

MINUTES of Trent Graduate Students' Association Board Meeting

Meeting Date: May 15, 2014

Call to order: A board meeting of the Trent Graduate Students' Association was held in the Senior Common Room of Trill College on 15 May 2014. The meeting convened at 10:11 AM, President Rathika Balthasar presiding.

Location: The Senior Common Room

Members participating:

Rathika Balthasar (President)

Tayo Aloh (VP Internal Affairs)

Elizabeth Ramsay (Interim VP Student Affairs)

Gary Larsen (Senator)

Lauren Banks (Environmental Commissioner)

Paul Ciuk (Theory, Culture, and Politics Representative-MA)

Alexander McPherson (History Representative-M.A)

Richard Herman (Interim Environmental and Life Sciences Representative-MSc)

Philip Abbott (Health Coordinator)

Athira Mohanan (Interim Materials Science Representative-PhD)

Regrets: Bex Williams (VP Finance); Latchmi Raghunanan (VP Operations); Steve Martin (CUPE); Ashley Neale (Equity Commissioner); Greg Tracey (Psychology Representative-M.A./M.Sc.); Michelle Klein (International Representative); Peter Hammersley (Anthropology Representative-M.A);

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 24th, 2014

- MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM APRIL 24th, 2014
 - **MOTION SECONDED AND APPROVED**

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA
 - Item amended: Phil to speak regarding CUPE
 - **AMENDED AGENDA APPROVED**

1. Health Insurance

- MOTION TO APPROVE 2-YEAR TERM WITH STUDENT.

○ **MOTION SECONDED AND APPROVED**

2. Health Insurance

- **Student VIP requested a deposit of \$20,000 for health insurance. After speaking with their representation and consulting the VP Finance, Rathika has suggested that an amount of \$2000 is possible and acceptable.**
- MOTION TO APPROVE GOOD FAITH DEPOSIT TO STUDENT VIP IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2000

○ **MOTION SECONDED AND APPROVED**

3. CUPE Representation

A new representative from CUPE must be appointed to our board. CUPE Executive is responsible for this and will inform of us of their decision in the near future. A CUPE meeting is to be held on 20 May 2014.

4. Graduate Student Alliance

The current representative to the Graduate Student Alliance, Katie Nixon, will be ending her term and a new representative must be chosen. A search for this representative will be initiated within the Trent Graduate Students Association seeking and interested candidate. Rick Herman expressed potential interest in fulfilling this role.

5. Senate Report

- **SMA:** Will be held in confidence by the administration pending the results of the provincial election and the legal right to disclose.
- **Working Group on Indigenous Affairs:** Following heated discussion in Senate, it appears that a Working Group on Trent University's relationship to and with questions of Indigeneity will be formed. In the likelihood that the GSA will have representation to this group, Elizabeth Ramsay has expressed interested and was roundly endorsed as an appropriate candidate by the Board.

- **Colleges:** The college system at Trent is under revision, and little definition is being added to this. AVP Students Nona Robinson and Provost Gary Boire appear to be spearheading this effort, but are currently offering little in the way of concrete assurances moving forward. Traill College's status both as a college and as a graduate student college remains in question.

6. Meeting Provost re: PAC:

Provost Gary Boire has expressed interest in meeting with the GSA to discuss the role of the PAC and the nature of the position of the Principal of Traill College. The Board expressed an interest in greater representation on the PAC than is currently seen. Rathika is taking the initiative to have an additional student position added to the PAC constituency, which will be held for the interim by Alexander.

7. Technology/Politics Conference

- MOTION TO APPROVE \$350 APPLICATION FOR GROUP & CONFERENCE SUPPORT FOR TECHNOLOGY/POLITICS GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE, PENDING APPROVAL OF VP FINANCE
 - **MOTION SECONDED AND APPROVED**

8. Social Events Committee

The VP Student Affairs is seeking to put together an interim Social Events Committee to assist in the planning and coordination of summer events. Elizabeth, Alex, Richard, Phil's car, and Lauren will participate. Deliberation suggested that at least one summer event ought to be held at Traill College.

9. Social Events Survey Report

Rathika reported on this matter, concluding that students are generally pleased, quite enjoy barbeques, and that modest incentives such as grocery store gift cards are responsible for high response rates.

10. Hand over transition documents

Rathika will be responsible for lending our barbeques to the MNR at Symons campus for their upcoming event.

11. Thanks: Messages of thanks were received from the PYBA and KWIC in response to our recent efforts to support their respective causes. They were much appreciated.

12. Part-Time Student Health Insurance Survey: A survey of part time graduate students will be conducted in order to ascertain their interest in automatic enrollment with Student VIP in the upcoming year.

- MOTION TO APPROVE \$50 GIFT CARD FOR SURVEY PENDING APPROVAL OF VP FINANCE.
 - **MOTION SECONDED AND APPROVED**

13. INTRODUCTIONS: Tayo introduced the program representatives and informed them of their duties and responsibilities, encouraging active involvement.

14. INTERIM REPRESENTATIVES:

- MOTION TO APPROVE RICHARD, ATHIRA & ELIZABETH AS INTERIM REPRESENTATIVES FOR THEIR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS.
 - **MOTION SECONDED AND APPROVED**

15. Meeting Adjourned: 11:45