CGSS Meeting Agenda

**Date:** Tuesday, December 6th, 2022

**Time:** 2:00pm

**Location:** D211

**Approval status:**

1. **Call to Order: 2:06pm**
   * Present (17): Naysilla, Vanessa, Mason, Jesse, Athan, Desiree, Kaitlin, Rama, Joern, Nealan, Song, Jessica, Seja, Sabrina, Trevor, Lucas, Jacqui
   * Missing (1): Andrew
   * Other (0): Not applicable
2. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (November)**
   * Approved by: Sabrina
   * Seconded by: Desiree
3. **Skits Update**
   * Thursday, December 8th
   * Sign-up sheet posted
   * Videos to be sent to Mason (all six videos have been received)
   * Drinks delivery scheduled for today
   * MC will be Jasper Pankratz from the Nichols group
   * Budget is $1200, with about $475.56 spent so far for drinks; a large portion of the remainder will go to food and snacks. There will be vegan and vegetarian options (most of the food will cater to these diets anyway). Cutlery and paper towels will be organized.
   * The liquor licence is for the grad lounge, not B250. Proposed idea is to have CGSS members pick up beverage cans during the intermission to bring back to D211.
4. **Icicle Raffle Update and November Charity Coffee Time**
   * Relatively successful - $55 raised for charities from icicle raffle
   * Three winners
   * $219.35 raised from the Charity Coffee Time
5. **Wreath-Making Event Update**
   * Everything set up for Saturday, December 10th
   * This year it is $35 compared to last year’s $15 (we are subsidizing $25 per person)
   * Not filled, but will still go ahead (open spots still available). Might be worth including in the budget next year (possibly back to $15/person)
6. **Gingerbread Houses Update**
   * Ten groups signed up, and ten kits have been purchased; kits to be handed out at Skits
   * $186 has been used, with the remainder of the $300 budget going to prizes
   * One prize will be awarded; Chem Stores signed up, so they will be ineligible for the prize
   * Contest to be on December 16th in the grad lounge
7. **Trivia Night or First-Year Event in January**
   * Pre-COVID, there was historically a first-year event in the first couple weeks of January
   * $1000 budget for two events
   * Some ideas are escape rooms, laser tag, paintballing, go karting, etc.
   * Regarding Trivia Night, the Social Coordinators might set something up for later winter/early spring. Might be combined with a St. Patrick’s Day event. Budget of $1750.
8. **Meeting Between Profs. Wolf, Mehrkhodavandi, and Graduate Students (Nov 23rd) Discussion**
   * Lucas and Mason sent out a survey to the graduate student body just before this meeting
   * The Head has requested the CGSS compile the data to report to the Department
   * They want the survey data on a much shorter timeframe than is possible or reasonable
   * The survey closes on December 20th and Lucas will compile the data over the holidays
   * A preliminary report has been sent to the Head
   * All the questions were optional
   * Anonymous commentary will be reviewed to ensure anonymity
   * This compiled data report will be sent out to the entire Department by Lucas and Mason
     1. This will be done to hopefully put pressure on the Department and encourage the faculty to recognize the financial situations of the graduate students
   * Some universities (like University of Ottawa) have apparently been successful in raising their RA stipends
   * Timeline to get unionization cards signed is March 1st – after this deadline, people have to resign cards
   * Trevor and Rama are both on the working group committee. Rama will send a memo of information that should be brought up during the committee meetings.
   * The committee meeting minutes can and should be published and made publicly available to the graduate student body – if these are not, Lucas can contact the Union.
   * The faculty meeting in January – Sabrina to discuss in the future with Mason, Lucas, Rama, and Trevor
9. **Social Coordinators Report**
   * Gingerbread and Skits information described above
10. **Union Report**
    * Unionization efforts and meetings discussed above
11. **First Year Report**
    * Discussed above
12. **Sports Report**
    * Vancouver Sun Run in April – a team has been mobilized
    * Plans for sporting events next semester: chess and/or ping pong (possibly)
13. **International Student Report**
    * Plans for an international food night. Currently aiming for a late January event. There is a budget of $400. There is a request for an increase by $100—200.
    * Might be an option to subsidize, but not outright cover food expenses, especially as reimbursements are difficult for homemade dishes
    * Some concerns about food safety – so perhaps a mixology event or film night might be good.
14. **GSS Report**
    * The GSS voted to endorse the CUPE 2278 unionization effort
    * The CGSS is not to be listed with the GSS as an affiliated organization (as we get our funding internally from the Department)
15. **Wellness Report**
    * Next week during invigilation, a casual card-making event with hot chocolate or something might be a nice quiet event. Roughly $100 for craft supplies might be a good budget, and hot chocolate is readily available.
16. **Miscellaneous**
    * Every year, we do thank-you cards during the holidays for some staff members (just a little thank-you acknowledgement)

**Meeting adjourned: 3:00pm**