

February SOBGS Meeting Minutes

December 12th, 2013

In attendance:

Aimee Lee Houde
Matthew Turnbull
Toby Thorne
Michael Onley
Jenna Siu
Ani Hoque

Meghan Murphy
Tim Hain
Morag Dick
Emma Hobbs
Julia Matheson

Minutes

2:03 – Meeting called to order

2:03 – Budget presentation by A.L. Houde:

- Received money from SOGS for meeting attendance
- Should be funds left over for next year's SOBGS exec, although Biology Ball costs aren't in yet

2:05 – T. Hain presents SOGS report

- T. Hain acclaimed as new principal SOGS rep after J. Slade steps down
- Travel grant budget increased, but apparently still some complaints from students not getting it
- Motion raised by J. Slade in previous meeting to look into Mustang Express for grad students
(2:06 – E. Hobbs joins meeting)

2:06 – T. Thorne gives grad ed committee report

- Committee met to rank OGS applications
- B. MacDougall-Shackleton available for any specific questions/comments on grad handbook
 - o Aiming for end of April to finish with grad handbook part 2 editing

2:07 – J. Siu presents undergrad ed committee report

- Will be meeting next Wednesday

(2:08 – J. Matheson joins meeting)

2:08 – M. Turnbull gives seminar committee report

- Trying AgCan shuttle again this week
- Two adjunct speakers in April, no lunches for them
- Any questions or comments on changes to seminar, please contact the committee

2:10 – A. Hoque presents research committee report

- Helen Battle award given to faculty to allow focus on research
- Starting an NSERC Create group to allow faculty to share strategies for successful NSERC grant writing

- The faculty of science has hired a dedicated PR rep, they may be visiting the department and will be looking for a prof invested in outreach to act as a designated liason
- Planning Biology Networking Nights to connect current students and researchers with alumni to discuss opportunities
- Most of these initiatives are at the faculty level, but there are opportunities for students to get involved as plans solidify

2:13 – A.L. Houde: R. Harris is our new outreach representative, open house on March 8

2:14 – J. Matheson presents union report

- Scholarships up so please apply, some have been given to sole applicants
- Food bank replenished (+\$3000) until new budget, so please apply
- New app being developed, contact union if interested in testing
- Black TA hoodies now available for \$10, contact union office
- University health insurance refund for international students (\$30) was not being collected, so will now be administered by application instead of default; could be worth \$100 (divided between applicants), so please apply

2:16 – A.L. Houde presents chair report

- Election this Monday for new BGRF chairperson
- At faculty meeting, Dr. Bernards mentioned a plan to address the department external review is being formulated
- Again, contact Dr. MacDougall-Shackleton for any confusion about department regulations
- Half attendance at recent professional development workshop organized by Dr. Sinclair and follow up email demanding more professionalism
 - o T. Hain: how was the work shop advertised? A.L. Houde: by email, with a Doodle poll sign up; good info but too much food ordered, courtesy required if students decide not to attend workshops
 - o A. Houde now sending out reminder email for people to confirm attendance. Also, there is advertising at the seminar.
- Petition now at SOGS office for automatic deduction campaign
- Poster boards: quoted \$2500 for Facilities to build some for us, Dr. Thorn suggested talking to Dentistry; they have several easels but may lack storage in the near future
- Advisable to look into non-poster board options, e.g. buildings where wall posting would be acceptable?
 - o J. Siu: \$2500 may seem like a lot, but given rental costs, it would be worthwhile in less than 3 years
 - o A.L. Houde: about \$1500 of that cost would be labour from Facilities... will be looking into that option alongside alternatives

2:23 – Meeting adjourned