

GSA Meeting #5 – September 25, 2006

Minutes

In attendance:

John
Amanda
Robyn
Bastien
Roxanne
Tina
Ryan
Bree
Erin
Stephen
Meg
Michelle

1. Approval of minutes
 - Motion to approve minutes from last meeting put forth by Stephen, seconded by Ryan
 - Motion passed; minutes approved
2. Funding requests
 - Canadian Studies (CS) conference
 - o the school hosting the CS conference usually gives greater financial support towards the conference (the CS conference is at Carleton this year)
 - o there is a request for \$200 from GSA
 - o currently \$4000 short; may need to cut guest speaker and food costs
 - o GSA considering donating \$375 (half of last year's \$750 donation)
 - o Tina suggested contacting Carleton and organizing so that we both give equal amounts (i.e. \$500) each year
 - o Stephen made a motion that the GSA gives \$400 for the CS conference this year, John seconded, motion passed
 - o the GSA requests for the report from last year's conference
 - o the GSA will look into establishing a set amount to donate each year with Carleton
 - Trent Latin Swing Club (TLSC)
 - o the GSA donated \$100 last year to the TLSC
 - o approximately 5-7 grad students in the club
 - o as the club gets more established in future years, the GSA may reduce funding
 - o Tina made a motion for the GSA to give \$200 of funding to the TLSC, Bastien seconded, motion passed
3. CASSC Update

- Task committee: we can send anyone from the GSA if a meeting is called for these committees
 - Only 3 regular subcommittees
 - Finance committee would look over CASSC-related issues, meet once a year at budget time
 - Upcoming policy meeting
4. CUPE
- Upcoming meeting is open to all members (Oct 5 7:30-8:30)
 - the amalgamation of unit 1 & 2 will be discussed
 - Notice about the CUPE meeting will be distributed through grad e-mail list
 - GSA members should be present at meeting
5. Services meeting
- Dean Evans stood up for supplying health & counseling services throughout the whole summer
 - the Health and Counseling representative was against Jul & Aug services, indicated that doctors working at Trent appreciated having a summer break
 - a \$1500 deficit occurred last year in the summer months; however, summer service could be paid for by increased levy fees
 - there was general recognition of the demand for summer services
 - Counseling services was open one day a week for three months this past summer; the representative from Counseling Services was receptive to offering service throughout the summer
 - representative from Athletics indicated that there is the potential to get space at Athletics facility for GSA sports activities
 - housing – at the services meeting, the GSA representatives indicated that graduate students didn't want a dorm, or any involvement with Aramark; there will be a survey for grad students to identify housing needs, any suggestions for the survey need to be sent later this week
 - a related issue is the need for child care spaces for grad students; Bastien suggested that a certain number of places be reserved for graduate students
6. Tuition update
- Informal meeting with Dean Evans to get additional information, feedback on our demands for changes to tuition fees; a formal meeting may be called depending on outcome
 - fees might be changing to course-based fees (where students would pay more tuition during years when taking courses, less tuition when working solely on thesis)
 - there is confusion over the health benefits payments for January and May start students and how the plan is working; this will also be discussed
7. AGM/Thanksgiving Potluck
- the meeting will be held Wednesday Oct 4 from 5-8PM
 - posters for advertising, directions to the Crypt are needed (Stephen has signs with arrows)
 - food – Amanda will organize food contributions; Roxanne will bring the turkey (will be reimbursed); GSA exec will bring “staples”

- Bastien suggested that we have the AGM potluck during the day to increase attendance, but there are difficulties with meeting during day, need significant amount of time to go over budget and constitutional amendments, also need to keep track of attendance (we can't have people coming and going); therefore meeting will be held earlier in the evening (5PM rather than 6PM as originally planned)

9. Bookstore bursaries

- GSA needs to put forth 1 or 2 names of individuals who will be given \$200 to spend at the bookstore
- decide via e-mail who is deserving (Colin Whitfield, Robyn Pitman are two suggestions)
- decision by next Monday

8. Budget

- levy fee funds are used for social events (40%) , conference bursaries (60%)
- we have 60 more grad students this year (more fees), we should try and keep the same split of funds between social events and conference bursaries
- we have only have had 3 barbeques (summer bbq expenses are carried over from last year's budget, but we still technically should have money left (\$450) from the last budget); we need some flexibility within the budget for the social events so that we are able to spend the money already allotted for this purpose
- Symons speaker series – GSA gives \$5000 a year until the series is self-sustaining
- the remainder of the money from the \$5000 allocated to the Seminar series goes into the Seminar series endowment if it is not spent during the year, until the endowment is self-sustaining
- the remaining money from college fees that are not being distributed this year goes into the Accumulated funds account
- amendment to GSA constitution: any proposals for alternative uses for the accumulated funds would need to be raised at October AGM and passed by quorum
- amendment to GSA constitution: to propose the alternative use for the funds at the AGM, we would need greater than three quarters (>75%) of the executive in favour of the alternative use
- vote amongst GSA executive held; 1 vote in favour of majority (>50%) decision, remainder of executive wants >75% decision; the amendment will therefore require greater than three quarters of executive in favour

9. Social events

- Canada's Wonderland: \$480, \$530 were 2 quotes for chartering a school bus for 12 hours; discount tickets for groups over 25; there is the potential to put money aside for the next GSA executive for a summer trip to Canada's Wonderland as time is running short for planning a trip this fall
- Tina suggested that we consider going to a play in Toronto or Peterborough this fall
- Erin suggested that there is a haunted house near Port Hope open until Halloween
- other potential events include Pete's hockey game, bowling, wine tasting