

SIGMAS Meeting Minutes and Amenga

Friday, June 13 2014, 2:30 PM

Grad House

President	Amanda Malloch
Vice President	Jane Wodlinger
<u>Meeting Chair</u>	<u>Jane Wodlinger</u>
Secretary	Joseph Horan
Webmaster	Joseph Horan
<u>Acting / Singing Secretary</u>	<u>Christopher van Bommel</u>
Acting Peacekeeper	Garrett Culos
Safety Captain	Brittany Halverson-Duncan
Faculty Relations, Czar of	Kseniya Garaschuk
<u>Co-Department Rep</u>	<u>Amanda Malloch</u>
<u>Co-Department Rep</u>	<u>Brittany Halverson-Duncan</u>
CUPE Rep	Amanda Malloch
A.A.D.D.C.D. [†]	Jane Wodlinger
GSS Rep	Jane Wodlinger
<u>Primary GSS Rep</u>	<u>Garrett Culos</u>
<u>Secondary GSS Rep</u>	<u>Brittany Halverson-Duncan</u>
Treasurer	Laura Teshima
Tea Chancellor / Poet Laureate	Paul Van Dam-Bates Vacant
<u>Financial Ambassador</u>	<u>Brittany Halverson-Duncan</u>

[†] Acting Associate Director of Delegation of Communication to Delegates

1. Convene the meeting. (2:30, sharp)

Meeting convened at 2:45. [Members present at this time were (listed alphabetically) Garrett, Brittany, Josh, Laura, Christopher, and Jane.]

2. Vote to approve the agenda (2 minutes)

The agenda is approved. Jane asks if we should have a meeting chair, and without our president present, that responsibility falls to her, so she takes it. It is proposed that other business should include fines for showing up late, specifically after the meeting is convened with quorum, and a reduction to the required number for quorum. These issues of course were promptly forgotten by the time we got around to other business. It is at this point that Jane realizes that the agenda should have been amended before being passed, and requests to retroactively amend the agenda. So moved, changes are made, which will be noted in these minutes by strikethroughs and underlines. It is also pointed out that the Agenda should now be called the 'Amenga', having been so amended.

~~4.~~ 1.5. Order beer and appies.

Naturally, the most important change to the agenda was to ensure we could actually order before approving the agenda (Don't ask how we approved to do something that was already done!).

5. Beer arrives.

Since it's on the agenda, the meeting can't proceed without beer. Fortunately, it conveniently comes just after reaching this item.

6. Pour Michelle a beer.

No, Michelle isn't present, and that's exactly the point!

7. Pour beers for everyone else. Non-alcoholic beverages may also be poured.

However, there's no mention in the agenda of ever eating (or even the arrival of) appies!

3. Discuss and vote on the following resolution:

Whereas the Secretary and Webmaster is currently at a dinner party in a different time zone, BIRT Christopher be elected to the position of Acting / Singing Secretary and Webmaster.

Christopher realizes we skipped item 3 and brings it back to the table, proposing that the motion be amended to remove 'and Webmaster' since he doesn't have access to the website to post the minutes anyway. Jane proposes that the motion be amended to name the position 'Acting / Singing Secretary' to which Christopher is not opposed. The amendments pass, and then the motion passes, because that's how you're supposed to do things at meetings.

7.5. Did Kseniya and Amanda coordinate outfits?

With the arrival of Kseniya and Amanda at the Grad House, Jane continues to amend the amenga long past the time to do so, but who can argue with the VP / chair? It will take a few more minutes before Kseniya and Amanda make it to the table. At this time, it is also pointed out that Garrett is Acting Peacekeeper.

8. Report from Safety Captain. (2 minutes*)

Brittany finds it appropriate to sing her report, and these minutes will regrettably be unable to properly capture the beauty of this report, despite being written by the Acting / Singing Secretary. It is very, very safe around the department and the Safety Captain is very happy. Twice a year she will update the department with health and safety tips.

9. Report from ~~Czar of Faculty Relations~~, Czar of. (2 minutes* **)

Kseniya (and Amanda) arrive(s) at the table just in time for her report. A new SIGMAS representative is needed to attend the department meetings. It is noted that there are sometimes student related issues at the meetings. Meetings are typically Tuesday at 3:30, and once a month unless otherwise necessary. It is wondered if we can send two people with (probably) one vote. Jane notes that Kseniya is also the Assistance Centre Coordinator. Amanda and Brittany volunteer to be the new reps.

10. Report from CUPE representative (30 seconds*)

People are (desperately) needed for bargaining and an email was recently sent out to the attendees of the previous Beer Chat to that effect. To encourage volunteers, it was suggested by the union that they will be able to do less. Amanda is considering it.

