

SOBGS Elected Representative Meeting Agenda

October 25, 2022

Zoom, 12:30pm

Present: Eileen Barac, Andrew Cook, Kathryn Lamoureux, Jordan VanderBurgt, Justin To, Libesha Anparasan, Rada Tazhitdinoa, Jorden Maglov, Samantha Hopkins, Will Yeung, Gabriella Sidhu, Josh Bulfango, Matheus Lima, Erin Brownscombe, Katarina Kukolj, Henrique Cesar, Abbie Bechard, Carly Charron, Amalie Hutchinson

Regrets: Andrew Beauchamp, Kiana Lee, Brynne Duffy, Kristina Laus

Absent: Stefan Grahovac

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Chair
 - a. SOBGS meetings will be once a month, generally sometime in the last week. Meetings are mandatory. If you cannot attend please send your regrets and any committee updates in advance.
 - b. Meetings will on Zoom.
 - c. The purpose of meetings is to share committee updates, receive feedback and suggestions, and engage in discussion.
 - d. My job is to provide support to all committees as needed, organize meetings, and to serve as a liaison between SOBGS and the faculty members in Biology.
 - e. Still have alternate SOGS rep positions available.
 - f. Faculty meeting: discussion around the potential UWOFAs strike. UWOFAs is Western's union for faculty members. 91% of ballots cast voted to strike, but don't know how many ballots were cast. Rest of the time was spent editing faculty performance evaluation guidelines.
4. SOGS Committee
 - a. First council meeting is coming this week.
 - b. Planning to send biograds a council summary email with what is relevant to them.
5. Treasurer
 - a. We might have \$6000-10,000 surplus but currently we don't have access to any budget information. We are trying to sort this out with Debbie and the previous SOBGS treasurer.
 - b. Currently, meeting is set for November 19th with Debbie.

6. PSAC Rep

- a. In the process of transitioning PSAC reps, steward training is hopefully soon.
- b. PSAC Rep is trying to get access to the minutes from PSAC meetings to send to grad students.
- c. PSAC emails are going to junk everytime Western changes their email system, which will be a problem in the next year as the TA collective agreement comes out.

7. Grad Ed Committee

- a. The committee has started evaluating student applications, but haven't met with faculty yet.

8. Seminar Committee

- a. Pushing seminars to be in person but can't bring all speakers that we want in, so some will be solely on Zoom.
- b. Seminar committee met to establish best practices and clarify how they will be run due to miscommunications.
- c. Established that there will always be a hybrid option. This is more convenient especially for AAFC and immunocompromised people.
- d. Trying to reinstate the pizza lunch but need enough people attending to maintain (around 5 students average so far).

9. Undergrad Ed Committee

- a. Had first meeting and discussed field courses and capacity for Bio 2601 since many students need to take it. Potentially will drop the course requirement for some students.

10. Research Committee

11. Outreach Committee

- a. Committee had its first couple meetings and discussed Fall preview day on Nov 20.

12. Social Committee

- a. Most of the committee's time and budget will go towards a holiday party and Bio Ball in April.
- b. Currently don't have the budget information needed.
- c. Committee will be helping with the Holiday Market in November.

13. Sustainability Committee

- a. Two new snack wrapper bins have been added.

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b. Meeting with SOGS sustainability soon to hopefully add more.

14. AAFC Rep

15. EDI Rep

16. Other Business