

## SOBGS Meeting Minutes

### 1) BGRF Recap: Results of survey, plans for electing next year's chair - Jackie

#### **BGRF Feedback Survey results**

- many people cited schedule conflict/short notice as the reason for not attending
- ~50% of participants thought there wasn't enough time between the notification that they had an oral/poster presentation and the conference
- ~80% of respondents thought the BGRF was worth attending
- attendance was ~30 people
- there was some non-support from faculty (~30%)
- mixed response on the proposed idea of "lab-nominated speakers"

#### **Next steps**

- elect BGRF chair for next year, with a more extensive application process
- get a faculty advisor (maybe David Smith?)
- timeline: call for nominations early December, choose by end of January/early February
- executives asked to think of and recommend someone who would do a good job!

### 2) AAFC Rep: Proposal for new SOBGS position –Mandana & Adam

- Minor revisions to wording suggested for clarity (and flexibility)
- Jantina: motion to bring proposed amendments to SOBGS AGM; seconded by Susan
- Motion passed

### 3) Committee reports – All

- a. SOGS – initial meeting was a "welcome" meeting; upcoming meeting on November 26th
- b. PSAC – union currently in negotiations
- c. Graduate Education – the committee has had recent budget discussions, with direct impact on students
- d. Undergraduate Education – executive has been added to committee mailing list (improvement over last year!)
- e. Seminar – now ordering coffee with BioCafe, with positive reviews. The grad-nominated speaker (hosted by Joel Slade) will have a meet & greet at the MacDougall-Shackeltons' on December 3<sup>rd</sup>
- f. Research – developing a questionnaire for faculty and students to better define the research clusters; will include a technique database (preliminary version complete for AAFC)

g. Outreach - executive trained on the Cascade system, and has updated exec names on the website. Fall preview day went well. Outreach is also involved with promoting "The Messenger" screening.

h. Social – bake sale next week; plans for early December holiday gift basket

i. Sustainability – compost bin and signage are now up! Future plans: better disposal of paper towels in washrooms (have to interface with Facilities Management, union issues). Coordinating household items drive with SOGS, and planning a clothing drive in December.

j. Chairperson – budget coming next meeting; faculty meeting also involved discussing changes to the grad budget. Reminder about involvement in Undergraduate Science Students Council Grad Fair tomorrow.

4) Other Business – none