

# GSA Meeting – December 11, 2007

Present:

Vikki, Andrea, Nic, Francis, Erin, Stacy, David, John, Kathryn, Sarah, Andrea S-S, Denina, Adrienne

Permanent Regrets:

Kristina

Absent without regrets:

Peter

## Agenda Items

### 1. Reports Back

#### a. President

- i. Congratulations on Festivus!
- ii. President's Meeting Update:
  1. Discussed concerns within CASCC and Senate e.g., bookkeeping, critically evaluating new policies, etc.
- iii. David suggests the GSA should deal with CFS in the new year

#### b. Vice-President

- i. No new updates

#### c. Treasurer

- i. Budget update - fee checks
  1. The GSA has not received roughly \$5000 owed in college fees. Nina has talked with Doug Evans who is looking into the matter.
- ii. PCAP Festivus funds and donation
  1. PCAP funds will be counted by Nina.
  2. Stacy will post amount on the GSA website
  3. Adrienne will liaise between Nina and PCAP to determine payment method

#### d. Senate

- i. Report from Senate meeting - Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>:
  1. The chair apologized about the breach of protocol at the Senate Meeting of October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007 with regards to academic amnesty.
  2. Discussed a proposed grant whereby the Ontario government will give a \$300 technology and textbook grant to graduate students.
  3. Discussed the \$2,000,000 shortfall of the University budget due to a low enrollment of undergraduate students and ways to compensate, including
    - a. No new hires
    - b. Cancel inflation adjustments
    - c. Invest money into more risky investments
    - d. Taking money out of all programs and budgets
      - i. Discussion: Many GSA executive members have concerns about the lack of the quality of education potentially occurring as a result of these budget cuts and the indirect effects on graduate students.
      - ii. Concerns will be discussed with Doug Evans in the New Year. Depending on details obtained, an official statement by the GSA executive will be released. Additionally, this may be added to the January CASCC meeting agenda.

- e. Trent is in negotiations with George Brown College to build a new campus on the Toronto Waterfront. This campus will be offering business programs and potentially arts and science.
    - ii. Report from Graduate Studies Committee meeting - Dec.7<sup>th</sup>
      - 1. Executive heads have decided that all graduate students will be part of Trail College as of May.
        - a. Bachelor of Education students are concerned about being affiliated with all colleges and a lack of student body representation.
        - b. Francis suggests that we negotiate with Bachelor of Education students to formally become part of the GSA.
        - c. Erin will investigate past structures and/or existing structures for these students with regards to student representation
        - d. Adrienne proposes a sub-committee to organize a meeting with Bachelor of Education students to determine the needs of these students with regards to this matter.
      - 2. Two new Master's programs are being introduced: Sustainability and Psychology.
    - iii. Letter to Bonnie Paterson re: Van Loon Report
      - 1. The Ontario College of Graduate Studies (OCGS) review has been under review by Richard Van Loon. Proposed changes by Van Loon fall in line with Australian and UK models which would result in much larger time commitments by faculty and a greater financial burden to the University.
      - 2. Francis has an executive summary of the report and sent a letter to Bonnie Patterson outlining his concerns with regards to Van Loon's recommendations. The letter was written from a personal perspective, not as an official GSA statement.
      - 3. Motion by Sarah: For the GSA to officially support Francis' letter to Bonnie Patterson with regards to his opposition to the Van Loon report.
        - a. Friendly Amendment by Andrea M: Send to the entire GSA executive the letter before making an official stance.
          - i. Vote: 9 Agree, 2 Opposed.
        - b. Motion and Amendment Vote: 11 Agree, 1 Abstained.
- e. **CUPE Representative**
  - i. Update on the new executive meeting last week:
    - 1. A second meeting will be held on Monday December 17, 2007 to deal with organizing the special AGM in order to pass by-law changes.
  - ii. CUPE and OPSEU:
    - 1. Motion by John: To support a standing policy on granting academic amnesty that will ensure that students who choose not to cross a legal picket line of any union at Trent University will not be academically penalized.
      - a. Seconded: Andrea M
      - b. Vote: Unanimous
  - iii. Section 4.3 of the Trent University Risk Management Policy and Procedures Manual
    - 1. Motion by John: The GSA opposes section 4.3 of the Trent University Risk Management Policy and Procedures manual and encourages administration to change this policy to better reflect the importance and legal right for unions to strike and the importance of having an active student population by removing reference to collective bargaining processes, strikes, demonstrations and active student populations from Section 4.3

- a. Amendment: Insert actual sentences of 4.3 into John's original motion.
  - i. Seconded: Sarah
  - ii. Vote: unanimous
- b. Amended Motion by John: The GSA opposes section 4.3 of the Trent University Risk Management Policy and Procedures manual that states: "4.3 Human-made Threats. Although the focus of Trent's academic program is environmentally and socially positive, Trent has a very active student population. As with other institutions, the collective bargaining process also brings the risk of strikes. Strikes, demonstrations and related vandalism can be extremely disruptive and have occurred in the past." The GSA encourages administration to change this policy to better reflect the importance and legal right for unions to strike and the importance of having an active student population by removing reference to collective bargaining processes, strikes, demonstrations and active student populations from Section 4.3

**f. Secretary**

- i. Pass November 27, 2007 Minutes:
  - 1. Motion by Andrea S-S: To approve the GSA Minutes from Nov 27, 2007
    - a. Seconded: Sarah
    - b. Vote: Unanimous
- ii. Meeting in the New Year:
  - 1. Will meet January 8<sup>th</sup> at 8pm, Kerr House, Trail College

**g. Communications Officer**

- i. A graduate student update email is being sent out.

**h. Social Coordinators**

- i. Office Hours: No attendance and potentially no need for official office hours.
  - 1. Motion by Adrienne: Replace office hours with a list of program representatives and GSA executive emails posted on the website and send an email to the graduate students explaining the situation and suggesting appointments.
    - a. Seconded: Nic
    - b. Vote: Unanimous.

**i. WEGP Representative**

- i. Meeting with Doug Evans:
  - 1. Doug Evans requested a meeting with the GSA to learn about graduate student opinions with regards to various issues including graduate student space, college affiliation with Trail, etc. A meeting will be organized for the New Year.
- ii. Potential New Health Plan concerns:
  - 1. How the new plan will be administered
  - 2. Should investigate and ensure we are not bound to the current plan

**2. Other Items:**

- a. Motion by Nina for a family winter fun activity to occur in the New Year
  - i. An official vote not taken, however, received well by the GSA executive. Suggestions include skating on the canal with hot apple cider.

**3. Motion to adjourn: Sarah**

- a. Seconded: Erin