PAGSA October 2022 exec meeting

Time: October 20th, 12:00
Where: Elliot 038 (Basement meeting room), or on zoom:
https://uvic.zoom.us/j/4045074427

Attending (Exec)
- Alexandre Beaubien
- Simon Smith
- Max Kurzner
- Fletcher Waller
- Scott Wilkinson
- Aydan McKay
- Robert Gleisinger
- Sam Fielder
- Aviv Padawer-Blatt
- Jericho O'Connell
- Charlie Chen

Attending (Other)
- Caleb Miller

Order of the day
1. Call to Order
2. Words from Chair
   a. Mentorship
      i. Coffee Cards - follow-up & reminder
   b. Subscribe to the exec mailing list:
      https://lists.uvic.ca/mailman/listinfo/pagsa-executive
   c. Motion: removing old execs from the Discord & mailing list
3. Tech
   a. Change the execs on the front page + photo update
   b. From previous meetings:

      i. Adding a tech tab
      ii. Fixing errors/inaccuracies (see pinned message on Discord:website-and-tech)
         1. Formatting, updating (names, …), outdated information (e.g. international students, out of province, …)
      iii. Outsourcing work? Gift card?

4. CUPE update
5. GSS update
6. Academic
    a. Software Plumbing: Python, Git/bash (Spencer) - late October, November
    b. SOAP, SPACE
    c. Thoughts: Poster/graphics
7. Social
    a. Photo bingo - Fletcher
    b. PhDnD - Caleb
    c. LGBTQ+ event - Fletcher
      i. Inter-department, grad-undergrad
    d. Halloween costume photo
8. Seasonal events
    a. Halloween
    b. Christmas
      i. Trivia?
9. Sport
    a. Soccer, Biking group, Running Group
    b. Other?
10. Rep. update

Minutes

Taker: Samuel Fielder

Exec In Attendance:
- Alex Beaubien
- Simon Smith
- Samuel Fielder
- Scott Wilkinson
- Aydan McKay
- Max Kurzner
- Fletcher Waller (Online)
- Robert Gleisinger (Online)
- Charlie Chen
- Aviv Padawer-Blatt

12:02 - Call To Order - Mover: Alex Beaubien

12:03 - Words from Chair - Mover: Alex Beaubien

Mentorship Program:
In general, the program has been a big success, with many students continuing their connections with their 'mentees', through the use of the Gift Cards supplied by PAGSA.

- *Suggestion (Samuel Fielder):* To send out emails with reminders about pick up.
- *Response (in general agreement):* Many emails were already sent out about the "Coffee/Tea with Mentees" (latest email supplied on September 27th 2022). **Unused gift cards to be used in the following year, for the continuation of the program.**

Motion 2c: Alex Beaubien, to get authorization, for the removal of ex-EXEC contact information from the appropriate discord channels, as well as the PAGSA-EXEC email list.
Mover: Beaubien - Seconded: Smith - Motion passed with no disagreement.

12:05 - Tech - Mover: Alex Beaubien

Website Refresh: LINK: **http://www.astro.uvic.ca/~pagsa/**

In general agreement with the group, the website needs to be refreshed with updated information, relevant topics, and new information regarding current events that are operated by PAGSA.

- *Suggestion/Comments (Samuel Fielder): The website mainly needs an overhaul in all of it's content. Many main tabs contain events that are no longer running, as well as upcoming events are still posted that date back to late 2018. Understatement in the lack of website information during the pandemic is noted, however as a main source of information for incoming students to the department, more priority needs to be put into making sure that the information is relevant for the upcoming school year.*
- *Response (in general agreement):* A small group shall be put together to:
    - 1. Get information regarding how the website works, steps that need to be taken to update the information, accessing the platform needed to make changes the website, and general navigation on such topic. **This shall be done by organizing a meeting (see below).**
    - 2. Decide on the relevant information that PAGSA needs to provide to their students (site breakdown, important information, etc).
    - 3. Timeline and delegation of work towards updating the website.

Informal Motion: To set up a meeting time in the next two (2) weeks, with the previous maintainers of the website to navigate the above numbered points. Simon Smith to lead the group in the appropriate discord channel, with Scott Wilkinson, Sam Fielder, Fletcher Waller to join. Simon Smith to contact Jess Speedie and Robert Gleisinger for the bulleted points above.

12:17 - CUPE Update - Mover: Robert Gleisinger

CUPE has their AGM, later this month, along with the building of the bargaining committee to push the wants/needs of the respective Component.

- Suggestion (Samuel Fielder): To distribute the information, given in the CUPE intro talk to the graduate students, in September, via email to the graduate students. Things of an important nature should be distributed via email, as they guarantee to at least be acknowledged or read by the population it concerns.
- Response (Robert Gleisinger): To distribute the information.

Information Motion: Robert Gleisinger to distribute relevant information to the graduate students, whether it be a write up or slide-show not shown in the September meeting.

12:25 - GSS Update - Mover: Samuel Fielder

GSS AGM is coming up next Tuesday (October 25th 2022). Agenda has already been distributed to all graduate students university-wide.

Two GSS events are running in October, see relevant email for information.

