

GSA Meeting #8 – November 21, 2006

Minutes

In attendance:

John	Ryan	Mark	Bastien
Amanda	Bree	Meg	Tina
Robyn	Katia	Erin	

1. Praise for the GSA
 - members of the Canadian Studies faculty commended the GSA for their work and especially for getting involved in political issues at Trent
2. Approval of minutes
 - Motion to approve minutes from last meeting put forth by Erin, seconded by Katia
 - Motion passed; minutes approved
3. CASSC update
 - new protocols were approved at the last meeting
 - the Religious Affairs subcommittee limited to four people due to problems finding representation amongst all groups within CASSC, so representation will be first come, first serve (the GSA will not necessarily be guaranteed a place on this subcommittee)
 - Mark volunteered to represent the GSA on the Colleges committee
4. CUPE update
 - John got a PDF copy of the collective agreement, which will be posted on the GSA website
 - the CUPE website will be updated shortly
5. Feedback on the last meeting's constructive criticism topic (input from Bastien on social events)
 - we have only technically missed one social event: there are supposed to be two social events per month including the Symons seminar series
 - the Halloween Trick or Eat and pub night had low turnout due to late organizing and advertising
 - colour posters will be used for all social events from now on
 - posters for Rock n' Bowl event this Friday November 24th need the start time (9PM) added
 - Trent-Queen's students aren't on the grad distribution e-mail list put out by Grad Studies; we need to get this list forwarded to program secretaries so that it can be passed to students
 - Bree suggested that events need to be advertised several weeks in advance so that people can plan to attend
 - o also, we could advertise the upcoming year's events in September
 - o according to the Constitution, the year's events are supposed to be advertised at fall AGM so that we can get new ideas and feedback

- Bastien and Erin will plan the winter GSA events over next few weeks and we can begin advertising in early January
 - we don't want to send too many e-mails about events, or send e-mails too far in advance because students may forget
 - people are unsure about attending GSA events because they assume their partner isn't invited so we need to always indicate "GSA and friends" on the poster/invite
 - an Easter potluck was proposed, which could potentially be held in the Crypt
6. Survey (Tuition subcommittee)
- feedback from GSA exec members –
 - question 4 – confusion over how to answer question; we do have concerns about many issues including tuition waivers but majority of students are Masters students and aren't going to indicate this as a major problem
 - question 6 – need to have something between yes and no
 - Bastien suggested to have a question asking students what they like about Trent University
 - question 3 – need to add an option for "program", remove "pub", add "location", add "other" option that could potential include pub/social
 - have two questionnaires (one for Masters, one PhD)
 - Bree raised an interesting point that the average student takes 3 years to complete their degree in both WEGS and Canadian Studies, so MSc/MA students do end up paying more for a degree even if annual tuition rate is less
 - an updated survey will be sent out for the GSA executive to try
7. Social Events
- Rock n' Bowl event: we have booked 6 lanes, there can be 6 people in each lane; we can book more lanes up to the day before, we can drop lanes too (price is \$31 per lane for the night); shoes are \$1 rental; important for the GSA exec to attend
 - Christmas (Festivus) party: the Gordon Best Theatre has been confirmed for Dec 9th, the sound equipment and food are also confirmed; we can arrive as early as 5PM to set up; e-mail advertising will be sent out in the next day or two
8. Seminar Series
- abstract submission deadline extended to 15th
 - Stephen will host
 - thanks to Tina, Stephen and Bastien for presenting, good work!
 - Mark & Stephen suggested the idea of having a silent auction of grad student work at each seminar night, which potentially could attract more Peterborough locals to the seminars
 - a potential problem with this idea is that the room is too small to have many more people attend, although we are advertising around Peterborough and not just at Trent
 - we did advertise downtown last year and didn't get much of a response from the community
 - Robyn received an e-mail from high school teacher wanting to potentially bring students to the talks, (it would be difficult to accommodate many more people in the Junior Common Room)

- one possibility is having the talks in the lecture hall at Traill, but it may be too large a space for the number of people that turn up (and we would lose the cozy atmosphere)

9. Funding requests

- The organizers of the Float Your Boat event (an event to benefit PARN that took place in September) are seeking a \$50 donation from the GSA to help cover the costs of the event
- Graduate students did not participate in this event, and while the PARN is a worthy cause, the GSA is also a charitable/non-profit organization which can't afford to donate to other causes
- Bree put forth a motion not to fund the Float Your Boat event, Ryan seconded the motion; motion passed

10. AOB

- Health coverage update: January start students can now pay for the Jan-Aug period instead of paying for the entire year
- Winter start students: Bree suggested that we have a small orientation for January start students – we should make sure that they receive the welcome package, show them around the campus, and possibly have a January pub night – we need to talk to program secretaries to see if there are students starting in January this year
- IT issues: Tina raised the issue of using personal computers at school... we are forced to use Novell (in order to do this, we have to have our computers reformatted) and we don't get to be administrators – this is potentially an issue that we should raise as grad students
 - o in order to make progress on this issue (WEGS has been trying to make headway for several years now), we could potentially agree to reformatting and Novell as long as we get administrative powers
 - o Tina would like to form a subcommittee on internet/network access for grad students; we need a list of the main issues with the network right now to bring forward, first at CASSC meeting, then at Senate
 - o GSA exec members present support this initiative
 - o realistically we aren't asking for much, the IT problems shouldn't be difficult to fix; the necessary technology is available and security is much better now
- next meeting will be held on Dec 5