

Society of Biology Graduate Students (SOBGS) Annual General Meeting
5:30 pm, March 3, 2016
BGS 2084

In Attendance:

23 members

Minutes:

5:35 Meeting called to order

5:35 Chairperson Jacqueline Lebenzon request move into constitutional amendments

Moved — S Mcfarlane; Seconded — T Wu

Constitutional Amendments:

5:35 New position: AAFC (Agriculture and Agri-food Canada) Representative — Chairperson J Lebenzon

Rationale:

The Biology Department at Western University extends beyond the boundaries of the Western Campus.

Approximately 25% of the Biology graduate students in any given year are primarily based at the

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) centre, a government research facility located about 8km from

the Western campus. There are currently

from many of the campus-based activities and restricts access to many opportunities that would normally emerge from open dialogue, such as cross collaborative networking. To address these problems, an SOBGS AAFC representative will work to fill the gap and help to provide an avenue for dialogue between the graduate students at the main campus.

An AAFC representative on the SOBGS executive board will also speak for the AAFC Graduate students to the Society and the Biology Department. An SOBGS representative will also liaise with the SOBGS Research Committee Representatives and the department managers to spur cross collaborative efforts and to facilitate better access of the equipment at the AAFC and vice versa. An SOBGS AAFC Representative would facilitate communication between the Graduate students at AAFC and the Society.

The role of the SOBGS AAFC Representative would require leadership and

6:16 Susan Anthony: I will be looking for feedback, and I will make suggested, however, not clear the extent to which our feedback will be considered.

6:17 Trish Tully: Aren't the specializations diluting the meaning of the regular Biology BSc?

6:18 Jacqueline Lebenzon: This is something that has already been decided on by BUEC.

6:18 Seminar Committee Report — C Dooner , A Rayhan, T Tully

- Graduate student lunch has been enthusiastically attended by students and speakers. Pizza is ordered through Great Hall Catering — currently not providing non-dairy, or vegan options.
- Coffee and tea have been well received. Coffee is shared with BioCafe.
- Snacks were not well received initially (Oreos contain palm oil - an ingredient that is unsustainably harvested). Snacks now purchased from Bulk Barn and receiving a better response.
- Nomination of graduate-invited speakers will happen in the spring. Rather than have a small group of students attend dinner with the speaker, a better approach may be having a faculty member offer to host students and the speaker for an after dinner cocktail event.

6:20 S Anthony: How is the attendance at graduate student lunches?

6:21 A Rayhan: Generally good, but changes from speaker to speaker.

6:24 Outreach Committee Report — K Woolfson

- Fall preview day was a success — reused Bio-Booth displays from the BGRF

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