

SIGMAS Meeting Minutes  
Friday, May 8, 2020, 16:00  
Online, via Zoom

President: Joanna Niezen  
Vice President: Mitchell Haslehurst  
Treasurer: Laura Teshima  
Secretary: Vacant

Director of Communication: Laura Teshima  
GSS Representative: Vacant  
CUPE 4163 Steward: Laura Teshima  
Math and Stats Department Rep: Joanna Niezen  
MS Equity and Diversity Committee Rep: Joanna Niezen, Vacant  
Tea Chancellor/Poet Laureate: Brittany Halverson-Duncan  
Exam Sales Coordinator: Mitchell Haslehurst  
Webmaster: Vacant  
Peacekeeper: Joanna Niezen  
Safety Captain: Brittany Halverson-Duncan

Present (in no order): Joanna Niezen, Laura Teshima, Mitchell Haslehurst, MacKenzie Carr. Due to irregular wording in the Constitution and because we make quorum if we do this, we will allow Joseph Horan and Felicia Halliday to count as voting members (also, Senate did not meet to approve graduating students or whatever).

Regrets: None received.

Guests: Luna (Felicia's cat) and Mia (Felicia's sister's cat (Emily was unavailable)).

The meeting is called to order at 16:11. We're on Zoom! Joseph agreed to take minutes for this meeting (and this meeting only), so we'll elect a Secretary later. We said hi to Luna and Mia!

**GSS:** Joseph gives one last GSS Rep report. Basically (and he'll send one more e-mail), we need to make sure there is enough money to handle the bare minimum that the Society needs to fund (wages, group Health/Dental plan, etc). There is a Special General Meeting to be held on June 1 (17:00 start, online, invitation to follow) for the purpose of borrowing money and tapping into the Building Fund. Afterwards, there will be a referendum with three questions about the Extended Health and Dental Plan.

The GSS/FGS Travel Grant is being temporarily converted to an Online Conference Grant, intended to pay for conference fees for online conferences. The max is \$300 for either presenters or attendees; see the Faculty of Graduate Studies page for more information.

Finally, there are a number of online events being hosted by the GSS; check the GSS Events page or the Facebook page for more information. You can also e-mail [gssoffice@uvic.ca](mailto:gssoffice@uvic.ca) and ask to be placed on the Bulletin mailing list to receive an e-mail bulletin directly to your inbox!

**Exam Sales:** Mitch reminds us that we did not run Exam Sales in Spring. While we could try to run something online in the Summer (for example, upload old exams that we do not sell anymore), it could end up being misleading for students and it would reduce incentive for students to buy exams in the future. There is consensus that we should skip Exam Sales this term, so Joseph will post an update on the webpage announcing that we will be cancelling Exam Sales in the Summer.

**Chair Search:** Mitch updates the group on the current Chair Search. They have finalized the position criteria, gone through equity training, and are now going through nominees. Joseph asked

about what the equity training entailed; they had online training by someone from EQHR about bias and equity in both the criteria-setting and the process. (The training is required by the new Faculty Association collective agreement.)

**MS EDI Committee:** Joanna notes that the Math and Stats EDI committee has not met since the last SIGMAS meeting.

**Department Report:** Joanna gives us a report about the goings-on in the department recently. The department's space committee (membership is, hopefully, a graduate student, an undergraduate student, someone from the MSAC, two faculty members, and a staff member) is to meet soon to discuss the new space concerns. Given that we had good conversation last meeting about the issues, we will try to find a graduate student to sit on the committee.

The department hired Natasha Morrison to fill the Combinatorics faculty position and hired her partner Jonathan Noel, also in discrete math, in place of the ATP position. They will start in July (as much as possible), but will only move to Victoria when safe to do so.

Any deadlines for graduate students, for the most part, can be extended by four months. If you register in summer, there can be a four month extension on funding. There was also a motion at the department meeting to ensure no negative impact on any students (undergraduate or graduate) who choose to take a COVID-19 Pass/Fail instead of their percentage grade.

**CUPE 4163:** Laura and Mitch have not heard anything. The mailing list thing was unfortunate.

**Treasurer:** Laura tells us about our finances; we spent some money in the first half of the term and took none in. We will do our Food Bank Donation when it is safe to do so.

Given that Tea is occurring online now, the question was raised about what to do with the Tea honorarium, since it was instated to compensate the Tea Chancellor for the non-trivial work involved in setting up and cleaning up after Tuesday Tea (especially when people were being messy). We agreed that the Spring honorarium should happen as usual. For the summer, there was a motion moved and seconded to remove the honorarium for the Summer term and revisit it in the Summer term. This motion *passed*, with five votes in favour and one abstention. Joanna will talk to Brittany about this.

**Elections:** We have a number of positions to fill (primarily because Joseph did a bunch of little things).

- *GSS Rep:* We need a replacement for Joseph. There will likely be four Grad Council meetings and a Special General Meeting; Joseph sent out e-mail updates, but at minimum anyone filling this position can report back in September. No one volunteered, so Joseph will send out one last update and ask for a replacement to contact Joanna by Friday, May 15.
- *Space Committee:* They are looking for one graduate student to sit on the committee with someone from the MSAC, a couple faculty, and a staff member. Laura volunteered and the rest of us are fine with it, so *Laura Teshima is appointed to be the graduate student rep on the space committee.*
- We did not fill the Secretary, Webmaster, or EDI Committee Rep roles. That's okay, though, because the first two positions do not require someone to do anything over the summer and . Joseph will make sure there is documentation for the SIGMAS website on the server. (Note: he also updated the SIGMAS thesis template; it should now be acceptable for FGS standards in 2020!)

**Events:** The last item on the agenda is events! As usual.

- **Tuesday Movie Afternoon:** On May 12, at 14:00 (in place of the usual Tuesday Tea), come watch the film *Secrets of the Surface* (about the first female Fields medallist, Maryam Mirza-

khani) with members of the department and the UVic Association for Women in Mathematics Student Chapter! The movie will be screened online; check your e-mail for attendance information.

- Smaller groups could do online games on the Switch! Mario Kart, Animal Crossing...
- Cardzmania is an online service with card games and no account required. Dominion can also be played online for free (though it requires a free account), as long as you don't buy access to expansion packs.
- Drawful is free on Steam currently; if anyone has Jackbox, then they can host games (login via phone) and set up a video conference to hang out.
- We could try to host other movie sessions; *Kung Fury* is free, relatively short, and hilariously cheesy.
- SIGMAS Book Club can make a comeback, if we're at home with e-readers/etc. Joseph suggested *The Housekeeper and the Professor* by Yoko Ogawa (a recommendation from a friend of his); Felicia and MacKenzie will send that out at some point. File format may be an issue.

The meeting adjourns at 17:21. Thanks to everyone who came out!

#### **Summary of Tasks:**

- Joseph to type minutes, send out one last Grad Rep Update, update the website, and maybe send out a reminder Task List e-mail [hah...];
- Joanna to await interest in the GSS Grad Rep and contact individuals as described above;
- Brittany to create Safety Posters [held over];
- Brittany to draft a letter [held over];
- Various people to look into events as described above;
- People to perform the duties of the roles they volunteered for/were elected to do;
- Everyone to be awesome!