

SOBGS Elected Representative Meeting Minutes

Jan. 24, 2022

Zoom, 11am

Present: Eileen Barac, Carly Charron, Josh Isaacson, Quintin Jarrett, Abbie Bechard, Andrew Cook, Amalie Hutchinson, Emma Churchman, Hossein Asgari, Celina Valvano, Brad Bork, Simone Miklosi, Soren

Regrets: Lamees Mohammad, Jorden Maglov, Katarina Kukolj, Brynne Duffy, Holly Deighton, Liz Copley

Absent: Stefane Saruhashi, Kiana Lee

1. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Approved – no issues
2. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Approved – no issues
3. Chair
 - a. Departmental recruitment:
 - i. contract is currently out with climate change CRC candidate
 - ii. joint position between Geography and Biology: Land Surface and Biosphere Modeling – shortlist prepared, interviews coming
 - iii. advertising synthetic genomics position soon
 - iv. negotiating terms with candidate for Teaching Scholar
 - v. three new position searches planned for 2022 (1 teaching position in genetics to support BMSC expansion; 1 tenure-track to support BMSC expansion; Biotron director)
 - b. Undergrad student petitions are circulating demanding early return to class or hybrid delivery. University unlikely to change course from stated plan. Planning to release FAQ for campus community in response to common concerns
 - c. Passing of Stefani Tichbourne: recently retired professor (worked at Western for ~45 years)
4. SOGS Committee
 - a. No updates
5. Treasurer
 - a. No updates; Sustainability committee proposal approved
6. PSAC Rep
 - a. TA tips sent out to grad students
 - b. Lots of money left for benefits
 - c. UWOFAs contracts to be sent out to new instructors
 - d. PSAC details to be sent out to 4 new grad students starting in January

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- e. New chief steward coming in next school year – Abbie is graduating
- 7. Grad Ed Committee
 - a. No updates; meeting soon
- 8. Seminar Committee
 - a. At the end of term, will be organizing the student-selected speaker for the 2022-2023 academic year
 - b. Seminars will be on Zoom for the remainder of the semester
 - c. One of the departmental seminars (Esther Ngumbi) will be held during Thursday Physiologicals (Mar. 10)
- 9. Undergrad Ed Committee
 - a. No updates; haven't met since last term
 - b. Will be talking about BMSC and BIO 2290
- 10. Research Committee
 - a. Currently working towards a column in the biology newsletter highlighting graduate students. If anyone from SOBGS has a recent publication or knows someone who should be highlighted in the department, send it to the research committee reps (Jordan, Holly, Brynne)
- 11. Outreach Committee
 - a. N/A
- 12. Social Committee
 - a. No updates
- 13. Sustainability Committee
 - a. SOBGS has received an invitation from the Engagement Coordinator @ Sustainability to build a network of sustainability-related clubs and groups on campus. Looking for one more rep. First meeting at 3-4pm on Feb 11 (virtual)
 - b. Sustainability-focused interactive events – still working out if in-person or virtual, location
 - i. Embroidery
 - ii. Watercolour painting
 - c. Collaboration with SOGS sustainability on barn swallow monitoring
 - d. Green bin program resumption – Western's green bin program is currently suspended, so this will require 9 additional volunteers for emptying bins every 1-2 weeks.

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14. AAFC Rep

- a. Additional restrictions on Ag-Can activities as of New Year's
- b. 1 person per lab/room at a time
- c. Moving to shift work organization

15. EDI Rep

- a. No updates

16. Other Business

- a. Interest in hosting past seminar (Peter Burke) speaker to hold an illustration workshop
 - i. Lots of interest from faculty
 - ii. Peter Burke - from London, so travel costs are not a problem
 - iii. Curtis Lubbe hosted similar event last term
- b. SOBGS closet: mugs for sale somewhere?
 - i. Shared closet space with BUGS – ask Arzie