

SOBGS Elected Representative Meeting Agenda

Nov 29, 2021

Virtual, 10am

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**Present:** Celina Valvano, Liz Copley, Quintin Jarrett, Carly Charron, Abbie Bechard, Kiana Lee, Jordan Maglov, Lamees Mohammad, Stefane Saruhashi, Josh Isaacson, Eileen Barac, Holly Deighton, Amalie Hutchinson, Soren Coulson

**Regrets:** Brad Bork, Simone Miklosi, Katarina Kukolj

**Absent:** Andrew Cook, Emma Churchman, Hossein Asgari, Brynne Duffy

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1. Approval of Agenda
  - a. Approved; no issues
2. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Approved; no issues
3. Chair
  - Dani Way leaving next year to go to ANU in Australia. Department will be seeking replacement
  - recruitment underway for climate change CRC candidate
  - Teaching scholar interview coming at end of November (tomorrow)
  - AAFC: adjunct professors may be restricted in use of funds: cannot use NSERC funds on-site. Timeline for these changes unclear
  - Departmental budget is being sorted out; Alan Shepard promising increased funding in the future
  - Med Sci: proposed revisions to program to mitigate challenges of large future increases in enrollment. Med Sci administrators presented plan to biology faculty. Response to changes was positive, but issue of BSc as a 'second-class' degree still remained, with much discussion on potential solutions to reduce perceived elitism by Med Sci.
4. SOGS Committee
  - Lots of SOGS elections recently
5. Treasurer
  - No updates
6. PSAC Rep
  - Stewards' meeting last week
  - Working from Home fund: fund depleted, so vote approved to re-establish fund
7. Grad Ed Committee
  - Meeting later today; will update at next SOBGS meeting
8. Seminar Committee
  - No updates

## SOBGS Meeting Minutes – Nov. 29, 2021

-Discussion on procedure for grad student-selected speakers; typical timeline to solicit nominations and choose speaker is late in winter term

### 9. Undergrad Ed Committee

-No updates

### 10. Research Committee

-Changing Biology newsletter to monthly basis; will do a 'test run' early next term

### 11. Outreach Committee

N/A

### 12. Social Committee

-Lunchtime holiday party at Grad Club Dec 15-17. Choose timing before people go home for the holidays

-Some issues with accessibility for AAFC students – carpooling may be used to facilitate transportation

-Simone has prepared promo posters

-Should double-check timing with major TA events (e.g. 1<sup>st</sup> year biology exams)

-Check timing with Debb Faulkner (avoid conflict with department's holiday party)

### 13. Sustainability Committee

-Contacted UWO sustainability to re-start Bio's green bin program

-SOGS sustainability committee meeting on Dec 8, meeting with sustainability coordinator to work on initiatives/events

-EnviroWestern's holiday market is happening in UCC this week

### 14. AAFC Rep

-Tight restrictions on working conditions in Ag-Can are still underway – students may be delayed in conducting lab work, meeting progression milestones

-Currently no desk space for students

-Can be brought up in Grad Ed Committee meeting to find solutions

### 15. EDI Reps

-Connected with EDI Action Network on campus

-Working on collaboration with Social Committee – EDI event(s)

-Still sorting out roles/responsibilities for EDI positions

### 16. Other Business

-Reminder: Grad Club Meet-up on Wednesday (the 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:30)

-Committee voted to skip meeting in December as schedule would put meeting time during the holiday