

GSA Executive Meeting - April 29, 2008- Minutes DRAFT

Present: Andrea, Nina, Jenn, Tom, Josh, Allison, Jean

Absent with regrets: Simon, Katy, John Rose, Benny

1.0 President's Update

1.1 University Budget and Deficit

University announced deficit of \$10.5 million. Budget cuts won't affect health services, counselling services etc. that comes from ancillary fees. Renovations to athletic centre and DNA building will continue.

1.2 Faculty and staffing cuts

Positions of retiring staff will not be refilled, early retirement will be offered, there will be some layoffs of redundant positions, possibility of staff cuts.

1.3 University Commons

Commons will not be built due to budget cuts. Admin is being moved from Library to Champlain College to make room for books.

1.4 Ceillie and student spaces

Since planned pub space in the Commons will not come to pass, there will be a \$27 000 renovation to Ceillie (from student fees), with eventual plans for each college to have it's own pub.

1.5 The Rooster

A sexual assault occurred at the Rooster a few weeks ago. University is going to officially boycott the Rooster due to staff negligence and not hold any events there.

2.0 Traill College Issues

2.1 Graduate student transition to Traill

Renovations started at Traill last week, which are supposed to be done by September. Andrea had a meeting with the Traill President to ease the transition from undergrad to a grad college. Although there will be no students in residence at Traill, there will be undergrad members of Traill College for 3 more years. The sentiment is that most of antagonism of Traill undergrads is towards the administration, thus we need to show ourselves as a friendly body. It was suggested that social events that are jointly run/funded by GSA and Traill cabinet to be held at Traill should be a priority.

2.2 The Trend and Second Spoon

Aramark has right of first refusal for food service at Traill and has not officially said no to this according to our knowledge. It is agreed that we need to make sure of this refusal before efforts on Second Spoon proposal move forward. Allison is going to go to Conference Services to inquire when Aramark has to give up the right of first refusal. Andrea is going to ask the same question when she speaks to Meri-Kim Oliver next week.

A proposal needs to make a convincing case for the Seasoned Spoon group to become involved. There is the possibility of requiring membership for all grad students as

incentive for them to be involved in Traill. The GSA may be able to help cover with startup costs such as a stove.

Motion by Andrea: strike a subcommittee composed of Allison and Jenn to work on Second Spoon over summer.

Seconded by: Nina

Motion passed: Unanimous

3.0 Symons Series Briefing from Yakuta Bhagat

The heads of this year's Symons Series have made recommendations for next years executive, and indicated their willingness to help next year.

Key recommendations include:

- Need to draft an email soon to recruit three (3) people to make up SS executive (Fundraising, Operations, Communications)

- It is important that one of the GSA exec members serve on the committee. Tom volunteered to be Communications coordinator.

- More help is also needed from communications and social directors for next year.

- Book a keynote speaker for the gala early in the year and may need to find another location for the speakers series due to presence of Aramark at Traill (may not be an issue).

4.0 Charter of Student Rights and Responsibilities

The Charter of Student Rights and Responsibilities was not passed in the April CASCC meeting even though the amendments recommended by the Task Force were passed. A motion was passed at the April GSA meeting which opposes a misconduct policy of any kind and thus does not support the Charter. However, students are not being given any further input as to whether or not a NAMP/Charter document is going to be put in place. The administration is going to implement some kind of document over the summer for inclusion in the New Student handbook in September. The administration has asked the Presidents Group for direction on which version to use. There is a move to accept the Charter under duress since the GSA views it as an improvement over the original NAMP document and it does contain many of the recommendations from the previous years GSA.

Motion by Nina: That while the GSA wishes to maintain the previous position in that we do not support a student misconduct policy in any form, given the situation that we are forced to chose between the original NAMP document and the new Student Charter of Rights and Responsibilities, we are strongly in favour of acceptance of the charter with the inclusion of the amendments supported passed at the April CASSC meeting and with inclusion of the recommendations supported by the GSA.

Seconded by: Josh

Voted: in favour 5, opposed 0, abstained 1.

5.0 Social Events

5.1 Summer Social Events

- BBQs once a month plus an additional supper BBQ on a Traill campus which would likely be best in August since the Aramark presence at Traill is uncertain at this point.
- Sports days such as soccer tournaments, Frisbee, football, beach volleyball.
- Family fun picnic day- may include sack races, three-legged race, nature walk, stories of indigenous culture.

5.2 Orientation week Activities

It is concluded that a joint event at Traill with Traill cabinet should occur during Orientation week. Events should be worked out soon so they can be included in the summer GSA flyer.

5.3 Summer GSA flyer for incoming graduate students-

Should try to organize flyer to be sent out in July mailing. It may include maps of campus that are grad-student oriented and department specific, a Peterborough map, list of events, nature areas, bike and walking trail maps, coupons from local businesses.

5.4 Other ideas- Participation in community activities such as Float your Boat, houseware item swaps.

Motion by Andrea: strike a subcommittee to work on orientation week composed of Jean, Allison, Josh and hopefully Simon.

Seconded by: Allison

Voted: Unanimous

6.0 Constitution

Motion by Andrea: strike a subcommittee to work on constitution over the summer composed of Nic, Sarah, Andrea, Josh and maybe non-executive member.

Seconded by: Tom

Voted: Unanimous

7.0 Honouraria

Motion by Nina: strike subcommittee composed of Nina and Jenn to solicit Doug Evans and Susan Clark to get a tuition bursary for GSA exec.

Seconded by: Andrea

Voted: Unanimous

8.0 Health Issues

Andrea is going to work on getting coverage for part-time graduate students by September, will discuss this in meeting next week. Discussion of clinic hours/access to doctors. This issue will be tabled until September.

9.0 CFS

After a brief summary of GSA involvement in CFS, discussion about referendum and pros and cons of membership follows, including whether idea of referendum should be raised at the fall AGM. Since U of Waterloo is the only other university in Canada that is

not a member, we should contact them to learn rationale for not joining. This issue will be tabled until September.

10.0 Conference bursaries

There is discussion of whether exec should meet more frequently to approve conference bursaries but meeting once a month is adequate. Some mail has gone missing from GSA mailbox. Nina will contact outgoing exec to find if anyone knows what happened and find mailroom.

11.0 General meeting issues.

-website improvements

-using Roberts Rules for meetings

-next meeting tentatively scheduled for Friday the 30th of May, 3:00-5:00.

-Tom feels strongly that meetings during the year should be coordinated with tea. Tea is important.

-send agenda items to Andrea during the summer since we do not have a regular secretary

-GSA's motion on NAMP/charter should be included in the next mass email to keep general assembly informed, refer to website for recommendations.

Motion to adjourn: Andrea

Seconded by: Nina

Voted: Unanimous