shall be tallied by the election coordinator. If only a single candidate stands for office, that person shall gain the position by acclamation.

7.9 In the event that an Elected Representative position is vacated prior to 60 days before the regularly scheduled election for that position, the Chairperson shall assume the responsibility of coordinating the election of a new candidate for the position.

8 Conflict of Interest

8.1 No Society member should vote on a question in which he or she has personal or pecuniary interest not common to Society membership. Clarification of this concept can be seen in the SOGS By-Laws.

8.2 The responsibility for revealing conflict of interest lies directly with the Society member concerned.

8.3 Conflict of interest perceived by any Society member concerning any other Society member should be brought to the attention of the Chairperson or Principal SOGS Representative immediately.

8.4 If a Society member with a conflict of interest does not abstain from voting, the Chairperson or Principal SOGS Representative shall follow the complaint process as defined in Section 9.

8.5 A Society member may be barred from membership on a SOBGS subcommittee if they are unable to take part in the business of the SOBGS subcommittee due to conflict of interest frequently occurring.

9 Complaints against an elected representative

9.1 Filing a complaint

9.1.1 Any Society member may file a formal complaint about an Elected Representative.

9.1.2 Complaints about the Chairperson shall be addressed to the Principal SOGS Representative and complaints about any other Elected Representative shall be addressed to the Chairperson.

9.1.3 The person who receives the complaint shall be identified as “the Recipient”, the person submitting the complaint shall be identified as “the Appellant”, and the person who is the subject of the complaint shall be identified as “the Subject”.

9.1.4 Society members may file a formal complaint by sending a letter to the appropriate representative with the reason for their complaint. Reasons for complaint include, but are not limited to, failure to perform duties as described Section 12, actions considered offensive to a Society member, and voting while in a conflict of interest.

9.2 Investigation of the complaint

9.2.1 Upon receiving a formal complaint, the Recipient shall perform the following actions:

9.2.1.1 Within one week, the Recipient shall inform the Subject that a complaint has been lodged against him or her, and that the process of investigation as described in Section 9 has been initiated. The Subject shall be given a reasonable amount of time (no more than one week) to respond to the Recipient and address the problem described in the formal complaint. The Recipient shall immediately inform the Appellant of the response of the Subject, and ask the Appellant if this response is satisfactory.

9.2.1.2 If the Appellant is unsatisfied by the response of the Subject, the Appellant may inform the Recipient of his or her intention to pursue impeachment of the Subject, as described in Section 9.3. At this time, the Appellant must explain why his or her complaint impinges on the ability of the Subject to perform his or her duties as an Elected Representative.

9.3 Impeachment

9.3.1 The Recipient shall inform the Subject that a decision was made to pursue impeachment proceedings.

9.3.2 If the Recipient believes that the complaint may be spurious, he or she may, at his or her discretion, organize an ad-hoc committee comprised of three Elected Representatives, chosen by random draw, to discuss the merits of the complaint against the Subject (within no more than one week). If the complaint is considered merited, the Recipient proceeds with impeachment. If the complaint is considered unmerited, the Recipient shall inform the Appellant of the ad-hoc committee's decision.

9.3.3 The Recipient shall call, organize, and chair a General Meeting within two weeks of the Recipient informing the Subject of the decision to pursue impeachment. The Recipient shall inform the Society membership by the biology graduate student electronic mailing list and describe the nature of the complaint against the Subject, while not using the name of the Subject and being tactful to the nature of the complaint.

9.3.4 The Recipient shall write a motion to impeach the Subject, which will be presented at the General Meeting. This motion will describe the nature of the Appellant's complaint, and only the Subject of the complaint is permitted to be named in the motion.

9.3.5 At the General Meeting, the motion to impeach the Subject shall be read and discussed. A vote by secret ballot shall be taken at the meeting. If two-thirds or greater majority vote for impeachment then the position shall be declared vacant and a by-election shall be declared as described in Section 7.

10 Finance

10.1 The Society shall only use its funds towards the best fulfilment of the purpose of the Society, as described in Section 2.

10.1.1 The Society shall only use its funds in a manner consistent with the purpose for which they were collected or earmarked.

10.1.2 The Society shall use its funds only for events and initiatives which may conceivably benefit all Society members.

10.2 The Chairperson and Principal SOGS representative will administer the finances of the Society, working in collaboration with the Biology Department Graduate Program Assistant.

10.2.1 The Chairperson shall produce a projected budget to be ratified at a General Meeting within three months of their election.

10.3 Expenditures seen as being inconsistent with the purpose of the Society (Section 2) shall be grounds for a complaint as described in Section 9.

11 Amendments to the Constitution

11.1 Proposals for amendments to the Constitution shall be submitted in writing to the Chairperson.

11.2 The Chairperson shall present the proposal at the next Elected Representative Meeting to discuss the merits of the proposal. The person who submitted the proposal shall be invited to speak at this meeting.

