

**SOBGS Elected Representative Meeting Agenda**

Feb. 22, 2022

Zoom, 2pm

---

**Present:** Celina, Eileen, Andrew, Abbie, Amalie, Hossein, Lamees, Brad, Holly, Jordan, Liz, Katarina, Carly, Quintin, Kiana, Soren

**Regrets:** Josh, Emma, Simone

**Absent:** Stefane, Brynne

---

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Chair
  - a. Progress continuing in departmental recruitment initiatives
  - b. Expect covid updates from the university after 1<sup>st</sup> year undergrads return
  - c. Many faculty members dealing with high rates of accommodations from students for course work. Concerns over abuse of sick accommodations
  - d. Outreach: may have an open house in May, collaboration with BUGS for outreach to high school students
  - e. University is concerned about decreased enrollment, hopefully will avoid over-enrollment as done last year
  - f. Bioblitz proposed by Brendon Samuels. Bioblitz is an initiative to monitor biodiversity on university property using citizen science approaches. Brendon presented to faculty, asking for feedback and support from the department, pilot project to launch from April
4. SOGS Committee
  - a. Resolving pay for executive committee members
  - b. Annual general meeting coming up
5. Treasurer
  - a. Mask recycling program (for Sustainability) approved
  - b. Some fundraising necessary to offset costs of Bio-ball
6. PSAC Rep
  - a. No big updates
  - b. Many grad students living in Bayfield Hall on campus were kicked out by the university
  - c. Elections upcoming in May

## SOBGS Meeting Minutes – Feb. 22, 2022

7. Grad Ed Committee
  - a. Ag-can TA issues: some students travel multiple times a week to main campus for one hour of teaching at a time
  - b. Admissions committee has EDI concerns for recruitment
  - c. Concerns that full time enrolled grad students are not doing full time workload. Ensuring this is out of committee's jurisdiction
  
8. Seminar Committee
  - a. No big updates
  - b. Seminars to stay online for rest of term
  - c. May move back to in-person in future
  - d. One seminar speaker in the Thursday Physiological time slot (Dr. Ngumbi; March 10 at 12:30pm)
  
9. Undergrad Ed Committee
  - a. No updates
  
10. Research Committee
  - a. First biology newsletter hopefully coming in March
  - b. Highlights of recent graduates or publications
  - c. Biology awards deadlines coming up
  
11. Social Committee
  - a. Fundraising: bake sale in mid-March
  - b. Bio-ball: working on possibility of hybrid venue: outdoor/indoor space or rent a tent
  - c. Check vibe for bioball among grad students – formal? Sit-down dinner?
  - d. Previous years: semi-formal with sit-down dinner
  - e. Deciding if theme is necessary, what the theme should be
  
12. Sustainability Committee
  - a. Mask recycling program – sustainability with sustainability programs on campus. Acquire boxes that can hold up to 2000 masks. Requires a volunteer to check if box is full then pass detail to Katarina
  - b. Composting green bin program – planning nearly done. Call for volunteers to be sent out soon
  - c. Sustainable craft event coming soon
  
13. AAFC Rep
  - a. Back to normal operations – reduced limits on lab occupants
  - b. Still restricted from using student office space. Restricted with no wi-fi

## SOBGS Meeting Minutes – Feb. 22, 2022

### 14. EDI Rep

- a. No updates
- b. Making rounds with other committees
- c. Diversity in STEM conference for undergrads: March 12 (weekend-long)

### 15. Other Business

- a. AGM
- b. Grad Club Meet-up in March
- c. Science Rendezvous – done again this year around May 7