

BGSS Executive Meeting Agenda

19 July 2023

Members Present:

Brontë Shelton – President

Selina Spence – Vice President

Sophia Kast – Treasurer

Liam Johnson – Senior Student-Faculty Liaison

Diego Yusta Belsham – Junior Student-Faculty Liaison

Item 1: Get out email regarding FoS graduate space plan

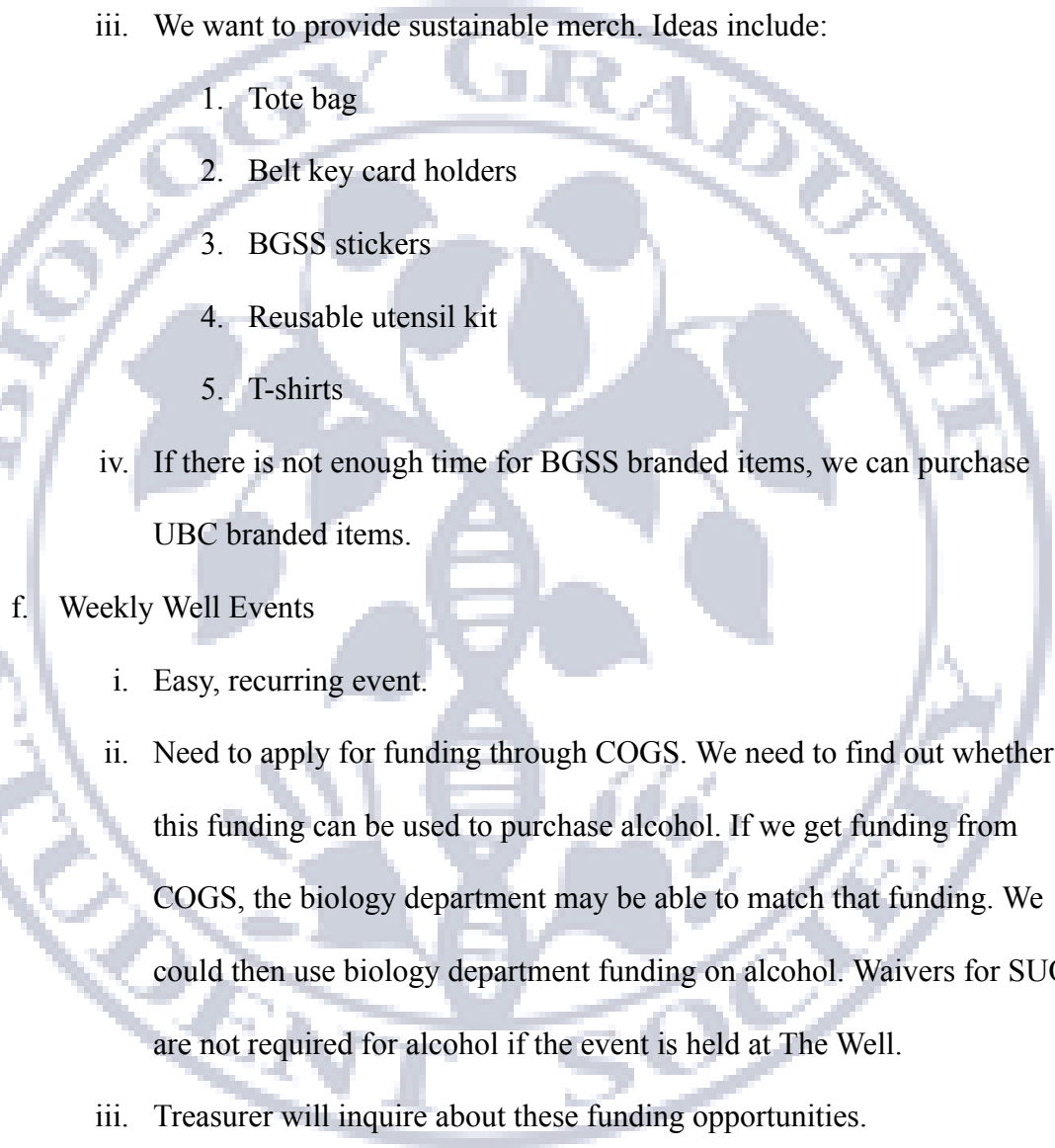
- President met with Graduate Student Committee and informed them about the graduate student hot desk plan. They will see if they can help us with this (i.e., regarding student concerns).
 - GSC and other graduate student societies may need to come together to figure out the desk situation.
 - GSC wants to meet up more often with graduate student societies.
- Graduate students are concerned about these changes and need to know to whom they can raise these concerns.
- We will find a contact in the Faculty of Science to which we can forward concerns.
- Our current plan: Send out an email to BGSS members to inform them of these changes. We will give them the opportunity to raise their concerns to the Faculty of Science before the hot desk system is rolled out.
- New students will not be made aware of these changes to desk space, so it is up to us to inform them.

Item 2: Brontë has been authorized to share portions of department response to union meeting with BGSS members

- a. Brontë will provide update
 - i. President sent department responses to executives for review.
- b. Decide how we want to distribute this information
 - i. We are going to put the responses in our August newsletter. This is important information for biology graduate students to be aware of but is not pressing. The newsletter will also include other important information from the previous department meeting.

Item 3: BGSS specific early fall events

- c. Campus Tour
 - i. We would like to do a campus tour for incoming biology graduate students.
 - ii. Suggested dates are after orientation (August 31st) and before the first day of classes (September 5th).
- d. Orientation Event
 - i. The department wants BGSS to give a presentation at Orientation. We need to set up a meeting with Karen Hodges to discuss our role in Orientation.
 - ii. Depending on what our role will be in the orientation, we may also plan our own separate event for biology graduate students. We would like a separate event for the first week of classes (could be after the campus tour).
- e. BGSS merchandise

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- i. We would like to provide biology graduate students with specific BGSS merchandise.
 - ii. We need to ask Karen Hodges the number of incoming biology graduate students, so we know how much merch to buy.
 - iii. We want to provide sustainable merch. Ideas include:
 - 1. Tote bag
 - 2. Belt key card holders
 - 3. BGSS stickers
 - 4. Reusable utensil kit
 - 5. T-shirts
 - iv. If there is not enough time for BGSS branded items, we can purchase UBC branded items.
- f. Weekly Well Events
- i. Easy, recurring event.
 - ii. Need to apply for funding through COGS. We need to find out whether this funding can be used to purchase alcohol. If we get funding from COGS, the biology department may be able to match that funding. We could then use biology department funding on alcohol. Waivers for SUO are not required for alcohol if the event is held at The Well.
 - iii. Treasurer will inquire about these funding opportunities.
 - iv. President will look into drink tickets and pricing.

Item 4: Update on meetings with Karen from Diego and Liam?

- It should be discussed with Karen Hodges about how we can get a biology graduate student representative on the GSAC.
- Department meeting information:
 - Department is getting rid of SAP forms. Instead, an email will be sent to supervisors about each of their students, where the supervisor will need to clearly lay out where the student's funding is coming (e.g., TAships, scholarships, supervisor grants, etc.) from and how the supervisor will contribute to the funding.
 - Interim department head wants the BGSS to be more involved with the department.
 - They want BGSS to be in charge of choosing a graduate representative for the department head hiring committee. The student's supervisor cannot be on the committee.

Item 5: Newsletter

- Everyone will have their sections of the newsletter done by July 28th, so the information can be compiled on 31st and ready for send out on August 1st.