11.2.1 If the proposal is considered merited, the Chairperson presents it at the next General Meeting. If the proposal is considered unmerited, the Chairperson

shall inform the person who submitted the proposal of the Elected Representatives' decision.

11.3 Proposals endorsed by the Elected Representatives shall be presented at the next General Meeting. The Society membership shall vote to accept or reject the proposal, such a motion requiring a two-thirds majority vote approval. No amendments to the proposal will be allowed at the General Meeting.

11.4 Proposals that are rejected may not be resubmitted for consideration until they have been edited to address concerns, or until one calendar year has passed.

12 Duties of the Elected Representatives

12.1 SOBGS Chairperson – 1 elected position

12.1.1 Elected through the formal election process of the Society.

12.1.2 Work to improve the biology graduate student experience.

12.1.3 Liaise between biology graduate students and Biology Graduate Chair.

12.1.4 Attend all biology faculty and staff meetings as the official biology graduate student representative.

12.1.5 Call, organize, and chair Society meetings.

12.1.6 Administer the finances of the Society, working in collaboration with the Principal SOGS Representative and the Biology Department Graduate Program Assistant.

12.1.6.1 Prepare a projected budget to be ratified at a General Meeting.

12.1.7 Ensure the Elected Representatives are fulfilling their responsibilities, especially, but not limited to the:

12.1.7.1 Biology Graduate Research Forum,

12.1.7.2 Biology Formal.

12.1.8 Act as a stand-in for the Principal SOGS Representative in the event that the Principal SOGS Representative is unavailable.

12.1.9 Has no voting rights at Elected Representative Meetings except in the case of a tie, where their vote is used as a tie breaker (1 vote).

12.2 Principal SOGS SOBGS Representative – 1 elected position

12.2.1 Elected through the formal election process of the Society.

12.2.2 Attend all monthly SOGS Council Meetings.

12.2.3 Ensure the SOGS Representatives attendance at the monthly SOGS Council Meeting is complete for at least the first hour of each meeting.

12.2.4 Assist in arranging Alternate SOGS Representatives when SOGS Representatives are unable to attend the monthly SOGS Council Meeting.

12.2.5 Communicate SOGS business highlights to the Society membership.

12.2.6 Encourage attendance among all Society members for the SOGS General Meetings.

12.2.7 Act as a stand-in for the Chairperson in the event that the Chairperson is unavailable.

12.2.8 Administer the finances of the Society, working in collaboration with the Chairperson and the Biology Department Graduate Program Assistant.

12.2.9 Has voting rights at SOBGS Elected Representative Meetings (1 vote).

12.3 SOGS SOBGS Representatives

12.3.1 Elected through the formal election process of the Society, *in a number allocated by SOGS*

12.3.2 Attend all monthly SOGS Council Meetings.

12.3.3 Arrange Alternates SOGS Representatives if they are unable to attend the monthly SOGS Council Meeting.

12.3.4 Have voting rights at SOBGS Elected Representative Meetings (1 vote each).

12.4 Alternate SOGS SOBGS Representatives – 2 elected positions

12.4.1 Society members can nominate themselves through the Chairperson or the Principal SOGS Representative.

12.4.2 Shall endeavour to be available for monthly SOGS Council Meetings

12.4.3 Will act as an official Alternate in the event that a SOGS Representative is unavailable for the monthly SOGS Council Meetings.

12.4.4 Have no voting rights at SOBGS Elected Representative Meetings.

12.5 PSAC Local 00610 Union Steward SOBGS Representative – 1 position

12.5.1 From among the PSAC Local 00610 stewards, as allocated to the Society by PSAC Local 00610, one will be selected by those stewards as the principal PSAC Local 00610 steward.

12.5.2 Attend all PSAC Local 00610 steward meetings.

12.5.3 Perform the work of a steward as defined by PSAC Local 00610.

12.5.4 Liaise with the Chairperson when relevant information may need to be presented at faculty meetings.

12.5.5 Communicate PSAC Local 00610 business at Society meetings.

12.5.6 Has voting rights at SOBGS Elected Representative Meetings (1 vote).

12.6 Graduate Education Committee SOBGS Representative

12.6.1 Elected through the formal election process of the Society, *in a number allocated by the Graduate Education Committee.*

12.6.2 From among the Graduate Education Committee SOBGS Representatives, one will be selected by those representatives as the spokesperson at Society meetings.

