

SOBGS Meeting Minutes

1) Committee reports – All

a. SOGS – attendance was lower than 80% for biology reps last meeting; needs to be above this so we meet our budgetary plans

b. PSAC – executive attended training session; bargaining ongoing (please complete union uses survey!)

c. Graduate Education – upcoming changes to applications for new students: standardizing English test requirements, quantitative rubric to assess applicants. Collected responses on grad courses by survey – gaps and required changes identified.

d. Undergraduate Education - upcoming adjustments to courses:

Biol 2290 learning outcomes (will solicit input from upper year TAs re: what skills undergrads are missing?)

4<sup>th</sup> year restoration ecology course: 3h lab is being converted to 3 h tutorial/lab combo

Mini thesis course for 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> year students? Would be valuable option for non-Honours students to do a “directed study”.

e. Seminar – grad-nominated speaker event went well; next time need to sort out reimbursement plans in advance.

f. Research – plan to categorize lab groups by categories (1 major, 3 minor) for research clustering project

g. Outreach – plans for a February BUGS-SOBGS mixer; website has been updated; planned Let’s Talk Science high school tour went well – would consider increasing the number of schools and/or making it an annual event.

h. Social – holiday gift basket winner: Mark Bernards; last bakesale raised \$170 (plan one/month next semester), coffee house coming up in March, and Bioball planning will begin in January for event in April

i. Sustainability – we are generating 13 lb/week of compost (good waste diversion!) and have plans to put signage on office doors to remind people to turn off lights. Proposed pool of shared travel mugs for use in the lunch room.

j. Chairperson – Proposed budget for 2016-2017

Sara: motion to pass budget for presentation at the AGM

Motion passed

2) Other Business – Picture!