

## **BOD Meeting March 23, 2017**

### **1) BMSA**

#### Points to address

- BMSA – 4<sup>th</sup> year execs
- Only 2 execs are graduating – half of execs are in 2<sup>nd</sup> year, staying for 5<sup>th</sup> year
- Have transition plan in place
- Future Plan – go under FEDS, get booth for clubs day, apply Sci Soc external funding
- Biomedical Advisors, faculty member support

#### Focus Group

- Did not use Sci Soc fees for focus group event
- Faculty approached BMSA
- Poster welcomes all students
- Want to form peer network
- Under feds, will be doing mentoring and social networking – first year students connect with advisors
- Good trial run to structure event
- Miscommunication to what events to run

#### Additional Comments:

- New club – a lot of guidelines not known
- Communication – did not understand what was expected to do
- BIOL 239 review students, Dupont did not approve

#### Board decision

- Mentor had to take initiative to reach out to BMSA multiple times to plan events for the term
- Expected to differentiate as Biomedical students
- Science Society – career week event held, BUGS – held similar mentor event

#### Overrepresentation of Life Science

- Double vote representative in Biology
- Spending money on same group of students

### **Q&A**

Q: Why do Biomed students feel underrepresented?

- Biomedical students now feel like they have a community
- Give community, get to know each other, as peers

Q: Why do honours science students feel welcome in Biomedical science students?

- Honours science students usually take the same courses and follow the same path as Biomedical students
- Would like to organize review sessions with courses taken only for Biomedical science
- Flexibility of switching from honours science to biomedical science

Q: How did you appeal to students?

- Event turnout for elections – 10 people who ran for 1<sup>st</sup> year rep
- Up and Atom – first years came, positive experience, go through university without coop
- Successful event

Revisit idea: New position on BUGS – that must be biomedical student to represent biomedical student?

- One voice vs exec team
- If you are an exec – will be heard on BUGS association as biomed association

Math Phys vs. Phys – programs have discrepancies

- have physics club and space

BSA shared space with chemistry club

BUGS Execs - Biomedical representation Elections are open to all students

- Advertised in Biomedical Science group
- Advertised during orientation week

Suggestions:

- Geophysics society
- Host many events, have funding from external sources
- Still has strong presence in community

Comments:

- Upper year biomedical students – mandatory courses, mandatory labs
- Stream changes in program
- Important for community
- Even if you are welcome at other clubs, it would be helpful to have students that are going through same path

Plans as Feds Club:

- Want to become a source of contact for different careers – medical, pharmacy, optometry, research
- overarching club
- ie. Want MCAT information, would direct students to pre-med club.
- Will conduct student feedback/ survey- open ended questions, attach minutes

Proposal

- inherit remaining fundstowards starting feds club

- having non-voting seat on board – (learn how board works, open communication)
- representative on BUGS – still in discussion with Board

### **Science Society Exec Platforms**

#### President – Rithika Been Kumary

- **Promoting inclusivity – elections**
- Having coop students running for positions – away for certain terms
- Focus on promoting elections and having a longer nomination period
- Election funds used for campaigning events, to make students more inclined to voting – ie. Townhall event
- **Increasing communication**
- Have polls online based on ideas for running events
- **Promote student involvement – Will hold First Year Mixer with Prof attendance**
- opportunity to meet new students of similar situation, encourage first year students to come to events
- **More interactions between interdepartmental clubs**
- Events –Sci Soc coordinators can also help plan events in interdepartmental clubs

#### VP Internal – Carlene Mangahas

- Increase volunteer opportunities
- Compiling opportunities on single page/website
- Incorporate information on awards + scholarships
- Mental health enhance – provide resources and increase student awareness
- Hosting seminars, provide workshops
- Host events with UW mates, Burst Your Buble
- Open events to all faculties
- Use social media to provide

#### Q: Many emails asking for volunteer opportunities

- Smaller biology department compared to other schools
- High demand for volunteer, not enough professors
- Will always be a limit, not the goal to create student opportunities
- not enough funding from NSERC
- students can branch out from field – ie. Working in geology lab as a biochemistry student

