

GSA FGM Minutes– October 8th, 2008

Present:

Cynthia

Sarah

Colin

Josh

Andrea

Allison

Jonathon

Jean

Tom

Nina

Katy

Nick

Peter

Jules

Agnes

Bryon

Lynette

Matthew

Colin W.

Nic

Yakuta

Kaitlin

Lara

Ina

Kyle

JP

Dave

Jenn

Andrea O.

Dayna

Tyler

Wang

Aisha

Andrea H.

Nicole

Joanna

Tania

Istok

Brandi
Jeffrey
Kathryn
Joella
Helen
Iftekhhar

Absent with regrets:

Benny
Nicholas

Absent without regrets:

Vladimir

1.1. Budget Proposal (Nina – 5min presentation, 10min discussion)

Quick review:

- Last year we had surplus in bursary spending (spent 65%)
- Microfiche (didn't spend nearly enough); underbudget
- Social (spent 99.9%)
- Simon's Series (\$950 of additional \$2000)
- Media (spent more than \$150 of allocated funds, maybe \$100 more because we put out public relations pamphlets in mail-outs explaining what GSA is)

Total budget: surplus 25-30 %

Goal for this year: maintain balanced budget

May need more money to help promote activities at the pub and at Traill

Trends: conference/bursary spending has gone down, already spent 70% of budget, have had to put some on hold, so if you've already applied for one this year, you have to wait until May, but you will be reimbursed.

- Social events have gone up – overall budget is now \$3700: 4 summer BBQ's, Festivus, Year-end party, today's AGM
- Symon's series has gone up – \$5000, moved additional funding from last year
- Conference/group support has gone up (latin/swing group or student run conferences, poetry readings, etc.) – raised to equal Symon's series budget
 - Increase in student #s: 396 now
 - This year, budget has increased – honorarium
 - 10 % of total budget has gone to savings
 - Balance of cumulated funds \$35000

Motion by Mathew: to raise honorariums to \$100 a year

Seconded: Andrea

Abstention: 1

In favor: All else

Motion passed

Note by Nina on surplus: there is ALWAYS surplus. Have to include it in the charter, and are looking to include it in TA ship increase. Doug Evans says about trail college – over the next few years, there may be changes in fees but will not be any change in the funds that GSA receives (without GSA's consent). Doug Evans does not have authority to withhold money without a constitution being passed.

Motion by Nina: to pass 2008-09 budget

Seconded: Nic

In favor: unanimous

Motion passed

2.0 Proposed Constitution (Andrea – 15 minutes discussion, then motion to approve)

We have drafted a new constitution, posted on GSA website. 3 main changes:

1. CUPE bylaws
2. Conference bursaires (putting limit to one a year until may)
3. Committee rep positions: had to provide minutes to every meeting they attend but now worded to include only those meetings where graduate students are concerned.

Question: What is the difference between college and levee fee?

College goes towards Symon's series

Amendment to the honorarium: "Executive positions should be paid an honorarium to an amount determined at each AGM and to be paid at end of the executive's tenure"

Motion by Andrea: to pass aforementioned constitution with the inclusion of the amendments proposed

In favor: unanimous

Motion passed

BIG THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO WORKED ON AMMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

3.0 Charter of Student Rights and Responsibilities (Jenn – 10min presentation, 10 min discussion) – Jenn

Brief history – last yr office of student affairs proposed AMP, not supported by most student body (>70%). Task force created (composed entirely of students) to make amendments.

Amendments were accepted but controversial issues came up and it was suspended over the summer so now admin is going through the process again.

Rationale for charter – admin is legally required to take action if they are made aware of misconduct. General language used: university is supposed to act as a "prudent parent". A well defined document would provide consistency between cases. Documents can be posted on line to make it transparent, consistent, faster and more efficient. Also gives a venue for those who do not want to pursue legal action

Document as it is now:

- Includes any activity that takes place on the internet on any website
- Some overlap with existing university policies
- Ambiguous wording

We voted to not support the document in its current form; it is a work in process. It may or may not be passed at the next meeting, charter will be posted to the website after next week for input.