12.6.3 Attend all Graduate Education Committee meetings

12.6.4 Work towards the goals of the Graduate Education Committee as defined by the committee itself. These duties may include:

12.6.4.1 Selection of biology graduate students for admission,

12.6.4.2 Setting and implementing all biology departmental graduate policy,

12.6.4.3 Organization of the biology graduate curriculum,

12.6.4.4 Organization of qualifying exams,

12.6.4.5 Appointment of members of advisory committees,

12.6.4.6 Arranging for the defense of theses,

12.6.4.7 Ranking of post-graduate scholarship and post-doctoral fellowship applications,

12.6.4.8 Consideration of requests for extensions of biology departmental financial support,

12.6.4.9 Assist the yearly update and publication of the Biology Graduate Student Handbook.

12.6.5 Communicate Graduate Education Committee business at Society meetings.

12.6.6 Have voting rights at SOBGS Elected Representative Meetings (1 vote each).

12.7 Seminar Committee SOBGS Representative

12.7.1 One Fall Representative will be elected in September, with the remaining Winter Representative(s) (*in a number allocated by the Seminar Committee*) elected in January, through the formal election process of the Society (Section 7.2.1).

12.7.2 From among the Seminar Committee SOBGS Representatives, one will be selected by those representatives as the spokesperson at Society meetings.

12.7.3 Attend all Seminar Committee meetings.

12.7.4 Follow the SOBGS Graduate Student Seminar Hosting Guidelines, available on the Biology Department website.

12.7.5 Work towards the goals of the Seminar Committee as defined by the committee itself. These duties may include:

12.7.5.1 Assist in the invitation and reception of speakers for the biology departmental seminar series held weekly during the fall, winter, and spring terms,

12.7.5.2 Facilitate the annual election of a biology graduate student-nominated speaker(s).

12.7.6 Communicate Seminar Committee business at Society meetings.

12.7.7 Have voting rights at SOBGS Elected Representative Meetings (1 vote each).

12.8 Undergraduate Education Committee SOBGS Representative

12.8.1 Elected through the formal election process of the Society, *in a number allocated by the Undergraduate Education Committee*.

12.8.2 From among the Undergraduate Education Committee SOBGS Representatives, one will be selected by those representatives as the spokesperson at Society meetings.

12.8.3 Attend all Undergraduate Education Committee meetings.

12.8.4 Work towards the goals of the Undergraduate Education Committee as defined by the committee itself. These duties may include:

12.8.4.1 Improving the biology undergraduate student academic experience.

12.8.5 Communicate Undergraduate Education Committee business at Society meetings.

12.8.6 Have voting rights at SOBGS Elected Representative Meetings (1 vote each).

12.9 Research Committee SOBGS Representative

12.9.1 Elected through the formal election process of the Society, *in a number allocated by the Research Committee*.

12.9.2 From among the Research Committee SOBGS Representatives, one will be selected by those representatives as the spokesperson at Society meetings.

12.9.3 Produce, update, and expand a list of awards, grants, and scholarships appropriate to each of the streams in the Biology Department.

12.9.4 This may be accomplished by collaborating with students, professors, and staff from among the streams of the Biology Department.

12.9.5 Attend all Research Committee meetings.

12.9.6 Work towards the goals of the Research Committee as defined by the committee itself. These duties may include:

12.9.6.1 Identifying key research areas.

12.8.5 Communicate Research Committee business at Society meetings.

12.8.6 Have voting rights at SOBGS Elected Representative Meetings (1 vote each).

12.10 Outreach Committee SOBGS Representative

12.10.1 Elected through the formal election process of the Society, *in a number allocated by the Outreach Committee.*

12.10.2 From among the Outreach Committee SOBGS Representatives, one will be selected by those representatives as the spokesperson at Society meetings.

12.10.3 Update the SOBGS section of the Biology Department website.

12.10.4 Attend all Outreach committee meetings.

12.10.5 Work towards the goals of the Outreach Committee as defined by the committee itself. These duties may include:

12.10.5.1 Marketing the Biology Department for the purpose of attracting new students,

12.10.5.2 Educating the public on recent research, particularly from within the Biology Department.

12.10.6 Communicate Outreach Committee business at Society meetings.

12.10.7 Have voting rights at SOBGS Elected Representative Meetings (1 vote each).

12.11 SOBGS Social Committee Representatives- 3 elected positions

12.11.1 Elected through the formal election process of SOBGS.

12.11.2 From among the SOBGS Social Committee Representatives, one will be selected by the representatives as the spokesperson at Society meetings.

12.11.3 Attend all Social Committee meetings.

12.11.4 Work towards the goals of the Social Committee as defined by the Society.

These duties include:

12.11.4.1 Organizing major social events,

12.11.4.2 Fundraising for SOBGS events,

12.11.4.3 Advertising the initiatives of the SOBGS Social committee,

12.11.4.4 Ensuring that alcohol is available at Society events while maintaining agreement with all applicable laws.

12.11.5 The Social Committee is empowered to organize and chair voluntary subcommittees towards their goals (no voting rights at SOBGS).

12.11.6 Communicate Social Committee business at Society meetings.

12.11.7 Have voting rights at SOBGS Elected Representative Meetings (1 vote each).