#### VP Internal – Poonam Furmah

- Previous VP internal, has experience in position
- Equity initiatives
- Currently a representative for student appeals
- Hope to handle grievances and appeals

- Organize open panel discussions
- Raise school spirit via merchandise

#### VP of Finance + Admin- Kiana

- Student allocation of funding - students can vote on activities that students are involved in
- Coop students can benefit – pay same amount of money – be able to have the same large scale activities available in fall and winter
- Introduce emergency fund – low sales for tickets, prevent societal debt
- Science related charity, voted by students
- Enforce external funding – support clubs with other science opportunities beneficial to students

#### VP Academic – Mary, Spring term

- Mostly upper years in spring term
- Had to figure out of upper years courses – will need to know what to do after school
- Plan is to get upper years more involved
- Try to host recurrent events, flexible schedule for students
- Calendrer implemented on website – plan ahead to attend events – plan to do assignments before hand

How to cater to students who do not have many upper years?

- many students that take similar science courses
- many people doing research/volunteer opportunities during spring term

#### VP Academic - Monica Chung

- Research opportunities- important to have research experience in grad school + master programs
- Help students get in touch to professors
- Having a science extracurricular open house- oriented towards science students
- Show science students all the things students are able to get involved of – ie. iGEM
- Boost science student extracurricular

#### **Nominations**

Brittani – VP Finance

Vaishnavy- President (Spring + Fall)

Austin- VP Internal (Fall/Winter)

## **Proposal**

- Make VP Internal be more communicative  
(ie. Communication between interdepartmental club, make sure clubs do not host similar events on same day)
- Speaker (Seneca) notes this is already job description of VP Internal as per SciSoc Constitution.

## **Science Society Executives**

***President- Rithika (Spring/Fall/Winter)***

***VP Internal- Carlene (Spring/Winter), Austin (Fall/Winter)***

***VP Financial- Brittani (Spring), Kiana (Fall/Winter)***

***VP Academic – Monica (Fall, Winter), Shirley (Spring)***

## **Elections feedback**

- Campaigning times extension, more time for students to get to know candidates
- Voted already during Feds Election – propose to host elections at the same time as FEDS
- Elections in January – students busy with midterms at current voting phase
- Townhall meeting – not actively searching, information was accessible
- Debates

## **Mental Health Initiatives/Proposal**

- Resource Board dedicated to mental health resources, making resources easily accesible
- Pamphlets should be put in club rooms
- Resources should be posted on club websites
- Grievance options and information on processing VIFs

## **Club Updates**

### **WatRox**

- Clean-up day + Donuts
- Rock climbing event

- EOT – dinner + lip-sync battle
- WatRox Hats

#### SBSA

- EOT – human bingo, engage students – 80 people
- Raffling prizes
- Laptop stickers, drop by SBSA office
- SBAT – speed networking event

#### Phys Club

- Life As a Physicist event
- Board Game night
- EOT – movie night, pizza
- Buttons for graduating students

#### BSA

- DNA Extraction with MNS
- Sushi Night – sold out
- Movie night

#### MNS

- DNA extraction event
- MNS website
- Liquid crystal lab event

#### CHEM

- CHEM club shirts
- Banner
- Mocha Mondays
- Pizza and Paint Party – EOT

#### BMSA

- As Your Upper Years event – engagement from first years
- EOT with BSA – sushi night

#### BUGS

- Wellness Wednesday – cupcake sale, proceeds go to charity
- Wellness Wednesday – meditation
- Games on Tap

#### Science Society

- Wellness Wednesday - Succulent sale, + Christmas pictures – donate to Canadian Mental Health
- EOT – East Side Mario’s, mini games

#### **Google Calender For Interdepartmental Clubs**

- Could be more strictly adhered to
- Would benefit organizing events between interdepartmental clubs and keep all the clubs updated
- Set up sanction
  
- Proposed to set up a separate calendar for students to keep track of events

#### **Moving Date of next Board meeting**

**Meeting Adjourned, Topics tabled for next meeting.**