

SOBGS Minutes – 26 March, 2014

- 1) Annual General Meeting planning
 - Aimee to send around Doodle poll to schedule AGM (tentative around April 25th)
 - Earlier in April would be better? Avoid April 9-10, and times when birders leave for the field
 - Will include: a budget report, a financial survey, etc.
 - Each committee to make a one or two report that happened during the year (no real format, could be bullet points)
 - AGM reports to be sent out so committees know what is expected in reports.

- 2) Committee reports- All
 - a. SOGS
 - New “app” for phone to take photo of receipts to submit to health care
 - Money available for child care subsidy
 - Please vote for the post-residency referendum if haven’t already!
 - March meeting to be held tomorrow evening (March 27th)
 - Updates on lawsuit status? Was not discussed at the SOGS meeting.

 - b. PSAC
 - There is a nomination call for officer positions that will end March 31st.
 - Various position available, including the Chief Biological Stewards position. Job requirements: bi-weekly meeting, preparing reports, attending as a SOGS rep., recruiting stewards, training stewards, attending steward solidarity events, handling any TA with issues with the president.
 - Is this position open to only students in Biology department?
 - Contact Julia if interested
 - Scholarship applications due March 31st, ensure that you have schedule a mid-term meeting with course supervisor. This is important to avoid any overwork, any changes to duties or hours is to be mutually agreed upon. Over time hours require a written approval.
 - AGM is March 31st, 530-730 in SEB 1059. Free food and refreshments, come to hear reports on initiatives executives lead to help TAs.

 - c. Graduate Education
 - New applicants for Master’s and PhD’s. A lot of exciting looking new applicants. 26 applicants for travel grants, and 9 available right now. Dr. Beth MacDougall-Shackleton discussing allocating more money towards travel grants to help out more students.
 - Beth agrees the current system of converting international grades needs to be improved; Beth is to discuss this further.

 - d. Undergraduate Education
 - New undergraduate entomology course in the department taught by Dr. Jeremy McNeil (pilot was this year)

- A committee putting together a biodiversity and conservation module for undergrads. This will hopefully be put together for this Fall. Already existing courses to be tied together to create this module, current existing modules to be revamped.

e. Seminar

- Next week is Alistair Simpson. He will be attending the Bio Ball.
- Nominations for next years speakers upcoming. Start thinking and priming supervisors for potential speakers for 2014-2015. Email coming up in the first week of April.

f. Research

- Not present at meeting.

g. Outreach

- Not present at meeting

h. Social

- Biology Ball planning is going well. Everything is on track.
- Trying to wrap up the last fundraiser (50/50 raffle).
- Still waiting to hear back about T-shirts.

i. SOBGS Chair

- Last faculty meeting: Mark discussing chair position. He has not confirmed or denied if he is going to continue as chair. In regards to grad students, he envisions the department producing grads that are job ready. He would like to see an increase in stipend and course offerings.
- Professional development workshops: March 11: Many more people in evening session compared to afternoon, should the afternoon sessions be dropped? Email confirmation sent out days earlier helped to increase attendance.
- CV workshop April 6th, bring CV to workshop.
- Automatic deduction campaign: can sign petition at SOGS office.
- Professional degrees in Science: this program offers a graduate diploma, GDP an 8-month course based program to enhance professional skills. Good for MSc or PhD to build on professional skills.
- Master's of management: 12 month program internship or research project, better for undergrads, that allow them to have professional skills with a fusion with science. (MMASc)
- Kayla to take over BGRF. SOBGS now has poster boards! The boards were previously in Dentistry, but have now been moved to Collip. These boards can be loaned out, and perhaps have a small rental fee to help with maintenance. SOBGS own these poster boards.

3) Other Business

- Meeting before retreat? To discuss what concerns want to be brought up to faculty?