

**Meeting Date:** 2nd December, 2019

**Meeting Time:** 6:00pm - 7:00pm

**Meeting Location:** BI192 (Biological Sciences, Floor 1, Room 192), aka Drummond Hall

### Minutes

1. Introductions & Welcome (6:00pm- 6:05pm)
2. Program overview (6:05pm - 6:20pm)
  - a. Ecology
    - i. What do you like about your program
      1. Good field work opportunities available, different options throughout Canada/externally
    - ii. What you do not like about your program
      1. Path to success is not always clear (what courses to take, what skills to have for future career)
    - iii. What you hope to see
      1. more emphasis on industry skills (emphasis on R, GIS etc.)
      2. More info on what a career actually looks like, based on interests. More advising would be helpful
  - b. Biochemistry
    - i. What do you like about your program
      1. Good specialized emphasis, interconnected courses helps give a thorough understanding of the subject
      2. Lab component prepares you with a good practical skill set edge for career options and research
    - ii. What you do not like about your program
      1. Job opportunities outside of research are not very accessible
      2. Program accessibility is difficult for later year students (need achem, etc.)
    - iii. What you hope to see
      1. More external/industry opportunities
      2. Intro course could be made more interesting/accessible to show students the viability of bcem
3. Departmental Updates (6:20pm - 6:25pm)
  - a. N/A
4. Update from the SU (6:25pm - 6:30pm)

- a. Meeting will be held tomorrow to discuss changes in legislation and tuition
    - i. 5% tuition increase for continuing students
    - ii. 10% increase for international, new, and engg students
  - b. "Stress less" week
    - i. Events in tfdl and mac hall throughout the week to address mental health and spread awareness
5. BSA Events Update (6:30pm - 6:45pm)
- a. Academic Events
    - i. Field Trips
      - 1. Opening more events (tours, company visits) to give bio students a firsthand idea of careers and industry jobs
        - a. Around 3
        - b. lab tours, conservation organizations/environmental consulting firms, calgary zoo or animal rehab facilities, agro labs, lots of facilities at medical centers, genomic sequencing facility at Foothills (BCEM 401 goes on a tour there), Parks Canada
    - ii. Career fair
      - 1. Around March, bringing in external organizations/individuals from a wide variety of biological fields to give talks/network
      - 2. Still deciding on location, hoping for good balance of space/cost
  - b. Social Events
    - i. Board game night
      - 1. Participants all enjoyed
      - 2. To be held in early winter to encourage greater turnout
    - ii. KCC Charity Gala
      - 1. Collaborating with FASA, reached out to ESS and HSA
      - 2. Hoping for at least/around 250 guests
      - 3. Art auction, raffles
    - iii. Bake sales
      - 1. Good source of money to cover costs of charity gala and raise more money for the charity, could match donations to encourage participation
    - iv. Other event ideas
      - 1. Group Hike, nature walk/tours
        - a. Hiking club collab???
      - 2. BBQ
6. BSA Awards and Course Profiles Updates (6:45pm - 6:55pm)

- a. Course profiles
    - i. Deeper information about what students can expect with specific courses as an additional resource, gives professor's perspective rather than course description/outline
      1. Currently available: BIOL 241, 243, 371, 315, 311, 435, 313, CMMB 461, 563, BCEM 443, PLBI 327, ECOL 417
      2. Suggestions: ZOOL 461/463, ECOL 425, BIOL 401, BCEM 577, BIOL 500s (501, 503, 505, 515)
      3. Prioritize winter course posting
  - b. Awards
    - i. 5 Recognition award categories
      1. Leadership, involvement, research, resiliency, innovation
    - ii. Open in January, deadline around end of reading break
    - iii. Presented at Faculty of Science Gala
    - iv. Would like to establish more value (monetary/recognition) for awards
    - v. BSA team members cannot apply, selection process is blinded
7. Wrap-Up/Conclusion (6:55pm - 7:00pm)
- a. Next Meeting (tentative): **20th January**
    - i. Around 10th for proceeding months