

CGSS May Meeting Minutes

Date: May 20, 2025

Time: 3:30 pm

Location: D213

Status: Approved

1. Call to Order:

- Present: Will, William, Kritika, Rodella, Jae, Vanessa, Astoria, Emilie, Gurcharan, Evan, Khoushboo, Oscar, Renee, Janice, Zoe, Irene (online), Sydney (online), Reanne (online), Hikaru (online)
- Missing: Veronica

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (April)

- Approved by: Emilie
- Seconded by: Gurcharan

3. Departmental Meeting Report

- no grad matters discussed in the past few meetings
- asked by CDI to make a reminder regarding the blanket making event
- head reminded everyone going to CSC there will be a UBC mixer
- department has won a lot of grants recently: UBC Che won the top 4 NSERC grants
- NSERC RTI: 7 grants awarded to UBC, 5/7 were awarded to PIs in CHEM
- every group has done a silent fire drill discussion already
- safety committee: when PI leaves for conference/other absences -> need to have a substitute PI for safety reasons
- PIs need to advise head office when they cancel classes so students and school are aware
- reinforcing PPE discussion
- Sammi is preparing safety lecture opened to everyone in the department
- grad forum in preparation -> waiting for confirmation on availabilities from head and safety rep
- Jay discussed phone issue during class and ID scanner for exams

4. Meeting with the Chemistry Head Report

- head is away starting June 22nd -> before June 22nd or in July when Laurel is back
- Vanessa will ask Laurel to confirm regarding her availabilities
- department will start strongly advise people to attend LMC
- Shanghai trip: conflicting information from head and Chen regarding what the CGSS needs to do
 - list of names have been confirmed
 - meeting will occur this week
 - Chen/the Shanghai institute want to make this an annual event

5. Grad Forum

- waiting for confirmation for date (early June/July)
- form with questions will be sent once date is confirmed
- Rodella will create a list of questions to get response from grad students on their opinions of the CGSS -> advice/recommendations

- this list of questions will possibly be sent out for grad forum
- CGSS review committee
- motion to create sub-committee: Vanessa
- seconded by: Rodella
- committee members: Rodella, Jae, Zoe, Janice

6. CCIE

- 4 confirmed speakers thanks to Rodella's invitations
- July 7th booked for 12 – 7 pm
- Rodella will be doing a headshot photoshoot from 5 – 6 pm
- career centre might have a background for headshots
- potentially another meeting after June 13th to finalize details before the event
- ordering food -> catering or Costco run?

7. LMC Nomination

- 2 nominations: regular nomination and Merck Award
- vote will still occur on Slack channel
- Merck Award nomination will have to go through the LMC organic committee

8. General Summer Events Discussion

- Bard on the Beach tickets will be purchased for both plays
- most likely will occur in August
- PNE day will occur sometime near end of August
- summer BBQ will possibly be done in collaboration with departmental social committee again
- Will will double check with the committee

9. Social Coordinators Report

- pancake breakfast recap
 - attendance was lower than expected
 - vegan pancakes were much better than last year
 - no CGSS gas stove...each year was brought by council members
 - gas/electric stove might need to be purchased so we don't have to find a council member with stove every year
 - member with stove every year
 - \$1000 unused new initiative so funds are available
 - an email will be drafted to Ken/Nicky regarding outlets/microwaves/other things broken in the grad lounge
- stressbusters
 - Will will be sending out dm's to people on Slack regarding SES and ID copies
 - CCIE liquor license will be submitted by this Friday
 - next stressbuster will occur on June 12th, liquor license already approved, trivia + bake off themed
 - servers available: Will, Vanessa, Gurcharan, Rodella, Zoe, Reanne
 - next stressbuster after trivia will be July 17th for brew off

- brew off might be pushed to August 7th as it takes about 2 months to brew beer
- emails will be sent out regarding brew off soon
- June 12th -> filming crew conflicts?

10. Union Report

- UBC got award for best place to work as teachers
- bargaining: -student workers don't have protections/benefits that staff have
 - demands:
 - increasing training for TAs -> specifically safety, this will be done in collaboration with CTLT
- # of TAs for bigger classes needs to be increased/hours of each TA needs to be increased in proportion to # of students
- waiting for response regarding GTA level (1 vs 2) and pay increase -> no exact increase in workload so why is there a tier system solely based on seniority -> difference in expertise? 2 instead of 5 tiers of TAs?
- access to health resources: same dental benefits as staff gets -> union is strongly pushing on this, however historically university has consistently said no to this
- tuition waivers reimbursements: CHEM gets this but it's part of our stipend, and some other departments don't get this
- ending minimum funding -> TA hours are included in min. stipend for CHEM, but some other departments TA hours are considered extra. Union is pushing for TA hours to be separate
- TA priorities: need to get the same number of hours as you got last year, however department might cut on TA hours so possible decrease in pay
- they want to remove protection on religious holidays -> they are particularly trying to remove this for indigenous holidays
- currently 2 days are allowed for indigenous students
- union is trying to push for no distinction

11. First Year Report

- event will likely happen after CSC
- looking for suggestions

12. Sports Report

- table tennis tournament is done
- softball is starting this week, however continuous increase in GSS league registration -> \$100 increase since last year
- climbing did not respond...so likely won't happen
- go by bike week will occur right after CSC...should promotion happen during CSC?
- Janice will take over for sports rep while Gurcharan is at CSC

13. International Student Report

- potluck went well
- attendance was similar to last year, good number of volunteers

14. GSS Report

-nothing to report

15. Wellness Report

-nothing to report

-something will be planned after CSC

16. Sock War

-ongoing

-2 people have been eliminated

-similar # of people signed up as last year

17. Miscellaneous

-Janice will attend departmental meeting during CSC

-June meeting will likely happen 1st or 2nd week of June

-potential increase in coffeetime funds? Zoe will talk to Sunny tomorrow

Meeting adjourned: 4:41 pm