

CGSS Meeting Agenda

Date: December 3, 2024

Time: 2:30

Location: A233

Approval status: Approved

1. **Call to Order:**

- Present (17): Lucas, Will, Carina, Janice, Vanessa, Zoë, Sean, Sydney H, Astoria, Yejin (zoom, left early), Seja, Jiayao, Khoushboo, Hikaru, Renee, Emilie, Ariana (zoom)
- Missing (3): Thomas (class), Sydney M, Desiree

2. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (November)**

- Approved by: Lucas
- Seconded by: Seja

3. **Budget Approval**

- Lucas and Athan had a meeting with Laurel on Nov 7 to present the budget
- Vanessa presented the budget to Sunny and had it approved
 - i. Sunny said they will not send us the total amount of money because we have a lot of leftovers from last year
 - ii. We have extra money leftover than we expected because the treasurers didn't have access to WorkDay
 - iii. Vanessa now has access to WorkDay
- Looking into method (i.e google drive) so everyone on CGSS can see and keep track of the budget breakdown
- We were over budget on the Halloween stressbuster
 - i. Should be fine for next stressbusters because Halloween is the most popular

4. **CGSS By-Election Results**

- Carina now elected vice president
- Renee elected as member at large
- Constitution changes to update role of vice president
 - i. Introduce grad student handbook
 - ii. Update the job distribution for running the holiday skits

5. **Departmental Meeting Report**

- Faculty of science budget is fine currently
- More emphasis on chemistry in the news to get government funding
- CGSS helping to promote pizza lunches
- There was a final reminder to faculty to complete student evaluations
- New endowment funding, department was asked to donate money to help fund summer PhD students
 - i. Goal to offer awards valued of 25% of an NSERC award to non-NSERC reward holders
- Mental health survey results are out and available through head office
 - i. 105 student responses, 90% from PhD students and 10% from MSc students
- New ubc chemistry website being developed, the department may hire professional web developer
 - i. There were mixed opinions from the department on the website budget, we will let Laurel know our opinions
- We are getting a faculty of science embedded council

6. **Meeting with the Chemistry Head Report**

- Had a meeting on November 7
- Lucas sent a survey for quotes to help get donations for endowment funds

- i. received 15 responses and had some interviews
- 7. **Graduate Student Community Award Letter**
 - Original idea: large award holders have an option to redistribute other
 - i. But there are some legality issues as endowments have specific criteria of where money goes
 - ii. Solution: large award holders (i.e. NSERC holders) can be contacted directly with the option to donate the money and receive a tax receipt
 - Money would go to the students that were next in line and do not have a major scholarship
 - Funds get used to make a separate award called the “Graduate Student Community Award”
 - iii. Laurel asks CGSS to cosign the award
 - The Grad Student Community Award has received mixed reactions; large award holders may feel pressured to donate their award or nobody would donate
 - Laurel also proposed we raise money for the endowment fund instead of charity
 - i. Concerns that the money some students donate (i.e buy an icicle raffle ticket) can go back to themselves
 - ii. We would need to tell disclose to the department why the money is coming from CGSS instead of other sources
 - The CGSS will later vote on Slack if we endorse these ideas
 - Goal to reduce to financial gap between students
 - i. Another idea is to set up a hardship fund
- 8. **CGSS x CDI Townhall recap**
 - Happened on Dec 2
 - Discussed upper year funding, lack of communication from department, TA issues, students spending money out of pocket, security concerns, etc
 - There will be a summary sent out to the grad students in the next few days
 - CGSS and CDI will do another townhall around the end of next term
- 9. **Holiday skits**
 - There will be a volunteer sheet sent soon
 - Need to decide what food to get (i.e. charcuterie board)
 - We have a liquor license for the event and might charge \$2 per drinks
- 10. **Icicle raffle**
 - 4 winners, icicles have been made with media was coverage
 - We raised \$257
- 11. **Social Coordinators Report**
 - No time for gingerbread house contest
 - i. Will use extra budget for other events
- 12. **Union Report**
 - Going to push TA training grievance with Laurel
 - i. Ask for backpay for people that did the TA training when it was communicated as mandatory
 - Carina wants to clarify TA deadlines with TA supervisors
 - People should contact Seja and/or Sydney M with any issues with the TA contract (i.e. hour allocation)
- 13. **First Year Report**
 - The 1st year skit will be done later this week
 - 6 people total (all first years) attended the pottery event yesterday
 - i. Spent \$156.97 for the pieces and a \$30 deposit

- ii. May get CGSS to cover entire costs instead of charging students and re-budget other events to fit the overall budget (\$1000)

14. **Sports Report**

- The bowling event in early November was successful.
 - i. 16 people attended and the cost to CGSS was about \$300 as expected.
- The climbing event last weekend was a lot of fun
 - i. 15 people attended and the cost was \$100.
- Thomas is looking into ice skating for mid/late January

15. **International Student Report**

- Idea to host international food workshop event
 - i. People volunteer to host stations, and we reimburse them
 - ii. Maybe in collaboration with the potluck (i.e. make it interactive)

16. **GSS Report**

- UBC administrator discussed ideas to make UBC a better research institute
 - i. Proposal to extend 4-year fellowship to 5 years
 - ii. Might cut down on Master degree programs
- Proposal to make humanitarian drive to support people going through hardships (i.e. impacted by international conflicts)
 - i. Aiming for around January
 - ii. CGSS can share the information once its released
- Invitation to join new housing community

17. **Wellness Report**

- Yoga event went well
 - i. Around \$200 spent

18. **Miscellaneous**

- All faculty receive a green folder with resources if students are in distress
 - i. The grad student body should be at least aware of it, can be useful when TAing
 - ii. But TAs should not feel the pressure/responsibility to address students in distress, should be on the TA supervisor

Meeting adjourned: 3:40pm