

GSA Executive Meeting Agenda – December 3, 2008, 4-6pm, Champlain SCR

Present:

Allison
Andrea
Jean
Jenn
John
Josh
Lynette
Nick
Nina
Peter

Absent with regrets:

Colin
Sarah
Tom

1. Secretary

- a. Approve Minutes – November 19, 2008 meeting

Motion by Katy to approve minutes

In favour: unanimous

Motion passed

2. President

- a. Constitution – Revision of GSA executive positions.

- i. Equity commissioner – this position is not included in the current constitution, duties are not well defined. The strong Native Studies program at Trent would be better represented by this position.
- ii. Environmental commissioner.
- iii. Instead of program reps, two program liaisons (science & arts) would coordinate program reps from the various programs
- iv. Currently: 9 core executive positions and 11 program reps

Motion by Andrea to strike a subcommittee on the revision of GSA executive positions headed by Jenn and aided by Lynette and Katy
Seconded: John

In Favour: Unanimous.

Motion passed

- b. MTCU Accountability meeting – expanding graduate programs.

- i. What is the incentive for attracting students?
- ii. What about increasing OGS? OGS is in the package of expanding grad programs.
- iii. Report to come around Christmas.
- iv. Current state of the economy is hindering progress on this issue.

- c. Trend - RFP is out for the new food provider for Trend.

- i. Conference services: where do the funds go? Liquor license is currently under conference services, but a new food service provider should be able to apply for their own license. Will soon get a full summary of expenditures and profits from the Trend event.
 - d. Trent's Discrimination and Harassment Policy is currently up for review - please review the document (sent via email) and have feedback ready for next executive meeting.
3. VP
- a. CASSC update
 - i. Bursaries are intended to complement OSAP, highest you can receive is \$11000, estimated costs for tuition \$14000. Bursary is meant to top up that amount.
 - ii. More funds are available now because bursaries are handed out to those in need only.
 - iii. Assessment tool would be needed for Trent to issue bursaries independent of OSAP. Trent can assess need more effectively with OSAP approval because OSAP has access to student financial history and records.
 - iv. Work: graduate students are limited in the work they can do to generate extra income. The TA contract stipulates a maximum of 10 hrs/wk.
 - v. OSAP is flawed because it does not provide for fair opportunity for grad students. It is geared towards undergrads.
 - vi. Suggestion: request tax forms for easier access of information.
4. Treasurer
- a. Bursary review – update on recent e-mails from a student to GSA execs: e-mails were delayed in the Trent e-mail system. The student will apply for a bursary in January and the application will be reviewed along with all others.
 - ~~a.~~b. Second quarter report - recommendations
 - i. Funding should be approved in advance, with all invoices/receipts presented before funds are handed out.
 - ii. For joint events, there should be better communication. Perhaps a more formal process should be instituted.
 - iii. Spending should be reduced. Spending was over budget for social events (summer: Intro Week, and Pub night).
 - iv. For receipts: all receipts should be placed in an envelope, with name, event and date written on the front.
 - v. Communications budget: funding information is missing, internal mail has not been reliable lately (perhaps some mail is being sent to the old address).
 - vi. Balance is ~\$5000, savings are \$2400. Expenses for the remainder of this year are for Bursaries and Festivus. There will likely be a surplus.
 - vii. Surpluses can be put towards deficits.

viii. So far GSA has spent >\$11000, with average spending per month ~\$2000.

~~b.c.~~ Symons' Series relationship with the GSA.

5. Communications

a. Media/Press

i. Arthur update? Nothing yet.

b. Website hosting quotes – 3 options

i. Quid Novis: \$20/month, \$35/year for domain name

ii. Host Papa (online): \$6/month for 3 yr plan, \$7/month for 2 yr plan, \$8/month for 1 yr plan + 30 day money back guarantee. This is the best option so far.

1. Environmentally friendly (server powered by wind-power!).

2. Free domain name.

3. May include statistics on number of hits but must verify this.

iii. For Good Hosting (online): Does include statistics on number of hits.

c. Budget: \$50 went to website building, \$150-250 went to posters and media, ~\$250 left to spend for the year. Website hosting would result in deficit but this is a 3 yr investment.

d. Website hosting should be completed by January.

Motion by Josh that the VP communications has the right to pursue website hosting with a 3 year plan from Host Papa.

Seconded: Allison

In Favour: Unanimous.

Motion passed

6. Senator

7. Social Directors

a. November event – report back

i. Bowling event was successful overall. Attendance: 20-30. GSA funds subsidized \$2/person, amounting to \$40.

b. Festivus (Dec 13th, Saturday) – Gordon Best Theatre is booked (total cost: \$600). Doors open at 9pm. DJ's: Nina. Possibly Pete as well.

8. CUPE rep

a. Meeting with science students – Dec 1. Goal was to collaborate on ceiling cap. OPSEU is on board for no private residence.

b. Get together on Dec. 11 (Thurs), 8pm at Papa's Billiards. Casual dress.

9. Athletics

a. Update: Powerpoint outlined specifics of the new building – overall design and funding sources. Powerpoint presentation will be reposted later this week.

10. Sub-committee reports back

a. Health Care (Allison, Jean, Josh)

i. Part time student inclusion in the Health Plan – update on meeting with Tracy.

1. Conclusion: grad students will have to pay an extra \$26 for TCSA membership for PT students to be included in the plan. Currently, FT grad students piggyback on the plan for free. All FT grad students pay for the plan (\$260) but do not pay the membership fee.
 2. There needs to be no optout option for there to be critical mass to allow for inclusion of PT students.
 - ii. Grad students currently rely on the health plan heavily, undergrads are now essentially paying for grad students to use it.
 - iii. Suggestion: perhaps Doug Evans can campaign for grad studies to provide a health care plan or PT undergrads will need to be pressured to buy into the health plan.
 - b. Student funding, fees, tuition (John - Chair, Nina, Vladimir, Jean)- Conference bursaries (tabled from last week)
 - i. They are meant to fund registration fees, but this may not be of much help to Arts students because their registration fees are typically much lower than Science conferences do not have high entrance fees.
 - ii. Also, we need to know that we can change the system before sending out an announcement.
 - iii. Online survey suggestions for improvements:
 1. No option for “none of the above”.
 2. Include question of whether student has applied for a conference bursary and if not, why.
 - c. Transportation committee – Jenn: Update on bus route change.
 - i. Peterborough committee and transit executives recently had a meeting.
 - ii. Reasoning behind the altered route is to accommodate new wheelchair accessible buses.
 - iii. There was agreement that the current bus stop presents a hazard to students, a crosswalk will be proposed at the next city council meeting.
 - iv. Survey to come in January covering general issues.
 - v. New e-mail address to voice complaints.
 - vi. Informational posters will be installed.
 - vii. Request Andrew to draft a letter to city council (perhaps in conjunction with TCSA) requesting a crosswalk.
 - d. Symon’s Series (Tom)
 - i. Dec 3rd – Linda Rutledge and Caitlin Friendship will present.
 - ii. Dec 19th – abstracts due for the winter term
11. Next meeting – Dec 17th, 4-6pm at Traill SCR.
12. Other business
- Motion by Josh to adjourn
- Seconded: Nick
- In favour: Unanimous.
- Motion passed.