

SIGMAS Meeting Minutes
Friday, May 22, 2019, 15:30
GSC 108 (Halpern Centre Boardroom)

President: Mackenzie Wheeler
Vice President: Mitchell Haslehurst
Treasurer: Laura Teshima
Secretary: Joseph Horan

Director of Communication: Laura Teshima
GSS Representative: Joseph Horan
CUPE 4163 Steward: Laura Teshima
Math and Stats Department Rep: Joanna Niezen
MS Equity and Diversity Committee Rep: Felicia Halliday
Acting Tea Chancellor/Poet Laureate: Mackenzie Wheeler (and an undergrad)
Exam Sales Coordinator: Flora Bowditch
Webmaster: Joseph Horan
Peacekeeper: Joanna Niezen
Safety Captain: Brittany Halverson-Duncan

Present (in no order): Laura Teshima, Joanna Niezen, Mackenzie Wheeler, Hyungeun Shin, Mitchell Haslehurst, Anna Duwenig, Joseph Horan, Flora Bowditch, Felicia Halliday, MacKenzie Carr, Brittany Halverson-Duncan, Yin Song.

Regrets: None received, but you never know.

After waiting a few minutes for stragglers, the meeting is called to order at 15:40 by SIGMAS President Mackenzie Wheeler. Twelve people for a Summer SIGMAS meeting! Cool. Mackenzie passes around a bare-bones agenda; we're happy with it, so we get going with the meeting. [We, um, forgot to include a report from our rep on the department's Equity and Diversity Committee, whoops. Turns out there wasn't much to talk about.]

Elections: We have some vacant positions! First up is Vice-President, since Dan has graduated. After reminding folks what the Vice-President does, eventually Mitch accepted a nomination from Mackenzie with the caveat that he will be away for much of August; this was not considered an issue ("as long as you don't do negative things..." said Joseph). No one else was nominated, and so *Mitch becomes Vice-President!* Thanks, Mitch!

Dan was also Poet Laureate, so that post is vacant. Moreover, as per previous Tea-mails, Flora is no longer Tea Chancellor (we accepted her resignation, obviously), so we need to find a new Tea Chancellor. After some grumbling by folks who have helped with Tea before, and noting that it's something like 70% undergrads at Tea most weeks anyway (which may or may not be accurate), Mackenzie volunteers to "help" with Tea for the summer, and will attempt to con(vince) an undergrad to share the duties, ahem. Mackenzie will probably send the Tea-mail, still.

Department Report: Joanna gives a brief report about department goings-on; there haven't been many meetings since the last report. We're still waiting on the APR, sadly. Some committees are being reorganized/split up, including the hiring committee. We managed to hire for two of the posted faculty positions!

Laura gives a brief report on the Chair Search; the generic answer was "it depends on the Dean Search", so we will continue with an Acting Chair for the second half of the year, and resume the Chair Search in the fall, once we have a new Dean. The department seems to have a plan until then.

Treasurer's Report: We spent a bit more last term, thanks to an expensive outing to Bin 4 and a number of smaller events. We're still well-off in terms of our funds. There is a large discussion about how to move forward with the money we have, in terms of how to keep it and what we'll do when Laura's no longer Treasurer. Some ideas are brought forward, including the acquiring of a safe. Joanna suggests that we form a committee to search out and make a decision on what safe to get, so that we don't have to come back to a general meeting to approve the purchase. This is accepted as a good idea, so we have the following approved motion: *Be it resolved to form an ad hoc committee to find and purchase a safe, with Joanna Niezen chairing.* Felicia, Mackenzie, Joseph, and Laura all agree to also sit on the committee.

GSS Report: Joseph reminds members of the upcoming GSS Health and Dental Plan Fee Referendum; more information can be found on the GSS website (current referendum information is always at <https://gss.uvic.ca/referendum/>). Currently the only upcoming GSS event is Trivia, on June 19 at 5:30 pm (17:30); events will be advertised via `msgrad-1`. It should be noted that in the last set of referendum questions, every fee increase passed except for the Campus Clubs fee increase.

CUPE Report: Not much new to report on here; Mitch mentions that bargaining is almost upon us, and that our bargaining committee has a meeting next week.

Exam Sales Report: Flora briefly recaps how we did at Exam Sales this past spring ("Well!"). We probably won't need to put in a printing order this term. Flora will send out an e-mail soon to ask members to solve new exams; we've received a 2018 Math 101 exam and a 2018 Math 236 exam, and are looking to get exams for Math 200 and 202 soon as well.

Events: The last item on the agenda is, as usual, events! There were some pretty good events last term, including the Bin 4 outing and the Royals game with dinner. Mackenzie asks for event ideas for this term. Some events were discussed:

- Pottery at 4Cats! Felicia immediately brings up the idea of doing pottery again, and this idea is met with general enthusiasm. She will organize this.
- CMS Math Camp is happening again this year, July 2-5, as a joint event between UVic and Camosun. Brittany, Dina, and Amanda (Malloch) are organizing it. Let them know if you're interested!
- Grad House outings, once a month! Joanna would like to see these come back, especially since the patio's going to be open. Time to enjoy the weather!
- Brittany suggested that maybe it would be nice to have some money available for get-togethers between students and their supervisors. Since different supervisors are more or less social, this could be somewhat different to make accessible for all grads, but we could consider how such a thing would work.
- In September, can we have a David Turpin Building grad student social, joint with the other departments (Political Science, Environmental Studies, Geography)? Joseph has already talked to the other grad reps, and it seems like we would be able to make this happen. SIGMAS seems happy to provide some money over and above a planned GSS grant; Joseph should talk to the department about providing support. Let Joseph know if you have any ideas for things like door prizes or things to do aside from the BBQ (which would probably have to go through Degrees).
- Things that never happened but were thrown about at last meeting include: axe-throwing, billiards, brewery/cidery tours, bowling, board games nights, math(s) and crafts...

- “SIGMAS Goes To...” is alive and well; don’t forget to let us know if you have an event that SIGMAS members can attend! Subsidies for attendance can be arranged; talk to the Exec if you have something in mind.

Don’t forget that you don’t have to be an Exec member to organize an event!

The meeting adjourns at 16:35. Thanks to everyone who came out and hung out at the Grad House afterwards!

Summary of Tasks:

- Joseph to type minutes and update the website and send out a reminder Task List e-mail;
- The Ad Hoc Safe Committee to meet and decide on a course of action, and take that action;
- Joseph/someone to rework the old L^AT_EX template to come up with an FGS compliant version [held over];
- Brittany to create Safety Posters [held over];
- Felicia to instigate another Pottery event;
- Various people to look into other events;
- People to perform the duties of the roles they volunteered for/were elected to do;
- Everyone to be awesome!