

January 28th, 2014

Atiyah Ferouz
Joel Slade
Toby Thorne
Joseph Stinziano
Emma Hobbs
Joanna Konopka
Morag Dick

Magda Konopka
Michael Onley
Aimee Lee Houde
Matthew Turnbull
Aniruddho Chokroborty Hoque
Julia Matheson

4:05 Meeting called to order

- Discussion of departmental external review report
 - o T. Thorne: somewhat pro-grad students, esp. re: stipends could be raised to meet national standards
 - f How to pursue? May wait to see response from administration and bring up through department head if action is not taken
 - o Conversation on perceived faculty difficulties with thesis quality & potential alternative avenues for students
 - o Idea of a yearly meeting between faculty and graduate students, similar to the luncheon for the external review
- Automatic deduction campaign discussion
 - option
 - o Mention that Facebook group has been created for campaign, so will not be conducted through science department mailing lists; interested students may wish to join
 - o Last that was heard, leaders of movement had secured a meeting with university administration to present arguments and discuss options
- A.L. Houde describes the new Masters in Management of Applied Science program
 - o Q: will this detract from resources available for biology students? Esp. considering faculty have voiced concerns about their workloads. A: theoretically not, should be a separate program altogether
 - o First time hearing about this for many representatives
 - o General agreement that the program may not be well realized in its first year, opinions voiced re: requests from employers for this type of education
- A.L. Houde presents budget and BGRF final costs update

- Poster boards remain loss leader: executives encouraged to talk to any acquaintances/friends/relatives in carpentry or engineering to estimate cost of building our own
 - f* Potential to ask department for one-time expense to decrease future costs and therefore their contribution to BGRF
- Some discussion of catering costs and whether food provided could be reduced to save money in future years (often leftovers)
 - f* A: provided by Great Hall based on attendance numbers given, so volume is not set by SOBGS. Could say lower amount of people.
- Some discussion about reducing speaker costs
- There has to be more communication with Hillary and Beth about the BGRF budget
- SOGS report by J. Slade
 - Upcoming referendum regarding post-residency fees
 - Q: Any progress on lawsuit? A: Exec issued a ruling declaring no one could discuss the matter further
- Union report by J. Matheson
 - Food bank fund is out of money, but may receive boost from other PSAC monies
- Graduate education committee report by T. Thorne
 - Will be ranking OGS applications with C. Dieleman
- Seminar committee report by J. Konopka
 - Presentation of recent seminar experience survey: students from AgCan indicate transportation keeps them from attending
 - Currently planning a shuttle to bring students to seminars from AgCan, if there is enough interest and department will contribute to gas money
 - Other small extras like lactose-