CGSS Meeting Agenda

**Date:** Wednesday, February 1st, 2023

**Time:** 10:45am

**Location:** D211

**Approval status:** Approved

1. **Call to Order: 10:49am**
   * Present (15): Mason, Jesse, Kaitlin, Jessica, Athan, Seja, Lucas, Jacqui, Nealan, Desiree, Sabrina, Trevor, Andrew\*, Naysilla\*, Vanessa\*, Song (10:55am)
   * Missing (2): Rama, Joern
   * Other (0):
2. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (January)**
   * Approved by: Sabrina
   * Seconded by: Desiree
3. **Candygrams**
   * 66 sold last Thursday, more to be sold this week
   * Will be distributed on Valentine’s Day, with assembly happening on the 13th
   * Bit more advertisement would be ideal to send out this and next week in order to remind people to bring some cash
4. **Trivia Night**
   * Stressbuster-style with trivia focus
   * Probably later in March, as Song and CDI are planning an event for early March. Possibly early April
5. **Faculty Meeting**
   * Presented the report summary of graduate student wellbeing survey that Lucas sent out on Monday. Well-received by faculty.
   * Some questions about mental healthcare being free for undergraduate and graduate students – something to the effect of crises appointments being free.
   * Questions about proportion of graduate students who live on campus
   * Professors plan to pass report on to higher members of the faculty of science
   * There is interest in replicating the survey in the physics department
   * Some ideas:
     1. One potential method for faculty to support graduate students is by walking out of their classes, as graduate students are directly impacted by walking out of their RA duties. Another is to get the media involved to reveal to the public the situation graduate students face – a walk out could be planned, with the media being contacted for coverage. Specific people in charge of these ideas would be ideal. Having a very clear and compelling message is necessary to make this an effective use of time and resources. Regarding reaching out to the media, reaching out to Sabrina may be an efficient way to go about this, as she has a contact.
     2. The CGSS is already very busy, so additional graduate students in the department may need to take this on. CGSS could reach out to other graduate students to get started.
   * Central university funds the faculties, and because science and chemistry in particular are so large, that funding is already stretched very thin. There are so many chemistry graduate students because there are a large number required in order to support and teach the undergraduate body.
     1. Nothing in the central funding exists to directly support graduate students. The funding is for the equipment and facilities, rather than the personnel at UBC. This deviates from many other institutions. There needs to be an initiative to have central fund the graduate student personnel directly, as opposed to just finding the facilities and research.
6. **Social Coordinators Report**
   * See “Candy Grams” and “trivia night” above
7. **Union Report**
   * Grievance from a student. There apparently is a significant workload difference between the Chem 3XX disciplines (i.e., inorganic TAs working more/less than organic TAs)
   * No evidence that they are being asked to work beyond their contract hours at this time
   * Best course of action at this time is to keep track of hours
   * The contract states that we are to work up to 64 hours, so working the full 64 hours is not an issue. Work in excess of 64 hours is not acceptable per the contract.
   * Efforts being made by lab directors to make better use of hours.
8. **First Year Report**
   * Nothing to report.
9. **Sports Report**
   * Few additional applicants for the Sun Run. Will happen in April, but sign-up can still happen. Approximately 15 people.
   * Chess tournament in the making.
10. **International Student Report**
    * Still planning an international-focused (but everyone welcome) multicultural event. In discussions with CDI, but they have been silent recently. A liquor licence needs to be set up before February 3rd as it must be organized at least one month before the planned event (March 3rd).
11. **GSS Report**
    * Nothing to report.
12. **Wellness Report**
    * Next wellness event will be Sock Wars. A subcommittee should be organized. Sock wars to be started in late February.
    * Motion to form a Sock Wars Sub-Committee: Sabrina. Seconded by Desiree.
      1. Members on Committee: Kaitlin, Jessica, Athan, Nealan
    * Kaitlin to begin organizing.
13. **Miscellaneous**
    * Need to reach out to Sabrina Fried to have the posterboards in the grad lounge returned to the basement.
    * IOF, EAOS, IRES, and Chem grad students organizing an event together. A fun get-together for grad students in these departments to get to know people outside their departments. Meeting at Koerner’s at 6pm, on Friday, February 10th. Desiree to send an email out to the department to gauge interest. Potential plans for cards, bingo, etc.

**Meeting adjourned: 11:27am**