

Scientist Association at Mac  
**Council Meeting**  
GSA Boardroom  
May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
4:30 pm

## **Minutes**

*Attendance: Taru, Shawn, Charles, Ben, Sara, Michael, Jonathan, Kaian, Isabel, Tyler, Mai*

*Regrets: Josh, Alex*

*Minutes taken by: Mai*

### **1.0 Call to Order; roll call**

### **2.0 Agenda was accepted (4:45 pm)**

### **3.0 Election results**

- 3.1 As of this meeting, new positions will be in effect.
- 3.2 Taru and Shawn will send out a detailed document regarding the expected roles and responsibilities of a Science FRC to Jonathan and Sara
- 3.3 Shawn will stay on SAM council as a Biology representative.

### **4.0 Website update**

- 4.1 Member page needs to be updated. Each member who would like to update their profile picture should send their photo and a short blurb to Ben either via e-mail or Slack.
- 4.2 Science at Mac needs to be updated more frequently. If you know anybody who would be interested in being showcased on SAM's webpage or who is doing interesting research, send some photos and blurb about their research to Ben.
- 4.3 Any changes that need to be made or news that needs to be uploaded on SAM's website, should be directed to Ben

### **5.0 Project updates**

- 5.1 TA Survey (Michael)
  - 5.1.1 So far, responses mostly have come from Biology, Chemistry, and Math & Statistics. We need more responses.
  - 5.1.2 So far, the most apparent issue is over-hour work.
  - 5.1.3 E-mail with a link to the survey should be sent out to each department by the departmental rep.

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- 5.1.4 The results will be discussed with Bruce (acting Dean) around the end of May. The gift card will also be raffled out at the end of May.
- 5.2 Talent Show (Taru, Tyler, Kaian and Shawn)
  - 5.2.1 So far, only one group of performers has shown interest in performing at the talent show. More time is needed to recruit more performers.
  - 5.2.2 Original date of the talent show was scheduled for May 12<sup>th</sup>, which is too soon to recruit enough acts for the show; therefore the talent show has now been pushed to June.
  - 5.2.3 E-mail to recruit performers should be sent out multiple times. Advertisement on Facebook should be done as well.
  - 5.2.4 Tyler can craft an e-mail message to be sent out by each departmental rep.
  - 5.2.5 Location is at 1280. Free food. Cost is ~\$700.
- 5.3 McMaster Open Learning Environment (MOLE); (Mai, Charles, Tyler, Shawn and Taru)
  - 5.3.1 Brandon (programmer) is already working on setting up the website.
  - 5.3.2 We need a treasurer:
    - 5.3.2.1 Taru will look into Biology secretary. If this does not work, Charles will look into somebody in Geography. If this is also not an option, Isabel will contact Math secretary.
  - 5.3.3 Timeline
    - 5.3.3.1 **May:** Setup funding account, letters of support from Alison Sekuller, Doug Welch and Patrick Deane. Collect course information.
    - 5.3.3.2 **June & July:** Set up and have meetings with instructors. Each departmental representative should provide members of the MOLE team with at least one to two courses from their department that they think would be beneficial to the graduate community at the next meeting.
    - 5.3.3.3 **August:** Finalize the list and launch the site

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**6.0 Plans and goals for the next academic year**

6.1 MOLE & Welcome Social events in September 2017

6.1.1 Table at the Welcome resource fair (September 7<sup>th</sup>)

6.1.2 Social: Science Trivia (tentatively at 1280)

6.1.2.1 Each of us come up with science questions related to our own department

6.1.2.2 Projector and screen can be borrowed somewhere. Mic & speaker can be borrowed from CUPE for free.

6.2 Alumni Social

6.2.1 Large scale event in the fall semester (tentatively scheduled for October 2016 during reading week), inviting science grads, alumni (industry) and faculty members

6.2.2 Bruce Milliken is enthusiastic about this idea. Extra funding will most likely be come from the Faculty of Science.

6.2.3 Planning should be done during summer for location, style, etc.

6.2.4 After this large event, smaller event can continue throughout the year.

**7.0 GSA Council Updates (Taru and Shawn)**

7.1 GSA council voted to continue having KPMG as an auditor. University has been using KPMG and has not had any issues.

7.2 Supervisory committee feedback form is being modified to give students more detailed feedback. It should be effective as of September 2016.

7.3 Referendum result is up. Mental health and career services from SGS were both voted down.

7.3.1 Mental health services are cut for graduate students as of May 1<sup>st</sup>. Emergency services are still available.

7.3.2 Career services from SGS will no longer be available as of the end of August 2016.

7.3.2.1 Other services are still offered from Alumni Office, departmental event and SAM (Shawn)

7.3.2.2 We constantly receive info about career related events, etc (Sara)

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**8.0 Finance update (Tyler)**

8.1 Nothing special to be noted. For this month, there are usual bank fee and expenses from the AGM (pizza, pop, water).

**9.0 New Business**

9.1 "Shut-up and Write" for Science graduate students (Isabel)

9.1.1 Similar to thesis writing jail but much more easy-going. The use of internet is allowed. Provide environment for academic writing and after a period of writing, participants can chat about the progress, etc.

9.1.1.1 Probably great for introduction of paper, which is often general  
(Charles)

9.1.2 We can organize this during summer. Isabel can come up with logistics.  
Mai will advertise through e-mails.

9.1.3 We can provide coffee and snack.

**10.0 Meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm**