

SOBGS Elected Representative Meeting Agenda

March 28

Virtual, 2pm

Present: Quintin, Andrew, Jorden, Eileen, Carly, Celina, Simone, Soren

Regrets: Amalie, Lamees, Hossein, Kiana, Brad

Absent: Emma, Stefane, Brynne, Holly, Liz, Katarina, Abbie, Josh

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Chair

Gradescope demonstration

- Recruitment: negotiation failed with top climate change CRC candidate and there was an issue with pursuing the second candidate. The position will be re-advertised
- covid updates: restrictions to be relaxed after final undergrad exams finish
- Awards: Banting PDF awarded to Dr. Catie Ivy in the Guglielmo Lab; Mark Bernards received a distinguished professor award
- Associate chair for research: both Nusha Keyghobhadi and Dave Smith are applying
- security concerns at the greenhouse – additional security measures may be put in place to reduce access to unauthorized people

4. SOGS Committee

- no updates
- just had AGM

5. Treasurer

- no updates

6. PSAC Rep

- solidarity events happening this week for Medical Biophysics as well as EpiBio TAs if anyone is interested in attending. Bio people welcome too. They are a little drop in where members can ask us anything about the union and we chat about benefits and stuff. Super informal!
- Aside from that, we are really pushing the university because of their decision to convert so many grad student accommodations into first year residences. There have been a few town halls and a lot of emails with Alan Shepherd. Not hearing much back from the university, and we may take to social media soon to raise awareness.
- There seemed to be an issue with how the TA contracts were distributed in the PhysPharm department. Main issue is that a TA was issued multiple contracts to total 140 hours- this is a normal practice except for one thing: typically a single contract is issued that contains multiple duties specification agreements. This helps to ensure that

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the TA is not overloaded with work. One TA in particular had a bad situation with this. If you know of anyone in Bio that has this issue I would like to know!

7. Grad Ed Committee

- a. very difficult to define "full time hours" (what is expected from grad students) and issues with requiring hours in the handbook. Need to instead have a conversation with the student about putting in enough time and being honest at and using committee meetings to make sure students are on track
- b. avoiding bias and EDI considerations in applications: a video module has now been sent to faculty to about watching for bias in assessing grants - the same can be applied for applications (travel, admission, etc). Some faculty are sending these to their own students, let me know if you want to access the module. It was pretty good
- c. link: <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/lms/e/bias/>

8. Seminar Committee

- a. No updates
- b. Hybrid Helen Battle Research Seminar went well
- c. Hopefully next year's seminars will be in person

9. Undergrad Ed Committee

No updates.

friendly reminder that I'm [Brad] going to be asking grad students for some volunteer help in the beginning of May for Science Rendezvous.

10. Research Committee

Assessing departmental awards – 1 application per award

Specific to community outreach, etc.

Thinking of need to promote awards to students to increase number of applications
(Need suggestions)

~~11. Outreach Committee~~

12. Social Committee

Had bake sale – profit: \$110

13. Sustainability Committee

?

14. AAFC Rep

No updates

Restrictions easing further

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Grad student desks opening up

15. EDI Rep

Kyle Doward the horticultural technician in the Biotron is a staff member on an EDI advisory committee for Science. He asked if SOBGS members would complete a survey about EDI at Western. I will send you the link as soon as I get it. Also, Kyle has offered to include SOBGS EDI representatives in current events and plans that his committee is proposing.

16. Other Business