

## Minutes for December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 CGSS Meeting in D211

1. Call to order (11:04AM)
  - a. Councillors present: Daniel (left after item 10 at 11:50AM), Benjamin, Hayden, Maria, Kris, Sam, Lily, Drew, Lipiar, Shikha, Henry, Julie (joined during item 3 at 11:06AM)
  - b. Missing: Kevin, Duane
  - c. Other members present: 0
2. Previous meeting minutes for November meeting
  - a. Approved by: Hayden
  - b. Seconded by: Henry
3. Skits
  - a. Went well with no major issues
  - b. Difficulties with alcohol license
    - i. Logistics of submission timelines creates issues with getting license approved
    - ii. This is an ongoing issue with skits as it takes place inside a lecture hall
    - iii. Suggestions include applying for the license at an earlier date
  - c. Trivia: having a game show was a good idea but the placement can be changed. People had mixed opinions about the game as the wifi was not ideal and some people did not want to participate.
    - i. Suggestion: People could maybe enjoy it more if it was more like a game show where not everyone is involved, but rather they come to the front and participate in a series of games
  - d. There were less video submissions than previous years but overall, the videos were well done
  - e. Budget allocation for the event was \$1200 and \$1251.39 was spent in the end
4. First year event
  - a. The first year rep usually organizes 2 events (budget permitting); where one occurs after the majority of students finish CHEM 540, and another one any other time
  - b. Previous years, the events included glow-in-the-dark bowling and pub night at Yale Saloon
  - c. This year, CHEM 540 may take place in April, so an event may occur afterwards
5. Comprehensive exam
  - a. Eight councillors (Daniel, Julie, Lily, Henry, Hayden, Kevin, Kris, Benjamin) will be completing their comprehensive exam in winter 2019
    - i. The completion dates will be distributed between February to May
  - b. Councillors were asked to submit their dates to the acting president to appropriately reallocate responsibilities within council during this time
6. Soco report
  - a. All events went smoothly with no major problems
  - b. Icicle raffle had a low turnout (~25 tickets; with multiple tickets belonging to a single person)

- c. Gingerbread house event had 11 teams sign up and 9 competing for \$200 prize
    - i. Winner: Withers group
  - d. Charity coffee time ran with left over food from skits; donations were low even though attendance was similar to previous coffee times
  - e. There are no soco events in January due to conflict with 2BAB
    - i. 2BAB used to be a collaboration event between UCSS and CGSS but the distribution of work was not ideal and our contributions were not necessary
    - ii. If 2BAB is not occurring in January, then a Stressbusters event might take its place
  - f. Potential introduction of a new event
    - i. CHEM 499 recruitment event – a place where graduate students and undergraduate students can network and interview for different research labs for research positions
      - 1. Potentially wine & cheese style following the faculty presentation
      - 2. UCSS seems lukewarm towards the introduction of the event
      - 3. RSVP system may be implemented to avoid overcrowding of graduate students
7. Wellness Rep
- a. Attended Graduate Student Wellbeing Network (GSWN)
    - i. The network allows reps from various departments to provide support in areas that a rep might need help with and vice-versa
  - b. AMS Impact grant
    - i. The grant looks at administering a long form survey to probe the mental health status of the department and potentially identify key stressors within the departmental/institutional level
    - ii. In planning mode with 6 other departments and a survey is being approved by the ethics board
    - iii. In conversation with Mike Wolf to support this initiative; initial response is positive
  - c. Mental health workshop
    - i. Thoughts in providing educational workshops surrounding mental health in the department was well received among councillors
    - ii. Potentially also providing Mike Wolf with the information of workshops for faculty on how to identify students that may require support
      - 1. The faculty has gone through Equity and Diversity training but maybe not mental health
  - d. Therapy dog events
    - i. Informal proposal of therapy dogs to the departments was brought up and was well received by the councillors
    - ii. EcoVillage will cost \$1500 for a 2 hour event
    - iii. St. John's Ambulance therapy dog is currently being quoted
8. Union Rep

- a. New meetings have been taking place among the union and other department reps
  - b. Bargaining of a new collective agreement will take place soon and the union wants to hear doubts and concerns for potential bargaining points
9. GSI committee
- a. Description of the GSI committee was provided where a group of students meet to identify problems within the department and find solutions to mitigate the problem
    - i. Last year, an endowment for a scholarship was achieved
    - ii. This group holds a responsibility for a grad forum where the department head and graduate head are asked a series of questions that are of concern to students
      - 1. First year reps are encouraged to join as there is a survey and a series of questions surrounding the CHEM 540 course
      - 2. Grand forum may need to be moved to May or June with CHEM 540 will end in April
    - iii. Councillors were in favour of merging the GSI committee with the wellness committee initiatives as they have similar mandates
10. GSS report
- a. A GSS meeting was held on November 15 and the Chemistry rep was present
  - b. Nothing relevant to chemistry was discussed
  - c. The chemistry rep joined the election subcommittee
    - i. The election subcommittee is currently trying to increase voter turn out in the university
  - d. Next GSS meeting will take place in December 13
11. Finances
- a. Spending Update
 

\$3751.05 spent so far this year  
No questions about the spending.  
Brief update about the events that have happened and whether they have been over or under budget.
  - b. Endowment Update
 

This is all set. Mike has approved that he will fund the first time the money is allocated. Once the endowment is made, it takes one year to gain enough interest so that money can be removed. It will be called a prize because it is not academic and cannot be called an award. The timing of the adjudication of the prize is a bit uncertain since it is not an award. Mike would like it to be at the same time as the other awards, but uncertain if the university allows that. Scholarship committee will adjudicate the award.
12. Additional Discussion/Misc.
- a. Jerseys basketball team: \$8 for 10 people and reused \$100 for two teams each semester allocated  
Jerseys owned by CGSS

Vote to putting in a budget for \$100 X2 for sports teams to buy jerseys on first come first serve basis starting Jan 2019; Julie will send the sports budget to Ben

First: maria

Second: ben

Yes:11

No: 0

Abstain: 0

b. Drew is resigning from council so he will write a formal letter.

13. Adjournment

12:04