

PAGSA Executive Meeting

April 8th 2021

Attendance

Present: Mallory Thorp, Robert Gleisinger, Vida Saeedzadeh, Maheyer Shroff, Danika MacDonell, Jess Speedie, Nolan Esplen, Logan Francis, Alex Beaubien

Minutes:

Call to Order

End of term celebration

- To be scheduled for early May
- Brainstorming of ideas - virtual games, trivia night
- Trivia proposed - to be headed by Maheyer who will form committee
 - o Will take place on Zoom - use of randomized teams, break-up rooms
 - o prize ideas - gift card, individualized (decided on by winning team members)

Social Events (ongoing/planned)

- photo contest (Logan)
 - o contest wrapping up - winner to be announced in coming days
 - 9 entries, ~27 votes
 - o Mallory to be informed of winner - MEC gift card will be provided to winning entry
- Virtual chess - possible tournament (Alexandre)
 - o Interest will be gauged via email to grads
 - o Could be a multi-day/regular engagement or a scheduled event

GSS funding updates (Mallory)

- Mallory awaiting announcement of more details (slated for April)

CUPE updated (Mallory)

- AGM was held recently
- Everything that was requested was granted aside from a salary boost
- Under-the-table agreement has been made to ensure pay is on-par with SFU by 2024
 - o Effectively an exponential salary increase until 2024, but pay disparity between masters and PhD students will exist
 - o Amount added each year (Msc & PhD)
 - 2020-2021: \$0.61 & \$1.92 (retroactive to September 1 2020, to be paid out April 30)
 - 2021-2022: \$1.22 & \$3.84
 - 2022-2023: \$1.83 & \$5.76
 - 2023-2024: \$2.44 & \$7.68

Software plumbing (Vida)

- No volunteer instructors have been found who are willing to host a session
- New goal: to have session(s) set up for the Fall so that we can have a clearer plan for activities and expenditure to support spring funding application
- Alexandre volunteered to help in the Fall
- Danika offered to provide 'docker' workshop

Sports (Danika)

- Running and cycling groups will be ongoing
- No other events are planned in light of restrictions and logistical challenges w.r.t COVID

Camping (annual summer activity)

- Postponed indefinitely for time being
- Planning and money transfer required infeasible considering large uncertainty and group sites not currently available
- If situation improves late summer/fall, with opportunities for 'rolling reservations', camping could be revisited

SOAP (Nolan)

- First (virtual) session planned for 'end' of April
- Speakers are Kim Venn and Arthur Blackburn (awaiting schedule confirmation)
- Emails+promotion to go out ASAP once schedule set (est. ~1.5wks)
- Second session requires 1-2 more speakers
 - o Looking for proposals of external adjunct faculty/supervisors
 - o Tentatively scheduled for mid May

Strategic plan draft

- Proposal to send out a statement as PAGSA
- Formed committee would do a read-through together and Mallory would aid in drafting a response statement to department
 - o Goal: make a statement on behalf of students (as an association), in addition to student survey itself

Motion to form committee - Alexandre

Seconded - Jess

- Committee (Jess, Alexandre, Mallory) will meet next week (Monday) to draft a response as a collective

Proposal for anonymous poll regarding grad stipend

- Observation: grad pay is under national average, despite living in one of the most expensive cities in Canada
- Goal: gather data to provide student consensus on the subject and present to department
- Alexandre offered to setup poll (target completion date: April 15th)

Summer term activities (social/sports etc.):

- summarized ongoing sports, chess tournament, end of term trivia
- open forum for brainstorming other summer activities
- Jess proposed outdoor (ocean) swimming
 - o possible group engagement - could integrate into PAGSA sports
 - o For PAGSA to sanction, request made to for due diligence checks of location safety (i.e. water quality)

end of meeting