Comments: there is already a law covering all these rights, this document is basically for Trent to "cover its own ass". It is not up to Trent to provide entire new set of rules. This is encouraging more control of university over students. There should be an independent body

to charter student rights. GSA needs to be opposed to the charter. The reason code was conceived was because there was overlap between the police and ombudsman (i.e. bullying, small scale vandalism).

Questions:

1. Should it be an independent body or up to admin?

GSA sees it that we are adults and can make our own decisions. There are checks and balances in the charter to guard against admin imposing too many rules.

2. What is the current form of the proposed judicial charter? Is there involvement by students on the judicial committee?

The judicial process was changed from last year. No it is one person representing students senior director of student affairs and there is at least one grad student on appeals panel (after decision is made). Question to ask: How it is relevant, how does it address problem of harassment as it pertains to us? We need an avenue to mediate conflict among us students but there is major problem with independent body representation because we do not know their stance and they may not have our best interests in mind. There is a precedent for this type of student code, many universities have them. Should speak with admin and talk about amending charter specifically for grad studies.

Document does not address what happens in the case of a labor issue. Document could be used against us because it does not stipulate what rights students have in terms of union.

There is too much duality. Last year spent a lot of time nitpicking on charter. Efforts should be focused on the process rather than little issues. Core issue is WHAT we are going to be penalized for, not HOW. There should be a push for grad student involvement in the process and even lawyers on committee. The issues are being dealt with now through Mary-Kim.

Andrea: calls for suggestions on who you would like to see on panel.

Note by Nina: we rejected panel because it was initially composed of undergrads, and we couldn't include >1 grad because there are not enough grad students and issues of conflict came into play.

Andrea cuts it short

4.0 New Exec Members (2min) – Jenn calls for new exec members, we will send AGM wrapup e-mail to remind you.

5.0 Updates

5.1. The Trend (5min) – A Moveable Feast is now providing food on campus at Trail, also catering the Simon's series, liquor service is still not cleared up

Question: is anyone actually going to the trend?

It is picking up a little, but there is little signage. Wendy Scammel is concerned about that and wants to put a permanent sign. Suggestion: next AGM should maybe be at college.

About liquor licenses – long and convoluted story but hopefully will get cleared up soon.

5.2. Website (Josh – 5min) – new website, go there for new info, including conference bursaries, old/new constitution, GSA e-mail, and events.

5.3. Health Coverage (Andrea – 5-10min) – ongoing issue that pt students aren't able to get coverage. All we have to do is hold referendum, please go online and vote for pt students to get coverage.

5.4. Email Accounts (2min) – no one likes the Trent e-mail system but there is not much we can do about it. Issues include:

- Greater staff status
- Storage capacity
- Organization features
- Larger attachment size

Recommendation: use proxy e-mail system like gmail. We need an ftp server, this would solve the problem of large attachments.

6.0 Upcoming Events (Jean and Allison – 5 min) – 17th oct.....PUB NIGHT! Conference services do want the Trend running, so pub night should kick it off, will have band and donation bin (in place of trick or eat at Halloween).

6.1. We want activity suggestions for Nov. (keep it family friendly!)

6.2. Festivus scheduled at Gordon best. If anyone wants to volunteer to DJ, email Jean or Allison.

SYMON'S SERIES: Tom

7.0 Other Business (PR?)

7.1. Coupons: we'll get more printed out.

7.2. Question: Trent has applied for a patent for a device in a lab, statement about sharing revenues for that but no statement of including students in that.

CUPE has a say in this. Intellectual property committee would address this. It's something that GSA should look at. If this is an IP issue, the office of grad studies is working on getting IP representation.

7.3. Private residence – Trent wants to build a private residence: an apt. residence, non-commercial.

Opposition: financing issue, every private investment on this campus has been a disaster, small amount of money generated, and not very accommodating to students. Market data suggest students would not want to live there. Location is not good. Residents of University Heights have joined Trent in the opposition for reasons of "not in my back yard". For Trent U it's more a privatization issue.

Motion by Nic: to adjourn

Seconded: Nina

In favor: unanimous

Motion passed