11. Report from Christopher re: news from CUPE (3 minutes*)

Christopher gives further details with regards to bargaining. Our Component 1¹ contract expires August 31. Notice can be given by either side to bargain within 4 months, but is automatically deemed to have been served 90 days prior to expiry. Which means we could get called to the table at any time and we don't have a bargaining committee! Jane notes that the bargaining committee members at SFU were extremely dedicated, especially while they were on strike. Of course, while on strike, the bargaining committee had no TA duties. Amanda notes that food is provided at bargaining meetings, although it is generally agreed that while people should not join the bargaining committee for the food, it is important that they be well fed. Christopher points out that the Component 1 executive isn't even filled with the Vice President position vacant, and without volunteers, bargaining will likely fall to he (Member at Large) and Jason Walters (Communications Secretary). It is noted that students in the humanities tend to be underrepresented with CUPE, and that they are just 'lazy philosophizers'. Christopher also mentions that the email requests when the next beer chat should be, but is given no answer. It is questioned why people don't go to the beer chats, and concluded that the negative connotation of CUPE in these emails outweighs the positive connotation (for most) of beer. The usefulness of beer chats are also questioned, because the issues are not typically discussed. A beer chat

¹includes Teaching Assistants, Lab Instructors, Computer Lab Assistants, and Academic Assistants

from the past which Kseniya and Amanda attended didn't talk about anything, despite being around the time of the 519(?)² strike, and that physics students at the beer chat were cliquy. Amanda wonders if it is worth follow up emails when CUPE sends an email with a summary so people aren't just seeing it's from CUPE and ignoring it, and Christopher suggests they have click-bait subjects. It is pointed out that CUPE emails are too long, and Christopher mentioned this has been discussed by the executive. People seem to have an aversion to CUPE, so we should find a way to give them no excuse to not know what's going on. Finally, Jane requests it be noted in the minutes that she supports anyone willing to bargain.

TL;DR: People are needed for the bargaining committee and to become more aware of what's going on with **their** union in general. Christopher takes his position as Member at Large seriously.

12. Report from President (2 minutes*)

We need to have an event, especially a big one in September for the new students. We should reserve funds for the fall since exam sales will definitely be less for the summer term.

Things get off track for a couple of minutes while the World Cup is discussed. The Netherlands won their game, and Chile is currently up 2-0.

13. Report from Vice President and Acting Associate Director of Delegation of Communication to Delegates (2 minutes*)

Delegation has been unsuccessful, although Christopher points out that the last SIGMAS email almost came from Michael Francis. Michael Francis should have to communicate the next one with accompaniment on piano. [Peter arrives.]

14. Report from GSS representative

As the GSS meetings conflicted with the teaching workshop, Jane only attended one, in addition to the general meeting. Jane steps down from the position of GSS rep after holding the position for a year and a half. The responsibilities are to go to meetings once a month and get dinner. Jane gives the glowing testimonial that the meetings are "not awful" and that this is even an understatement. An example given of the work of the council is an agreement with the Faculty of Graduate Studies of funding guarantees. Another example is the microfiche fee, and it is believed that this practice has been discontinued. Garrett asks if emails would need to be sent, and it seems that they would be fairly infrequent. It is wondered if we can have Garrett and Brittany as half reps to alternate attending meetings, but also pointed out that it would be imperative that they keep each other informed. Brittany was only nominated for the position after pointing out she heard horrible things about the meetings. It is agreed to have Garrett as the primary rep, and Brittany as the secondary rep.

15. Somebody notices inconsistent punctuation in [the agenda].

Presented without comment.

16. Report from Treasurer (2 minutes*)

We made lots of money, \$1812 to be exact. Kseniya talked our printing bill from \$600 to -\$40; this impressive feat achieved by realizing we overpaid previously. Possible actions for pursuing the engineers for posting our exams online are discussed: using dark green paper that won't photocopy well is mentioned but not necessarily worth while. We currently have \$2600, and spent \$722 last term for two parties (brunch and not brunch). Funding for the exam solving party was procured from the GSS, so we only lost \$1.50. This fee could be avoided in the future if we had a bank account, but transferring signing authority could become an issue, although the account could be kept empty and just used for cashing cheques. The old account, for the MASCUS³, was not transferred at some point and we don't even know what bank holds the account. We

²probably 951

³Math and Stats Course Union

have a new stack of MATH 212 exams, and a recent MATH 102 exam recovered from Eddie's office after it was taken over by undergrads.

17. Report from Tea Chancellor and Poet Laureate (0 minutes. See item 17 19)

Paul graduated. Enough said.

18. Try to remember if there were any other positions. (2 minutes*)

As previously mentioned, Garrett is Acting Peacekeeper. The peace was kept and there were no deaths yet. Paul is gone, so he and Jane are no longer feuding.

