

PGSC Meeting

July 13, 2021
11:30-12:30
Zoom

Attendees

Breanna McCreary (Co-Pres.; CUPE Steward)
Lauren Qualls (Co-Pres.)
Alejandra Contreras (Sec./Treas.)
Erin Light (Events & Engagement)
Erin Lowey (Events & Engagement)
Chrissy Robillard (Clinical Rep.)
Liz Williams (Acting CaBS, SP, INDV Rep.)
Brooke Lagore (Lifespan Rep.)
Julie Prud'homme (GEC Rep.)
Elysia Desgrosseilliers (Ombuddy)
Maddie Gregory (CPA Rep.)
Tom Ferguson (GSS Rep.)

Absent

X

Call to Order:

Called by Lauren Qualls at 11:33am

Approval of Minutes [Date of last meeting]:

Elysia motions for approval of minutes
Breanna seconds it
Passed by unanimous consent; minutes approved as read

Minutes

Member Updates

Treasurer

- No updates

Social Events and Student Engagement Coordinators

- Send out the request to student buddies
- Six graduate students have responded to be student buddies
- Still looking for 8 more volunteers; Will send a reminder later today
- In the upcoming weeks will send an introductory email to new students introducing them and the PGSC, student buddies, Facebook group, upcoming events, orientation and campus tour.
- Currently working on a quick survey on a summer event for all graduate student (want to collect info about how many students are in town, what kind of activity do they preferred, and location virtual or in person)

- Announcement of the GSS event

Clinical Representative

- Currently going into the accreditations
- New CCT:

CaBS, SP, INDV Representative

- No rep currently
- Looking for a new rep

Lifespan Representative

- New grad advisor started on July 1st

GEC Representative

- Sarah Macoun is the new grad advisor
- New professors are joining the GEC, but there is no meeting plan until September

Ombuddy

- No update

GSS Representative

- No update

CUPE 4163 Representative

- Union recruits for new representative coming in September
- Met with the union to talk about the report
- Union is on board with the report and wants to support the PGSC with the recommendations.
- The union has formally requested the community report

TAC

- No representative yet

CPA Representative (Maddie)

- New faculty member for CPA
- Will contact the new faculty member for CPA

Co-Presidents (Lauren/ Bre)

- Reminder to use teams
- Teams is set up for everyone
- Working with IT to create the small channels
- Community report shared with the chair of the department
- Meeting with chair coming soon; discussion point what to do with the findings

Agenda Item Vision board

Raised by: Lauren

Discussion

1. Initiatives for this upcoming year
2. Create subcommittees to plan the year
3. Identified subcommittees and working members for established committees

Topics for possible initiatives

1. FUNDING

- Discrepancies between department FGS policies
- Funding of current students
- Funding of prospective students
 - i. Provide information about cost of living in Victoria
- helping faculty to understand what students' financial needs are
 - i. The bigger picture (cost of living, rent in Victoria)
 - ii. Get faculty involved in funding advocacy
 - iii. Helping faculty budget for students in grant apps
- Possibility to include a "student budget" breakdown during one of the presentations in the orientation
- Departmental funding for research theses of master's students
 - i. issue: students paying out of pocket for their thesis/course research
- Equity issue: not want to be a program that excludes minorities and low SES applicants because of lack of funding.
- Supervisors providing funding to students only, can create potential issues for students power issues

Notes: The PSGC cannot solve all the funding issues this year.

The PSGC funding subcommittee will narrow down from these issues one actionable items, that can lead to a meaningful change.

2. NOTIFICATIONS OF APPLICATION OPPORTUNITIES

- Improving tri-council apps for example
- Zoom workspaces for application work? Peer review networks
- Encourage the department to include review, coaching, and mentoring systems for graduate students
- Idea: GEC representatives reviewing applications for their stream specifically
- Sharing resources/ requesting training on how to peer review other students' applications

3. EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, INDIGENIZATION

Students' mental health and well-being

Identified issues:

Most students will have concerns with their mental health

Graduate students are not getting the mental health care they need.

Not all students go to the Uvic free resources. Maybe because of other peers do their practicum there?

- Providing students with on- and off-campus mental health resources
- How to increase support for students
- Promoting existing resources e.g. Support Connect resource
- Looking for UVIC data around mental health issues in students

Creating a student mental health and well-being sub-commission

4. CURRICULA CONCERNS

- Statistic knowledge—discrepancies between theoretical knowledge and applied skills.
 - No stats consultant in the summer (when most students do research/ stats analyses)
 - Very few advance courses in stats (CFA, SEM, MLM, meta-analyses)
 - Townhall for new stats prof - input from students re: course offerings
 - Ongoing network of 'how-to' sessions for given stats knowledge
 - Concern of faculty and students not being able to speak the same stat language.
- Course offering broadly (not enough in certain content areas)
- Decolonization of curricula (perhaps follow clinical's format of reviewing syllabi)
- Clearly establishing the learning outcomes for non-clinical programs
 - What are the minimum skills graduates students have at the end of the program?
 - Clearly established learning outcomes for each domain (e.g., what are the specific statistical skills that should be mastered)

Action Item(s)	Member Responsible	Deadline
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• upload the vision board to teams	Breanna	July 14 2021

Notes and Recognitions

Request to like the post on the Teams channel after reading the agenda request even if you do not have agenda items.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned by Lauren at 12:31

Alejandra Contreras

Secretary & Treasurer (*or proxy note-taker*)