- *Suggestion (in general agreement):* To post updated information in the Discord channel about upcoming events related to the GSS.
- *Response (Samuel Fielder):* Will acknowledge all emails relating to events, and cross-post in the Discord channel, to reach a hopefully larger audience, as well as promotion for events relating to the GSS.

12:28 - Academic - Mover: Alex Beaubien

Software Plumbing Workshop:
In general agreement, the workshop should start to be organized and schedules be finalized in order to get the information out for the sessions.

- Comments (in general agreement): Who is leading?
- Response (Scott Wilkinson): Scott was unsure about who was leading the charge on the workshop, as the workshop was planned before the change in Exec leadership in September. Scott (see below) will take the lead on the workshop going forward.

Speakers have been confirmed on their respective talks: Spencer (Git/Bash), and Alex Beaubien (Python).

Information Motion: Scott Wilkinson to take initiative on the Software Plumbing Workshop in its entirety, including but not limited to:
- **Contacting Speakers to confirm potential dates,**
- **Organize Room bookings,**
- **Delegating the circulation of information to the appropriate invitees.**

Max Kurzner to help find speakers for the new year, Simon Smith to help Scott in any way necessary.

Poster/Graphics:
Topic primarily brought up by Alex Beaubien to gauge information on whether a poster/graphics push should be started by PAGSA. General agreement in the room for

having this be an idea to look into. Discussions revolved around past-experience with this poster/graphics idea. General agreement to include an email/discord/website post, on regular intervals, on posters/graphics made by any student in the department, graduate or undergraduate.

Information Motion: For an individual to reach out to Nolan, to get information on templates and graphic design instructions. Individual has not decided, but Simon Smith (for reference) has found the email necessary to contact Nolan (see #exec-chat in discord).

Tabled for next Meeting: Individual to take charge of this initiative, if the initiative is wanted to be picked up by PAGSA.

SOAP:
SOAP is a drive to mimic the PHASERS "Meet the Professor" nights. An event to be able to get professors to come talk (informally) about their academic path, life path, and or topic of their choice, that is less academic in nature. Goal of the series is to make connections with professors at an informal level. Ideas circulated about making this a funded event, with food/coffee, potentially a late-day/evening event.

There seems to be much interest by Scott Wilkinson in this series, and has offered to put in some time into getting this series off the ground.

Information Motion: For an individual to take the starting steps in getting this series put together.

Tabled: Individual to take charge of this initiative.

SPACE:
SPACE is a series promoting semi-formal talks on quirky science-related topics of interest. Many individuals present seem interested in giving talks. Scott Wilkinson is willing to put work in getting this series off the ground.

Information Motion: For an individual to take the starting steps in getting this series put together.

Tabled: Individual to take charge of this initiative.

12:45 Social - Mover: Fletcher Waller

<u>Photo Bingo:</u>
Fletcher Waller has already put a tremendous amount of work into developing the idea, putting together a working system, and getting points of interest together for this event. The idea of these events is to be fun, open, and accessible for anyone to participate.

- Suggestion (Samuel Fielder): To perhaps do a trial run during the months of November and December to iron out any potential problems, before setting up the first round in January.
- Response (in general agreement): Good Idea!

Information Motion: Fletcher Waller would like information regarding the potential distribution of Bingo cards to the participants, perhaps distribution through the PAGSA website.

<u>Queer Specific Events:</u>
Mission statement:
- Provide community for queer students and allies through fun social gatherings and outings,
- Increase visibility of queer folks and their perspectives in academia,
- Discuss news or issues relevant to being queer in STEM,
- Connect graduate and undergraduate communities.

Suggested Events:
- Coffee/Tea Hangouts
- Craft Nights
- Outings for Events in Victoria (and greater area)
- Movie/Documentary Nights

- *Suggestion (Simon Smith and Alex Beaubien):* Departmental funding could be available for these types of events, as well as outside funding.
- *Response (Fletcher Waller):* Would be willing to take a look into these channels. Google survey to gauge interest would also not be a bad idea.

Informal Motion: Fletcher Waller would like input from PAGSA Exec on the best way to include other groups, and how to get word out for events.

13:13 Seasonal Events - Mover: Alex Beaubien

<u>Halloween Photo:</u>

In general agreement, Monday October 31st 2022, is the best day to take a picture as a group.

Informal Motion: For PAGSA Exec, by word of mouth and discord, to promote wearing costumes on the aforementioned day, in order to have a successful picture be taken.

Christmas Events - Trivia:
After a successful trivia event last year, in general agreement, PAGSA would love to run this event again this year.

Information Motion: Simon Smith to take lead on gathering trivia questions. Scott Wilkinson to take lead on hosting, if needed.

Tabled: Confirmation on dates and times for general availability, to be decided by individuals who would like to take the lead to plan this event.

Christmas Events - Others:

Tabled: Discussion around Secret Santa and a Christmas Supper, need to be further planned and discussed.

13:20 - Sports Update - Mover: Max Kurzner

No major updates, sports teams in progress are doing great. Look on discord for organization into specific items, separated by the sports channels.

Tabled: Discussion revolving around getting a Skiing Trip planned. Max Kurzner to contact Spencer regarding information.

13:27: Meeting Adjourned by Alex Beaubien