

GSA Meeting – June 26, 2006

Minutes

In attendance: Ryan, Meaghan, John, Amanda, Robyn, Bastien, Roxanne

Regrets: Mark, Stephen, Tina

1. Approval of minutes
 - Motion to approve minutes from last meeting made by Meaghan
 - Motion seconded by Robyn
 - Motion passed
2. Tuition letters
 - Unfortunately the GSA doesn't have the time or resources to have a subcommittee working on the tuition increase issue
 - The second draft of letters stating our concerns about the tuition increase will be passed around to GSA members for review
 - Final version of the letters will be posted on the GSA website for other grad students to see
3. Office space for Canadian Studies students
 - No office space exists for M.Sc. Canadian Studies students, only for Ph.Ds
 - This is the only program that doesn't give its students office space
 - Graduate students require office space so that they can fulfill their TA responsibilities, which includes meeting regularly with undergraduate students in their courses
 - 19 new Canadian Studies graduate students coming to Trent next year – since the program is growing, the issue of office space becomes more pressing (many more students will now be without a basic resource such as office space)
 - Letter drafted to Dean of Graduate Studies about this issue by Meaghan, content of this letter supported by GSA members
4. Seminar series – update
 - Planning for upcoming Seminar Series has started
 - E-mail will be sent out looking for volunteers for Series subcommittee
5. BBQ and other social events
 - BBQ will be happening this Wednesday, June 28
 - need assistance for getting supplies, preparing barbeque
 - e-mail will be sent out through listserv and some posters will be put up
 - Intro week social events: Bastien has suggested that instead of bowling, we have a (more) physical activity such as an Ultimate Frisbee tournament or Frisbee golf; we might need other activities to keep people occupied while other teams are playing
6. Conference bursaries and other financial matters
 - Microfiche fee being covered for grad students by the GSA; the cost was approx. \$550 for last year

- \$600 worth of conference bursaries: 3 people went to Canadian Conference for Fisheries Research in Calgary (\$100), 1 went to N. American caribou workshop (\$65), 1 Canadian Archaeological Association conference (\$40), 1 Cinema and Media studies conference (\$75)
- Membership fees, which sometimes must be paid in order to present at conferences, are not reimbursed by the GSA (condition #2 on the GSA conference grant application)
- Motion brought forth by Ryan for the GSA to pay the conference fees for all six individuals who applied for GSA bursaries
- Motion seconded by John
- Motion passed
- External review of GSA transactions from last year must be completed, need an impartial person who is not affiliated with the GSA to undertake this task