

SOBGS Elected Representative Meeting Agenda

September 20th, 2023

Zoom, 2:30PM

Present: Eileen Barac, Jordan VanderBurgt, Sophie Killam, Justin To, Kristina Laus, Rada Tazhitdinova, Jorden Maglov, Matheus Sanita Lima, Gabriella Sidhu, Amalie Hutchinson, Andrew Beauchamp, Abbie Bechard, Erin Brownscombe, Josh Bulfango, Kiana Lee, Tommy Galfano, Carly Charron

Regrets: Will Yeung

Absent: Lorena Yeung, Liz Copley, Sam Hopkins, Libesha Anparasan, Jessica Sinka, Kathryn Lamoureux, Le Anh Nguyen

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Chair
 - a) No faculty updates as department meeting is tomorrow
 - b) Currently in the process of organizing elections. The number of applicants did not exceed the number of positions for most positions, except for Grad Ed committee so there will be an election on Monday for that position
 - c) There are still some positions available: 1 SOGS rep, 1 treasurer, 2 seminar, 1 outreach, and 1 EDI
4. SOGS Committee
 - a) Electing commissioners
5. Treasurer
6. PSAC Rep
 - a) Emails going to junk again, mark sender as safe
 - b) Updates on bargaining, email came out a bit ago, a lot of it is money focused
7. Grad Ed Committee
 - a) Streams on degrees - 82% grad students are in favour. It will not be optional. Will be voted on at the upcoming department meeting
 - b) Courses for streams being offered needs to be reviewed to address the lack of options. Another survey to biograds about potential new courses will be coming
 - c) Student funding and affordability - The conversion of Bayfield into undergrad residence is paused so it'll probably remain for grads. There is also a need based bursary through SOGS and a new to Canada international student grant

automatically given to international grad students. The minimum funding for domestic phd students is going up and is currently above the minimum that science requires but still not enough, so trying to get it to go up by 4% (current inflation rate).

- d) New unified scholarship procedures for NSERC/OGS. Faculty wants more people to apply for NSERC because the number is dropping
- e) Reminder that your first term as a GTA is probationary

8. Seminar Committee

- a) Seminars start this week. Pushing for mostly in person talks. Not sure how private hybrid requests will be handled
- b) Pizza lunch process is streamlined and no longer need to RSVP
- c) First Uchida lecture is next Friday which is National Truth and Reconciliation Day, so it is too late to cancel. There is a reception before the talk
- d) Seminar will be on Monday during the BGRF week
- e) Only 3 or 4 are over zoom, dedicated to far international speakers

9. Undergrad Ed Committee

- a) Previous TA allocation problem: \$100,000 over budget last year. This fall they had to reduce positions. For second term this won't be as much of a problem. Generally more budget cuts for biology going forward

10. Research Committee

- a) Writing more articles for next Alumni Newsletter

11. Outreach Committee

12. Social Committee

13. Sustainability Committee

- a) Green bin filling up faster than usual

14. AAFC Rep

- a) Grad courses offered but they're cross-listed and which grad students don't like, and when they're offered several times a week it's harder to get to

15. EDI Rep

16. BGRF

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- a) Next meeting tomorrow, all the big stuff is taken care of or is ongoing. Room booking opened monday so that's submitted. Finalizing agenda and the links for abstracts and registration are open

17. Other Business