19. Elect a new Tea Chancellor from the floor, or nominate one who is not present but whom we will pressure to assume the responsibility of coordinating Tea in the fall and possibly before. (5 minutes)

It is noted that we first of all want someone who will do it, and if multiple such people exist, we can worry about then selecting someone qualified. General consensus is that Joseph would probably do it, but could not start before the fall with his Assistance Centre shift. Jane states that it "has to be someone that people likes" which Kseniya is adamant to having properly attributed, lest people assume it was her as the only ESL. Garrett responds "So it's going to be Joseph?". It's briefly considered whether the position should go to someone new, possibly in stats, to attract new people to tea, but in the end, we will ask Joseph. Otherwise, the matter is tabled.

20. Report from positions that we forgot (2 minutes each*)

21. *Executive reports, continued. (If discussion of any executive report lasts more than the allotted time, discussion can continue at this time)

22. **Elect or nominate candidates for vacant (or soon-to-be-vacant) positions. (10 minutes)

These matters were dealt with as they arose, including too long executive reports⁴. Brittany takes a call from "the bank". The question of whether the minutes can be posted online is raised. Christopher points out that we have a SIGMAS sharepoint, which would keep the minutes private from undergrads, but no one is sure whether faculty can access our sharepoint, and we can't have any of the faculty members find out that "We are plotting to overthrow the department."

23. Discuss possible events for Summer term (the rest of the time)

(a) Ice cream Fridays

Ice cream Fridays are proposed to occur once or twice a month to replace tea. Which means they will be on Tuesday, but they will still be called Ice cream Fridays. Except for the first one, which will be a Wednesday to coincide with Math Camp (and cost-share). Cones are categorically stated to be better than bowls. Freezer space will be required as people steal from the lounge freezer. The event will probably occur thrice at \$30 each, consisting of 2 tubs and cones.

(b) Barbecue

Looking to have an afternoony-barbecue-possibly at a park-potlucky thing. If held at a park, can't have alcohol. Should it be in a yard instead? Both Josh and Amanda may be able to host, depending on size. Amanda's place is far, but the yard is large and we could have yard games. We would also need a barbecue. An email should be sent to gauge interest for this event, to determine how much space we need. Compensation for hosting is discussed; leftover food is a current advantage of hosting.

Brittany returns from her phone call from "the bank". Thanks to her, we can obtain a business bank account with no monthly fee, which would provide one free withdrawal per month, with additional withdrawals costing \$5 each. The treasurer does not believe we would have to withdrawal more frequently than once a month. If a signing authority agrees to a credit check, we would not need to wait for cheques to clear, otherwise, it would take four days and hence count as our withdrawal for the month, but this does not seem to be an

⁴Guilty!

issue. Credit union has completely free accounts, but these may not be business accounts, which we would need as an organization. We certainly want to avoid UVic writing more cheques to us as 'UVic', which took forever to sort out. [Josh leaves following this discussion.]

(c) Photo rally

Plan for a weekend (i.e. Saturday or Sunday) photo scavenger hunt, in which small teams of three to five members take pictures with their cell phones and then post (a restricted number) to a dropbox. A list would be provided at the start with point values. The event would conclude at a specific location where we would all meet by a certain time in order to qualify. SIGMAS may provide the first round of drinks. Anticipated budget of a couple hundred dollars including prizes. Since the division of prizes may be an issue, suggestions include a recurring trophy to be awarded each year then returned, chocolates which can be easily shared, and books, in particular, the free textbooks that are still in the mailroom. Transportation would be by walking or bus only. After a brief disagreement on the topic of bikes and cameraphones, straw polls reveal that everyone at the table has a cameraphone, but not everyone has a bike. [Michelle arrives and enjoys her reserved beer.] A list of MUSTS is suggested to ensure teams are more likely to run into each other. Brittany is excited to make visiting her at the bank on Saturday a must, as Saturdays at the bank are boring. A doodle poll should be conducted for the best day for the photo rally, although the consensus at the table seems to be July 12.

24. Other business

It is suggested that with the teacher's strike, Math Camp could be moved to next week, however, it is pointed out that the teachers are still required to give and mark high school exams. Math Camp is referred to as free babysitting, although it is pointed out by others at the table that teenagers, especially those that would attend Math Camp, do not need babysitting.

25. Adjourn meeting.

The meeting is adjourned at 4:15.

P.S. Kseniya knows everything!

Courses of Action

- Amend the Constitution at the next meeting re: quorum
- Safety Captain Tips
- Join the CUPE Bargaining Committee, maybe?⁵
- CUPE Email Digests?
- Big September event
- Solve new exams
- Fill the position of Tea Chancellor / Poet Laureate (ask Joseph)
- Figure out if / where these minutes will be posted
- Ice cream Fridays
- Determine interest for barbecue
- Doodle poll for photo rally

⁵Worth a try!