

**SIGMAS Meeting Minutes**  
~~Friday, June 13 2014, 2:30 PM~~  
Tuesday, September 19 2014, 4:30 PM  
Grad House

President	Amanda Malloch
Vice President	Jane Wodlinger
Treasurer	Laura Teshima
(Singing / Dancing) Secretary	Christopher van Bommel
Tea Chancellor / Poet Laureate	Joseph Horan
GSS Rep	Garrett Culos
Webmaster	Joseph Horan
Acting Peacekeeper	Garrett Culos
Safety Captain	Brittney Halverson-Duncan
Department Rep	Amanda Malloch
CUPE Rep	<del>Christopher van Bommel</del> Chris Duffy*
A.A.D.D.C.D.†	Jane Wodlinger

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\* Chris volunteered for this position the following morning.

† Acting Associate Director of Delegation of Communication to Delegates

**1. Convene the meeting. (4:30, sharp)**

Meeting convened at 4:35. [Members present at this time were (listed alphabetically) Anthony, Sam, Chris (Duffy), Jan, Keelin, Joseph, Amanda, Rana, Laura, Christopher, Peter, and Jane. Late arrivals were Michelle, Paul (non-member), and Garrett.]

**2. Vote to approve the agenda (2 minutes)**

No one has yet read the agenda, but eventually, the agenda is approved.

**3. Vote to approve the minutes from the June 14~~th~~ 13~~th~~ SIGMAS meeting and the meeting before that (4 minutes, two of which will be spent determining when the second-to-last meeting was)**

With the recent discovery of the censor package, the minutes from the second-to-last meeting can be reposted with the offending passages censored (but leaving just enough information for those present at the meeting to recall what was said). Christopher shows the printed censored minutes from this January 16th meeting. Both sets of minutes are approved.

**4. Order drinks.**

Naturally, this item took place before even convening the meeting.

**5. Vote on the following resolution. (4 minutes)**

**WHEREAS we're sick and tired of people showing up late, only for beer, and distracting from the important discussions taking place, BIRT<sup>1</sup> a twenty-five cent fee will be levied against members who commit one of the following heinous infractions.**

- (a) Derail important discussions.
- (b) Arrive late but expect beer.
- (c) Fail to RSVP, but expect beer.

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<sup>1</sup>be it resolved that

Laura asks the important question of who decides what constitutes derailing. Sam asserts that the motion should only apply to future meetings. Peter is opposed, as we should be encouraging people to attend the meetings and not scaring them away, and is also concerned about people who cannot arrive on time, but then it is pointed out that such a person should RSVP to that effect. Most at the table do not recall being required to RSVP, or assumed answering the Doodle poll was sufficient. Sam suggests the resolution can be enforced in **spirit**. Concern is also raised regarding that if someone is responsible for enforcing the resolution, who can police them for derailing discussions. A “Who watches the watchman?” joke is made whose explanation is deemed as derailing. Peter believes the resolution may as well be extended to no fun, and Amanda is promptly fined twenty-five cents for laughing at the suggestion. The motion is tabled.

#### **6. Fill various positions. (6 minutes)**

**(a) Elect Christopher (currently Acting (and Sining) Secretary) as (Singing / Dancing) Secretary.**

The explanation of the title that Christopher was only replacing Joseph during the previous meeting but Jane added Singing prompts Sam to add Dancing. The motion passes.

**(b) Elect Joseph as Tea Chancellor / Poet Laureate.**

Joseph is nominated, accepts, and the motion passes.

**(c) Elect an acting Department Rep (must be available on Tuesdays at 3:30)**

Discussion at the previous meeting also suggested having an alternate, if allowed, and is pointed out here. Amanada points out that she is not currently invited in her role as Assistance Centre Coordinator. Chris suggests that the role be tied to a particular position, namely president, with vice-president as alternate. It is agreed that Amanda be reinstated in the position and for her to ask if two members are permitted to attend.

