

SOBGS Elected Representative Meeting Agenda

April 27th, 2023

Zoom, 11:30am

Present: Eileen Barac, Kathryn Lamoureux, Carly Charron, Jordan Maglov, Matheus Lima, Amalie Hutchinson, Jordan VanderBurgt, Andrew Beauchamp, Gabriella Sidhu, Rada Tazhitdinova, Thomas Galfano, Kiana Lee, Katarina Laus, Josh Bulfango, Lorena Yeung, Will Yeung

Regrets: Justin To, Abigail Bechard, Kristina Laus, Sophie Killam

Absent: Erin Brownscombe, Samantha Hopkins, Libbi Anparasan

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Chair
 - a) There is a nationwide graduate student and postdoc walkout happening on May 1st to advocate for increasing funding for students. One of the organizing members from neuroscience is curious if anyone on SOBGS is interested in volunteering to help organize. If you want to learn more about the walkout, see supportourscience.ca
 - b) National Truth and Reconciliation Day is to become a non-instructional day. It is on Sept 30th and will be observed on Friday Sept 29th 2023.
 - c) AGM coming up in May.
4. SOGS Committee
 - a) There was a motion to create two part time positions for front office admin and a motion to update funding to modernize the office.
 - b) April meeting is tonight and they will be voting on VPs.
5. Treasurer
6. PSAC Rep
 - a) Quorum was lost at the PSAC meeting before voting on the Pride Committee was possible.
7. Grad Ed Committee
 - a) Evaluated travel awards.
 - b) Trying to introduce an appeal process for if a student has 2 unsatisfactory meetings.
 - c) Considered having an examiner be the chair for first attempt proposals, but decided to not go through with this.
8. Seminar Committee

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- a) Seminars done! Now time to start nominating speakers for next year.
 - b) Currently working out the budget and whether it will be Zoom, hybrid, or in person.
9. Undergrad Ed Committee
- a) Revising language for course policies.
 - b) More people are applying to be in the Honours Specialization program; biology does not have a cap but med sci does.
 - c) Working on finding a way to get everyone into the seminar course.
10. Research Committee
- a) Still working on faculty stories for the alumni newsletter.
11. Outreach Committee
12. Social Committee
- a) Yoga event is this weekend!
 - b) Starting to think about events for the summer, maybe a semiformal event on campus instead of a “bio ball”, because people want an event that is convenient to get to.
 - c) Having another trivia night, with faculty invited.
13. Sustainability Committee
- a) All programs going well as usual.
 - b) The mask and snack wrapper boxes are filling up, and the green bin expanded with a 5th bin.
14. AAFC Rep
- a) Lab techs at AAFC are on strike, students are not really affected yet but they could be if it goes longer since techs handle ordering. They are also not yet picketing but could soon which could affect accessibility to enter AAFC (crossing the picket line).
15. EDI Rep
- a) There is a crisis basket in the women’s washroom on the second floor of BGS currently being run by Sharla Thompson, the average price is high. Organizing a bake sale in collab with Biocafe to raise funds for this.
16. Other Business