

SOBGS Meeting October 18th

In attendance:

Chair: André Duarte

Principal SOGS: Kate Mathers

SOGS: Leah Hayward and John Ciancio

SOGS Alternate: Susan Anthony

PSAC Steward: Kurtis Turnbull

Grad Education: Nicole Zathey

Undergrad Education: Amanda Maccannell

Seminar: Leanne Grieves and Ariel Frame

Research: Mohamed Gatie

Outreach: Jalina Bielaska Da-Silva

Social: Jackie Lebenzon, Kaitlyn Ludba, and Lauren Witterick

4:34 – Andre starts!

For future meetings, if there is anything we want to say at meetings as committee reps send Andre agenda items by **noon** day before the meeting.

Jackie will be official minute taker, and send that information to Jalina to upload on the website.

Unofficial motion to agree to not use formal parliamentary protocol for meetings!

When should we meet? Start doodle poll timing earlier than 4:30 because nobody is vocalizing dissent to only starting after 4:30 pm.

Let's go to committee reports and introduce ourselves!

4:40 – committee reports start

Kate: Principal SOGS rep and has already run into some problems with SOGS (uhoh!). We have five reps in our constitution, however this year we only have four official rep spots on SOGS. Jess has stepped down from SOGS Rep to Alternate Rep. At some point this year we should probably change our constitution so there is not a fixed number of SOGS reps that need to be elected, or make it so that SOGS reps are elected later in the fall semester when SOGS gets those numbers in.

Kurtis: Does that affect how much money SOGS is giving us for attending meetings?

Kate: Not sure, but will look into it.

Andre: This year we have 161 full time, 21 part time students so the make-up of our student body is a bit different...would make sense why they took away one of our rep positions.

4:43 pm

Kurtis: PSAC representative! There is no transition manual, but he attended steward training last week. He also put out a call for more bio reps... two people responded and are new bio science PSAC reps! If Kurtis happens to not get a TA position this winter, he will have to step down from this role and someone will have to take it but he will continue to update us this semester on PSAC news and the status of his stewardship.

4:44 pm

Andre: Forgot to mention something about SOGS! SOGS constitution changed so that reps have to now stay 1.5 hours at meetings, instead of the 1 hour that is currently written in our constitution.

Kate: Will get that together for our AGM.

4:45 pm

Nicole: Grad Ed Rep! Matheus is not present but he is the other rep. Right now they are ranking NSERC scholarships, and regularly meet with Grad Chair Brent to go over requirements for the graduate programme.

4:46pm

Amanda: Undergrad ed rep! First meeting is a couple weeks and she will update us at the next meeting.

4:46 pm

Ariel: Seminar committee rep of three with Leanne and Sommer (not present). Coordinating posters for weekly seminars, also involved in making us coffee, snacks, and pizza (most important aspects of grad school.. free food!). Also will be involved in nominating graduate student-nominated speakers in the spring.

4:47 pm

Mohammed: Research committee! First year on SOBGS. Other members are Kevin and Adriano (not present). First meeting is scheduled for October 31st. Until then, he will try and update students on awards and scholarship information

4:49 pm

Jalina: Outreach! First meeting is next Monday, will update us at the next meeting. She is running the SOBGS section of the biology website. We should find a time to take a picture for the website. She will also be working with BUGS for fall open house and march break open house.

Andre: Need to contact Vicky so you can be trained on the website.

4:50 pm

Jackie: Social committee! With Lauren and Katilyn. We have been busy already. We updated the facebook page and will now make sure all events are posted. We also created an events calendar with dates for all the events this semester.

Send Ariel slide for Halloween party

Kaitlyn: Owl banding updates. Take people on two diff days, we have a back-up day. November 4th and 7th, back up day November 8th. Going out later in the evening, attract Owls into mist nets, bring owls inside etc.

Lauren: Holiday party details.

4:58 pm

Andre: Dylan and Aaron could not come but they did send their reports.

From Dylan: He is working to get more compost bins. He is also have a meeting to discuss a project that has the hopes of making campus "Bird Safe" regarding taking action to reduce the death of songbirds on campus. If anyone has any concerns regarding composting or any other suggestions, they ca stop Dylan in the hallway!

4:59 pm

Andre: Chairperson!

BGRF was a big success. Compared last year, attendance was awesome. On Thursday night we had ~65 people, and during lunch time we had ~100 people.

Susan: This year we had a lot more posters (unexpectedly large), and it was awesome!

Andre: If anybody has any feedback they can send it to Matheus. We also should do a photo.. next meeting let people know that we will be taking a photo and we can do it either before or after the meeting. Finally, Andre attended his first department meeting. There is a new proposal format for Phd students. This semester they can either use the old or new format (but new one is easier). Second, there is a proposition to reduce TA numbers to match the support given by the faculty. Right now we get 180 full TA-ships from the faculty of science. Right now there are different levels of TA positions (email Andre for details if you want). It is guaranteed that students who need TAship to pay their tuition will still get their spots, but there are

revisions in progress. Problem is that biology is paying for a lot of TA positions for other faculties (e.g. kinesiology students TA-ing first year biology).

Kurtis: This disproportionately affects year X students.

Leanne: And scholarship students who also want to TA on top of their scholarship money.

Andre: Right now we are at level 3 (431 TA spots where the cut off is no TA support for upper year course lecture only, and upper year lab course with <20 students will only have 1 assigned TA.

Mohammed: Did we take more students this year than last?

Andre: Lower enrollment, but they changed the calculation to account for that. Andre will keep an eye on that and keep SOBGS and the rest of the student-body up to date.

Kurtis: What can we do about it if they cut lot of TA spots? Because students who don't TA will no longer be in the union.

Susan: We can voice things. In order to actually do anything we would have to go up to the faculty level.

Jackie: Faculty are on our side, and are trying to adjust the numbers according to what support they get.

Andre: Any other business?

Kurtis: It was a good first meeting!

Leanne: One last thing! Last year's grad student-nominated speaker is giving her seminar tomorrow. Same schedule as normal seminar (pizza lunch included), just going to have tomorrow instead of Friday. There is also a cocktail hour in the evening for anyone who is interested (Contact Robert "Jeff" Martin).

Meeting adjourned! 5:16 pm.