

GSA Meeting #3 – August 31, 2006

Minutes

In attendance:

John

Amanda

Robyn

Bastien

Roxanne

Tina

1. Approval of minutes
 - Motion to approve minutes from last meeting made by Bastien
 - Motion seconded by John
 - Motion passed

2. CUPE
 - merger of unit 1 (undergraduate markers) & unit 2 (graduate TAs, markers etc.) will occur

3. CASSC (college association student services committee)
 - many committees exist wellness task committee (formerly health and counseling), athletic, housing etc.
 - decision made that regular meetings will no longer be held, instead a meeting will be called when the need for a vote arises

4. GSA Website changes
 - idea to have goals section on website so students can see what the GSA is working on
 - could post items like Dean's response to tuition letters, etc. directly on website or as link to a pdf
 - GSA meeting minutes could be posted with links to specific topics
 - possibility of having a forum so that students could post comments, suggestions, questions etc.; desirable to have more interaction between students and GSA; would need to purchase new software in order to make this possible
 - possibility to list individual (e-mail) contacts within the GSA executive for each kind of issue e.g. politics

5. Previous GSA goals
 - Installment fee – will continue to lobby for the abolishment of installment fee
 - Health services in summer months – was well attended, positively received by health services staff and students, will lobby for summer services again this year
 - Organizing GSA scholarship fund that was initially planned last year (\$30,000 in a high interest savings account) Grad students activity fee, college fee are the two sources of income for the GSA (college fee accumulated over past 3 years)

- Might not be the best idea to use funds for scholarships because then only 1 or 2 students will benefit, there is also a potential conflict of interest in selecting criteria for scholarship; better alternative might be to use the funds for something that all students will benefit from, similar to the microfiche payment idea (all students were required to pay fee at time of graduation and now GSA covers this expense); funds could potentially be used to address issue of grad student space
 - Accumulated funds committee will be formed in next couple of weeks to discuss options
 - Motion to form this committee put forth by Robyn, seconded by Tina, motion passed
6. Canadian Studies office space letters
- response received from the Dean of Graduate Studies regarding lack of office space for Canadian Studies students; the Dean agrees that there is a lack of space and that this is a serious concern, however he did not indicate that anything was being done to remedy this issue
7. Ph.D. tuition waiver
- A tuition waiver for 4th year Ph.D. students used to exist but was eliminated because funding has increased due to increases in wages for TA work (this waiver was selective last year and no longer exists this year); it is uncertain as to who approved the elimination of the waiver; this is potentially just a WEGS issue but seems likely that it applies to other departments as well
 - the GSA will continue looking into this matter and if/how the waiver could be brought back
8. Seminar series – update
- have abstract selectors and 3 out of 4 judges
9. Conference bursaries
- compensation forms received for Canadian archaeological conference \$60 *2 applicants, Canadian water resources conference \$125 *1 applicant
 - issue of Paypal receipts, possible to ‘double-dip’ by getting reimbursed by supervisor or department and GSA; therefore there is a need to change policy for conference fee reimbursement but oftentimes only Paypal receipts are issued
 - Paypal receipts will only be accepted if cheque receipt from the conference is also submitted
 - Motion put forth by Tina, seconded by Amanda to approve all of the above conference fee reimbursements, motion passed
10. Social events for orientation week
- Olde Stone already booked for Thursday the 7th (and they don’t book on Fridays), Hot Belly Mama’s possibly available on the Thursday (will try to book that day, try for Friday as a second choice); due to changes to the location we will need posters posted in the school and to send an e-mail;
 - Ultimate Frisbee game Wednesday at 4PM, it will be a pickup tournament
 - all GSA exec members should attend all of the upcoming events