

SIGMAS Meeting Minutes
Friday, January 15, 2016, 14:30
Grad House

President: Amanda Malloch
Vice President: Jane Wodlinger
Treasurer: Laura Teshima
Secretary: Joseph Horan
GSS Representative: Joseph Horan
CUPE 4163 Representative: Jane Wodlinger
Math and Stats Department Representative: Amanda Malloch
Tea Chancellor/Poet Laureate: Joseph Horan
Webmaster: Joseph Horan
Peacekeeper (Acting or Otherwise): Vacant
Safety Captain: Vacant
Communications Scrabble Acronym: Jane Wodlinger and Laura Teshima

Present at the time the meeting convened (roughly 14:40), in rough order of appearance: Amanda Malloch, Laura Teshima, Joseph Horan, Mark Piraino, Jane Wodlinger, Dina Buric, Seth Chart.

Regrets: Yin Song, Charlie Watson, Joanna Niezen, probably more.

As per usual for our meetings nowadays, there is no agenda. It is noted that we don't have quorum, because we don't have eight members present (although we have the entire executive). Joseph decides to not take notes, and ten minutes later realizes that this was a terrible idea, and starts taking notes anyway. There will be no voting going on at this meeting, however; sorry, Amanda. Drinks are ordered; it turns out that Mark is okay with a particular non-IPA, so ordering pitchers isn't hard. Joseph gets a 'Rosemary Lime', a Sips Soda-brand carbonated beverage (he didn't know it existed before January 14th); it's brought out by a different server, to prevent the mishap from last meeting. We have a bunch of money budgeted for this event, so we also decide to order food: nachos, yam fries, and pita and veggies with hummus.

Discussion starts off with Joseph mentioning that he's planning an event! Shock and awe; SIGMAS is going bowling out in Sidney, then going for dinner somewhere, likely back in Victoria. Some logistics are discussed. This will be the first non-meeting social event that SIGMAS has officially held in a year and a half (the last one was the Photo Scavenger Hunt, in July 2014); Joseph's comment in the sign-up e-mail was "I know, I know; get your jaw off the floor and keep reading."

Laura gives a treasury report. We have a bunch of money, and we made a good amount of money during Fall Exam Sales; we made more in Fall 2015 than we did in Fall 2014 by a couple hundred dollars. Spring Exam Sales are usually less profitable, and Summer Exam Sales are mostly done as a courtesy to the students as opposed to an effort to actually make money; have to please the clientele [it seems as though Joseph has never explicitly spelled that word before; it is spelled correctly, he assures you]. [We forgot to mention the Department Christmas Party; that seemed to be a more popular thing for grad students this past year, and we partially subsidized ticket costs again. It probably helped that we tried to give people notice, and encourage people to go.]

Some miscellaneous discussion takes place; in particular, Jane gives a CUPE update, regarding both stuff pertaining to the union in general, and to Math and Stats TAs specifically. During the ensuing discussion, Jane sees a squirrel! Some of us tried to see it too, and couldn't. It is wondered what that could've been about.

It is brought up that Tuesday Tea has been really sparse thus far this term. It seems like many people have been scheduling events during Tea-time, instead of leaving that time free (potentially because people used to keep it free, so that they had free time that has been subsequently filled by other things). It is known that some unintentionally scheduled stuff over this time, and moreover

that others intentionally scheduled office hours to coincide with Tea so that the office would be free during this time. [Joseph probably should've asked about how to improve Tuesday Tea attendance or volunteering; in particular, while last term was really good about people signing up to bring goodies early, this term has featured a severe lack of sign-ups.]

Joseph remembers that he's the department's GSS Rep, and gives a brief report. Back in November, the GSS held a referendum. All of the proposed fee increases passed, which raises our GSS fee by about eight dollars; this means that various things that the GSS supports financially will now have support tied to graduate student enrolment via 'designated fees', and our operating fund will have some space freed up. We also passed the building renovation, with the full scope proposal; this means that we'll be renovating the bar area, changing some furniture, dealing with the doors, and reworking the bathroom entrances. [Joseph forgot to note that this is assuming we get an appropriate estimate that is within our means to proceed upon. If not, we won't. The renovation is planned for Summer 2016 (ie. this summer), to be finished before Fall 2016.] There are also lots of events happening this term! Check them out on the GSS website.

At this point, it's about 15:30; Seth and Joseph leave to attend a POG (Peer Observation Group) session. The others stick around, because there is still beer and food. Notes are obviously not taken anymore.