December 12th, 2013

Aimee Lee Houde Matthew Turnbull Toby Thorne Michael Onley Jenna Su Ani Hoque Meghan Murphy
Tim Hain
Morag Dick
Emma Hobbs
Julia Matheson

- 2:03 Meeting called to order
- 2:03 Budget presentation by A.L. Houde:
 - Received money from SOGS for meeting attendance
 - VO

yet

- 2:05 T. Hain presents SOGS report
 - T. Hain acclaimed as new principal SOGS rep after J. Sade steps down
 - Travel grant budget increased, but apparently still some complaints from students not getting it
 - Motion raised by J. Sade in previous meeting to look into Mustang Express for grad students (2:06 E. Hobbs joins meeting)
- 2:06 T. Thorne gives grad ed committee report
 - Committee met to rank OGS applications
 - B. MacDougall-Shackleton available for any specific questions/comments on grad handbook
 - o Aiming for end of April to finish with grad handbook part 2 editing
- 2:07 J Su presents undergrad ed committee report
 - Will be meeting next Wednesday
 - (2:08 J. Matheson joins meeting)
- 2:08 M. Turnbull gives seminar committee report
 - Trying AgCan shuttle again this week

- The faculty of science has hired a dedicated PR rep, they may be visiting the department and will be looking for a prof invested in outreach to act as a designated liason
- Planning Biology Networking Nights to connect current students and researchers with alumni to discuss opportunities
- Most of these initiatives are at the faculty level, but there are opportunities for students to get involved as plans solidify
- 2:13 A.L. Houde: R. Harris is our new outreach representative, open house on March 8
- 2:14 J Matheson presents union report
 - Scholarships up so please apply, some have been given to sole applicants
 - Food bank replenished (+\$3000) until new budget, so please apply
 - New app being developed, contact union if interested in testing
 - Black TA hoodies now available for \$10, contact union office
 - University health insurance refund for international students (\$30) was not being collected, so will now be administered by application instead of default; could be worth \$100 (divided between applicants), so please apply
- 2:16 A.L. Houde presents chair report
 - Bection this Monday for new BGRF chairperson
 - At faculty meeting, Dr. Bernards mentioned a plan to address the department external review is being formulated
 - Again, contact Dr. MacDougall-Shackleton for any confusion about department regulations
 - Half attendance at recent professional development workshop organized by Dr. Sindair and follow up email demanding more professionalism
 - T. Hain: how was the work shop advertised? A.L. Houde: by email, with a Doodle poll sign up; good info but too much food ordered, courtesy required if students decide not to attend workshops
 - A. Houde now sending out reminder email for people to confirm attendance. Also, there is advertising at the seminar.
 - Petition now at SOGS office for automatic deduction campaign
 - Poster boards: quoted \$2500 for Facilities to build some for us, Dr. Thorn suggested talking to Dentistry; they have several easels but may lack storage in the near future
 - Advisable to look into non-poster board options, e.g. buildings where wall posting would be acceptable?
 - o J Su: \$2500 may seem like a lot, but given rental costs, it would be worthwhile in less than 3 years

0

looking into that option alongside alternatives

2:23 Meeting adjourned