**(d) Elect a CUPE rep. (Must give a fuck. Maritimers preferred.)**

On reading the resolution and seeing where things are going, Christopher promptly nominates Keelin, which Jane did not see coming. Christopher is nominated and the matter is immediately put to a vote, without him having the opportunity to accept. He remarks that it was suggested by the staff that he not take it with his current roles on the CUPE executive and in bargaining. No one else steps forward, so the position is granted by default.<sup>2</sup>

#### **7. Reports from various executive members. (10 minutes)**

Amanda starts us off by saying that this afternoon’s welcome potluck tea went very well. Jane, while assuring us that this is definitely not criticism, asks how many new people were at tea. The number is believed to be between 5 and 7, or up to 9 if Chris [Bruce] and Anna are counted. The funding of tea is questioned since there is a new chair, but it is pointed out that tea was probably funded by Elaine. Joseph will ask Rod and Paul about funding. Some supplies have been stolen from Math Camp. It is pointed out that there should be milk, cream, or any kind of dairy available, but not yogurt. There are reports that some faculty think they are not allowed, but the obvious problem is that **PEOPLE DON’T READ EMAILS!**

The report from the treasurer shows a balance of \$2600, and profit of \$300 during the summer, which went to the photo rally and the barbecue. Gains are expected in the fall, and it is pointed out that the general practice is to overspend in the summer (compared to profits) and underspend in the fall and spring, where we make more money on exam sales. Chris asks why we are so cheap, but it seems to come down to the fact that no one plans events. Appetizers were not ordered for this meeting, because it was clear that no one was RSVPing, so it was not known how many members would attend. The money seems to be mainly for meetings and parties, the latter coming out to about \$700, so it is suggested we may as well order appetizers for the table, a suggestion which never got carried out. Back to the matter of parties, it is suggested that Tom has a sweet place but he’s moving soon and struggling to keep the place up to code.

It is pointed out that our Safety Captain has yet to send out any safety tips. Our webmaster plans to add a resources section to our website, which will include a permanent home for the tutor list as well as other

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<sup>2</sup>By the next morning, Chris Duffy put himself forward for the position, and having heard no objections from the SIGMAS executive, the position is his! :D Thanks Chris!

useful things.

**8. Vote on the following resolution. (4 minutes)**

**WHEREAS it is often difficult to achieve quorum (especially without expensive bribes), BIRT quorum be reduced to six members in the Fall and Spring terms, and 4 members in the Summer, two of which must be executive members.**

It is pointed out that there are currently 12 present at the table, but the counterpoint is made that beer was promised. The point is made that there are at least six members on the executive, and maybe there should be executive and non-executive percentage based requirements? Laura suggests the matter be tabled until Sam writes a paper about the proper percentages.

**9. Discussion of the following question. How do we want to be involved with SUMS (if at all)? (10 minutes)**

Chris starts off the discussion by asking if we should share exam sales with SUMS. There are concerns raised that most of the exams were donated by grad students and SUMS may acquire exams by other means in order to have their own sales. It is mentioned that SUMS is planning pub crawls, but pointed out that this means our own students could be attending. While undergrads have no access to the mail room and can't copy the exams, can they participate in selling and solving? (Certainly they've learned the material more recently.) Concerns about undergrads solving is that any errors found will be emailed to Laura to deal with. SUMS, as a course union, can get funds from the UVSS, but those funds will be restricted. Similarly, we could not again use GSS funds for an exam solving party for undergrads. Such discussion leads to the question of how SUMS wants to be involved. The groups would remain separate, but there should be liaisons between the groups. But can we go to them to work out a proposal that then has to go to the next meeting, or can this matter be decided by poll or the executive? Amanda points out that SUMS was established for outreach to get more undergrads, and therefore more grads, as we're currently seen as a teaching department. Our surplus is mentioned as a possible resource for SUMS, but it is pointed out that are funds have a high turnover. The majority of our exams were collected after MASCUCU (the old course union) dissolved, so there is no question of ownership. Major concerns arising from the discussion are mailroom access, selling exams for courses in which they are currently enrolled (although opinion is divided on whether that should be a concern) and how to divide the proceeds (Laura points out she currently does 90% of the work). Chris states that it is "patently unfair to assume undergrads do unscrupulous things", which prompts a retort from Jane on the number of invigilators from Math 100, although the consensus on this matter is that [REDACTED]. We also don't want to discourage first years from being involved. It is generally decided to commence exploratory talks with SUMS and the following motion is passed:

