

Meeting Agenda

1. Ratification of agenda
2. Budget Report
3. Committee Reports
 - a. Chairperson
 - b. SOGS Representatives
 - c. PSAC Local 610 Union Representative
 - d. Graduate Education Committee
 - e. Undergraduate Education Committee
 - f. Seminar Committee
 - g. Outreach Committee
 - h. Research Committee
 - i. Social Committee
4. New business/ open forum

Budget Report

Actual Spending 2013-2014		
<u>Revenue</u>		
<i>SOBGS</i>		
SOGS	\$954.75	94% attendance
Biology Formal Tickets	\$2,445.00	
Left over funds	\$459.36	As of September 30, 2013.
<i>Fund Raising</i>		
BGRF (donations)	\$1,000.00	
BGRF (Joint Research Fund)	\$500.00	
Biology formal	\$1570.00	
<i>Department Subsidies</i>		
BGRF	\$1,654.62	Meals and refreshments.
Laudenbauch	\$400.00	Travel expenses for the BGRF Speaker
Total Income	\$8,983.73	
<u>Expense</u>		
<i>BGRF</i>		
		\$1,940.70

Proposed Budget 2014-2015

<u>Revenue</u> SOBGS

Committee Reports

Chairperson Report

- 1.

SOGS Representatives Report

Dear Biograds,

The Society of Graduate Students holds council meetings once a month to discuss issues that affect graduate students across campus. By having our councillors attend these meetings, the biology department gets paid a few hundred dollars per semester, and this money is put into

With the end of the semester upon us, this meeting marks one of my last opportunities to remind you that nominations for the Graduate Student Teaching Awards close on April 21. These awards are worth several hundred dollars to the winner, and will be presented at an awards ceremony in May.

website (www.sogs.ca) for further information.

productive summer term.

Sincerely,

Tim Hain (tjhain@uwo.ca, principal SOGS rep)

Morag Dick (mdick23@uwo.ca)

Emma Hobbs (ehobbs3@uwo.ca)

Magda Konopka (mkonopka@uwo.ca)

Meghan Murphy (mmurp5@uwo.ca)

Paul George (pgeorge5@uwo.ca, alternate)

John Loggie (jloggie@uwo.ca, alternate)

Brian Sutton-Quaid (past councillor)

Joel Slade (past councillor)

Table 1. 2013-2014 Attendance figures with sign-in and sign-out times. If the Out time is by the university meant that the biology department was originally allocated fewer councillors than in previous years, but this error was corrected after the January meeting. An administrative accounts for our 94% attendance for the first four meetings.

Date	Name	In	Out
Oct-13	Brian Sullivan-Quaid (alternate)		6:03
end			
Oct-13	Hobbs		
5:03	7:05		
Oct-13	Magda Konopka		
5:03	end		
Oct-13	Joel Slade		
5:03	7:04		
Nov-13			

PSAC Local 610 Union Representative Report

Over the course of the term I was able to contribute to various aspects of the PSAC610 Local, and fulfill goals I set out at the start of my term, including:

1. Increased Steward Representation
This year 26 positions were filled up from 18 last year
Targeted emails to departments and face to face contact
- 2.
3. Orientation Sessions
Led multiple welcome sessions for new TAs to increase PSAC610 awareness and recruit stewards
Academic worker hoodies as prizes to increase visibility on campus
4. Steward Training Sessions
Hosted two science-specific training sessions for new stewards
5. Steward Solidarity Event Guide
Generated a detailed guide regarding steward solidarity event hosting for stewards
Distributed to stewards in biosciences and other chief stewards
6. Green Office Program (GOP)
Enrolled the PSAC 610 office in the GOP and completed a detailed baseline report with Conan (office manager)
100% of executive on board to make PSAC610 more environmentally-friendly and sustainable
7. Communication with Stewards/Members
Emailed distilled key pieces of information to steward network for distribution to members
8. Steward Solidarity Events
Answered any questions regarding event planning
Distributed guide, budget, and members list
Attended events to field questions and meet members

I have received a lot of positive feedback regarding these initiative, and am pleased to see more stewards who are making a strong impact in their department. Suggestions/ improvements for next term include:

1. Increasing steward representation in smaller/less localized departments
2. Working with The Wave to have pre-approved payments for SSEs < 30ppl
3. Keeping all documents/handbooks up-to-date
4. Campaigning for increased TA wages

Thank you so much for allowing me to represent you, as your 2013/14 SOBGS Union Rep, and I would love to hear any feedback you could provide to strengthen this role next term.

Julia Matheson
jmathes6@uwo.ca

Graduate Education Committee Report

The BGEC serves two primary functions within the department. The committee ranks applications for departmental awards, and contributes internal rankings of applications to university wide awards such as NSERC and OGS. In addition, the committee discusses and can bring changes to aspects of graduate education in the department several discussions on this subject are reported below. The committee is led by the graduate chair and includes faculty from across the streams, as well as two student representatives.

Committee Activities, September 2013-Present:

Matters of Biology Graduate Education Policy:

Undergraduate Education Committee Report

This year the BUEC has placed much focus on mapping the curriculum so that courses are complimentary to one another, and aligned with the modules. In order to help achieve this goal, a new module and some new courses are being introduced.

Curriculum Mapping.

