

7) Committee reports!

a. SOGS – Doyun Ko, Kate Mathers, Sarah McFarlane, Kurtis Turnbull

Nothing to report outside of Morag's last email.

Councillor nomination forms due October 21st

Action item: Doyun Ko to pick up and fill out forms to make sure all SOGS reps are registered with SOGS

b. PSAC – Jackie Lebenzon (in lieu of Tosha Kelly)

Currently, collective bargaining is ongoing.

A reminder from Trish Tully: every TA should sign a union card every year (at the PSAC office, lower floor Sommerville House) in order to retain their voting rights and ability to claim benefits.

We currently have a number of union stewards (with Tosha Kelly as head steward), but there's space for 2 or 3 more if anyone is interested in having a more active role with the union.

c. Graduate Education – Mandana Miri, Jantina Toxopeus

We haven't had a committee meeting since the SOBGS election, but some recent updates include:

Brent Sinclair (grad chair) visiting AgCan (see comments above on suggested new AAFC Rep)

Grad Ed will be soliciting feedback from students and faculty this semester (in the form of a survey) on the graduate programme structure, and how effective the milestones are.

We will continue to rank scholarship applications as they come in (NSERC PhD scholarships are up first).

d. Undergraduate Education – Susan Anthony

Susan met with the outgoing reps (Tosha Kelly, Joel Slade), and has been added to the BUGS mailing list so she can keep up-to-date with them and attend monthly meetings. There are plans to do another grad-undergrad mixer like last year.

e. Seminar – Caryn Dooner, Trish Tully

The seminar speaker schedule is full for the year, including the 2 graduate student-nominated speakers.

The new brand of coffee is going over well.

Discussion: Mandana asked if it would be possible for some seminar speakers to also give their talk at AgCan – these requests should be routed through David Smith (the faculty advisor of the seminar committee).

f. Research – Adam Fatt (C&M), Matheus Lima (E&E), Eric Dusenge (P&B)

The research committee has had 1 meeting this term. Main discussion points:

- revisiting the research clusters
(<https://www.uwo.ca/biology/research/index.html>), which may be done in the form of a survey
- creating an event to promote the research of faculty members

Also suggested (at the SOBGS meeting, not the research committee meeting):

- generating a database of skills/techniques that each lab is proficient in (to