**BIRT we approach SUMS and ask them what they want, while taking into account being both cautious and welcoming.**

**10. Discussion of Exam Sales. (6 minutes)**

Jane is adamant that we need exams from those who taught last term NOW, before solutions are lost! In terms of newly acquired exams, we have Math 102, 151, 201, and 212 and Stat 350. It is pointed out that we need higher solving standards. Sam and Anthony both volunteer to solve Math 212, Joseph volunteers for Math 201, Michelle for what she can, and Rana for Stat 350.

The arrival of Paul triggers discussion of non-members, and whether the resolution in 5 could be modified to at least cover non-members.

**Discussion of events. (15 minutes)**

**(a) Recap of summer events (photo hunt, party).**

Amanda says the photo rally was fun, especially because her team won. There was a last minute party at Michael's at the end of the summer that was not all that well attended.

**(b) Fall party. Where will we have it?**

It is pointed out that it would have been nice to have a welcome party. The major problem is we need a new venue and to convince someone to host. The room at the Grad House is referenced, but there would be a service fee and it would have to be on a non-Friday weekday. Garrett says it is fine at his place, but has to check with his roommates. He has one-half of a duplex and no yard space on the back of Mt. Tolmie on the 14 route. We will need to send our Safety Captain to inspect the venue. Renting a bus is briefly discussed in order to have Amanda host the party in Metchosin. Other options for Metchosin are that if you don't drink and bring a car, SIGMAS will get you... something.

**(c) Department Christmas Dinner (if it happens this year). Can SIGMAS subsidize costs for members who attend?**

Last year, there was really late notice for the party and it was held very late in the term, so a number of people had already left. It would be nice if it was planned in advance this year, ideally around the same time as the exam schedule, and Joseph is willing to bug the organizer. It is agreed that SIGMAS can provide a subsidy of half the cost up to a total subsidy of \$500, after which the funds would have to be divided equally.

**12. Other business?**

Beer for parties is discussed. It would be more economical to get a growler, and there are coupons for free ones in the GSS handbook. They get filled at breweries for \$10, and hold 1.8L. It is stated that if there is only one type of beer, people will drink it, unless it is IPA. Sam, Tom, and Michelle are recognized as our brewery specialists.

A SIGMAS travel grant is proposed, but the biggest issue seems to be how to award it. Lottery is discussed, and making chances proportional to help at exam sales is also proposed. A department service is proposed using the summer funds, for example, extra bike lights in case one ends up staying late and doesn't have them. It is suggested that the secretaries that help us so much be given at least one gift per year, and Paul helpfully adds that they (Elaine, Jane, and Amy) all prefer booze to chocolate. The matter of CMS funding for events through Stud-C is raised, which is \$500 maximum but normally granted \$250. It is believed Chris once applied on Kseniya's behalf.

**13. Adjourn meeting.**

The meeting is adjourned at 6:01!

**Courses of Action**

- Twenty-five cent fines?
- Amanda: Ask if we can have two department reps (with one vote).
- Joseph: Ask about tea funding.
- Brittany: Safety tips.
- Joseph: Web resources and tutor list.
- Sam: Paper on how to define quorum.
- Ask SUMS what they want.
- All, especially Anthony, Sam, Michelle, Joseph, and Rana who specifically volunteered: Solve exams.
- Brittany: Inspect Garrett's place.
- Joseph: Bug Christmas Party Organizer.
- Growlers for parties.
- SIGMAS travel grant / Bike lights / Secretary gifts.