

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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