

UTMAGS Annual General Meeting – Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, April 7th, 2015, 12-2pm

Attendance: 25-30 graduate students and postdoctoral fellows

Department representation: Biology (CSB, EEB); CPS (Chemistry, Physics)

1. Comments from graduate students on 2014-2015 social events and grad student strike:

- Really supportive of continuing the ski trip in future years
- Enjoyed the monthly breakfasts, Halloween lunches, and other social events (emphasized the catering of social events being a key point to successful attendance)

- RE: support from UTMAGS on grad student strike:
 - Position of UTMAGS was not clear regarding the strike (in favour or not in favour)
 - Could have been better in communicating the strike votes to graduate students from within UTM, and re-sending communications from downtown to ensure maximum turn-out at voting stations
 - **Suggestion for future Exec:** establish in writing, either as an addendum to the constitution or a secondary document, the official position and responsibilities of UTMAGS executive members should a strike occur in the future, and also that communication between CUPE, GSU and UTM grad students will be supported by UTMAGS

2. Suggestions for improving UTMAGS services and communication:

- End of semester/end of year summary (or report?) of events, major decisions, and achievements done by UTMAGS exec in the previous year (ex/ Year-end report, 2014-15)
- Introducing monthly **Science Communication Seminars**
 - Host guests that are professionals in effective science communication (public speaking, marketing, scientific writing, publishing, etc)
 - Catered workshops about strategies for effective science communication to scientific audiences vs. lay population
 - Tying in social events with professional development workshop

- Re-introduce team-based sports activities in the summer, either at UTM or at Erindale Park