

GSA Meeting – May 10, 2006

Minutes

In attendance: Ryan, Meaghan, John, Katia, Amanda, Stephen, Mark, Bree, Heather, Robyn, and Bastien

1. Acquisition of positions
 - everyone is comfortable with their roles within the GSA at this time

2. Tuition (letters re. 4% increase for next 4 years)
 - whether to include comparison with other provinces
 - Trent is required to provide additional resources/support for any increase in tuition; what are graduate students going to get for an additional \$216/year – what would graduate students want?
 - we need greater transparency with graduate tuition fees i.e. a breakdown of where the tuition money is going
 - restrictions on tuition increase may have been removed by Ontario government
 - important to increase awareness of tuition fees with students, supervisors, etc. so that this issue can be raised on a regular basis
 - July 1st documents will become available with information regarding the increase

3. Service agreement
 - changes to agreement to include access to bank statements for the GSA account to ensure all expenditures are actual GSA expenditures; late penalty if Trent is late with payments
 - o Motion by Stephen to change University/GSA service agreement to have access to GSA bank account statements and have late fees
 - o motion seconded by Bree
 - o all present in favour
 - o motion passed

4. Symons series
 - subcommittee of students (GSA and otherwise) to share duties; Robyn and Colin W. to oversee fundraising (goal of \$150,000)

5. Social activity update
 - summer barbeques
 - possibility of having “happy hour” in the Masters’ lodge (Aramark-free); sell beer and pizza; alternate between barbeques and happy hour every 2 weeks; test this idea over the summer months to get a feel for student interest
 - important to have a different type/genre of event to appeal to other Trent graduate programs such as Native Studies, who typically do not attend GSA events; attempt to determine fundamental reasons why this program generally has very little involvement with the GSA

6. Policy for student/supervisor issues or problems
 - current policy is to discuss with supervisor, then director, then chair
 - would be beneficial for students to have a confidential record of complaint kept on file
 - need a better policy so that students have something to back themselves up & are better protected in the case that they have difficulties with their supervisors

7. Student Orientation Committee
 - increase awareness of grad students on campus with new undergrads during ISW
 - intro week: have one big event to ensure better turn out
 - need to put together brief bios for the mailing for new students (due early July)

8. Other ideas or goals for the GSA this year
 - none presented at this time