Tom Haffie has been working on curriculum mapping to ensure that OCAV degree-level expectations align with Biology Department goals and course outcomes. There are a few issues regarding how the faculty creates course outlines and descriptions that are uniform department wide. One issue specifically is that faculty members and courses are transitory, thus consistency among teaching material and approaches would be beneficial. Other issues involve using the Owl website for curriculum mapping, which makes it difficult to edit and evaluate course level outcomes. Curriculum mapping is an ongoing issue that will need to receive more attention.

New courses and modules

A new undergraduate module has been proposed: Honours Specialization in Biodiversity and Conservation. Currently, work is being done to fit certain courses into the module based on content and scheduling. The module is scheduled to start in September 2015.

A new insect biology (entomology) course taught by Dr. Jeremy McNeil is also being introduced in September 2014. The course will help to highlight the importance of insects in many ecosystems. The course will be a key component of the Biodiversity and Conservation module.

Currently, there are no microbiology courses available for undergraduate students, so an online course has been proposed for next year that Dr. Charlie Trick will teach initially. There is also discussion of creating more courses that focus on aquatic ecology and terrestrial ecology.

First Year Biology requirements

There has been discussion regarding the prerequisites for first year biology. People come from different backgrounds (with or without high-school biology/adult education equivalents). Currently, there is no formal check for prerequisites, and it is up to the academic counselor to decide whether a student without prerequisites will be granted permission to take the class. It is unclear how these situations will be handled going forward. One option is to make requirements more rigid, or conversely, allow the students to take first year biology without the prerequisites while waiving their right to appeal their grades.

Departmental Retreat

The departmental retreat is currently being organized. The purpose of the retreat is to get faculty (and possibly a few graduate and undergraduate representatives) together to discuss and

likely focus on how to get more students interested in biology, particularly evolution and ecology.

Mike Onley (monley@uwo.ca)

Jenna Siu (jsiu29@uwo.ca)

Seminar Committee Report

On January 20th 2014, Seminar Committee distributed a survey to the Department of Biology (through the BioAll mailing list) to gather information about the departmental seminar as perceived by all members. A total of 64 responses were gathered, 75% of which were from graduate students, and 31% of respondents were based off campus (the majority at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada; AAFC). Thirty six percent of respondents attend seminar series regularly, 25% do not attend at all, while the rest attend only seminars relevant to their research or the ones that they find interesting. Attendance to the seminars is affected by the ability to get to main campus for 26 % of respondents, all of them graduate students (Fig.1). The majority of off-campus students indicated that if transportation to main campus was provided, they would be more likely to attend the departmental seminar (Fig. 2). To address this, the seminar committee attempted to run a trial shuttle from AAFC to main campus on Fridays to help with transportation to the se

Lastly, we have received several complaints regarding texting/computing during the seminars. This is embarrassing to the department as a whole and rude to our invited guests. It is important to note that while there is a general encouragement to attend these seminars, they are not mandatory for degree completion therefore, those who plan to text/compute during the seminar should simply not attend. We are aware this behaviour is not limited to graduate students, but it

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Joanna Konopka (jkonopk@uwo.ca)
Matthew Turnbull (mturnbu7@uwo.ca)

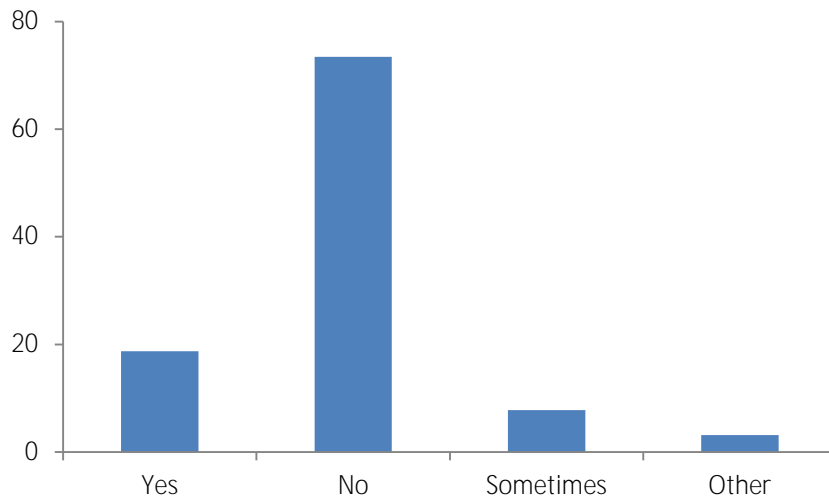


Fig.1. Frequency of response (%) of Biology Department members (n=64) at The University of

Fig.2. Frequency of response (%) of Biology Department members (n=64) at The University of

Outreach Committee Report

1. Attended Outreach Committee meetings in October and February

actively participated in meeting discussions, including ideas for improving Fall Preview Day/March Break Open House, nature walks, and reaching the high school community

developed an idea to reach the high school community

a three day enrichment program where high school students would be able to

participate. n[]p815 11()p8nt progrhoy e(e)4(of da(Da)-)4(d)lo(e)4(a)4(c)4semotr6.82 on Tm

Social Committee Report

Hosted Events:

We organized traditional events such as the Halloween and Festivus party, departmental t-

Upcoming Events:

An upcoming event will be the summer BBQ at the end of July/beginning of August a

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