

GSA Meeting – June 5, 2008

Present: Nina, Andrea, Jenn, Josh, Allison, Jean, Simon, Jonathon

Absent with regrets: Katy, Benny

Agenda Items

1. Motion by Andrea: to approve minutes from April 19 2008.
Seconded by: Nina
Voted: 5 in favour, 2 abstained

2. Presidents Update
 - a. Health
 - i. A referendum is needed to get part-time students covered by health plan. The current constitution requires 60% quorum to pass which is not viable in summer. This issue will be raised at the fall AGM after a referendum to lower the quorum.
 - ii. DE is trying to facilitate health services for summer and to facilitate registration issues for May- and January-start students.
 - b. NAMP & Charter- The new document is going to include all the recommendations from last CASCC meeting and will be submitted for legal review and it will be discussed with Presidents Group. The student handbook will likely refer students to a website because the document will still be under review when the handbook is published.
 - c. Food services at Trill – There are some differences of opinion between DE and MKO with what services will be offered and where the money should come from. There will be meetings soon to clarify this issue. Both DE and MKO are supportive of having food services and social space at Trill.
 - d. Trent email system- Due to IT restrictions with the server, it is unlikely that webmail can be replaced with a better email provider. Josh will create a forum on WebCT to get input on desired services in an email provider. There is a possibility that grad students could become registered for staff accounts which have more storage space and user options.
 - e. Grad Studies is creating a professional development series with workshops that are applicable to graduate students. Josh will create a forum on WebCT to get input on desired workshop content.
 - f. Student fees paid to GSA- The fee structure is changing as the transition to Trill College occurs but further clarification is needed before it can be determined how these changes are will affect the GSA budget.
 - g. Intellectual Property issues- There is no current IP protocol in place. Grad Studies is creating a policy for IP based on U of T's policy.
 - h. NAMP/charter improvements - DE suggested that the GSA formulate ideas for improvement to NAMP/charter that are specific to grad students (for example, protocol to deal with a situation of deliberate sabotage of samples in a lab).
 - i. A meeting with grad studies committee will occur soon to get keys for GSA office at Trill. It is agreed that the office would be improved with the procurement of a couch.

2. Treasurer
 - a. Conference bursary applications went over budget this year by \$60. The total amount requested was ~\$2300, which is a record in GSA history. Some people have asked for in excess of \$400 for the conference bursary fee but there is extra money available from the microfiching budget.

Motion by Nina: to fully reimburse the 3 people who asked for in excess of their \$400 conference bursary money.

Seconded by: Allison

Voted: 6 in favour, 1 abstained

One person gave sent in a receipt by email instead of an original conference receipt, however other people attending the same conference did provide an original receipt. Nina will ask for original before any reimbursement is given.

- b. Group support applications- An application for \$600 has been to be used for making videos about NAMP by an undergraduate student. The GSA would have no input on the use of this money.

Motion by Nina: to deny funding for this application due to lack of affiliation with GSA and the large amount of money requested.

Seconded by: Tom

Voted: unanimous

3. Communications

- a. Website-The website will be updated over the summer and will be ready by August. The ISW material will be posted.
- b. WebCT- Outdated material will be removed.

4. Social Directors

- a. BBQ report- The first BBQ was a success with almost 100 attendees. For the next BBQ more posters need to be put up at Traill, and the IT problem that delayed the reminder email have been solved.
- b. Social events during ISW- There will be a movie on the lawn at Traill, a free boat cruise which is being organized by Wendy Scammell at Traill, and pub night at Splice. There will also be an introductory tea in September and another BBQ at Traill on September 24th, jointly funded by Traill cabinet, college and the GSA, with tickets for \$1 (possibly \$2). CUPE might become involved and contribute funding. Money for this can be taken from the ISW BBQ budget.
- c. Scones were identified as a key ingredient for successful tea/GSA meetings.

5. Sub-committee reports

- a. Honouraria subcommittee- Information about honouraria from other universities reveals that the GSA exec are drastically under-funded compared to other schools. However due to the uncertainty of the budget, the movement to ask for increased honouraria will be put on hold. There will be a meeting with DE soon to determine the exact fee structure. TA-ships, similar to the honouraria for the CUPE exec, are a possible form of funding.
- a. ISW subcommittee- Orientation week and new student mail-outs need to be put in to Grad Studies by mid-June. The material will be emailed out to the exec for perusal. Maps showing important student services will be posted on the website.
- b. Constitution- the subcommittee will meet in July.

6. CUPE update

- a. The current agreement expires Aug 31st and thus CUPE is beginning the bargaining process right now. The response to the bargaining survey was good. A general meeting will occur soon, with the goal of overhauling the agreement. One of the largest issues faced by CUPE is reaching out to members of general student population. CUPE is seeking a ELS steward to increase involvement of science students in CUPE affairs. CUPE meetings are held at Bradburn house (www.cupe3908.org).

7. Symon's Series Update

- a. There has been good response to the first call for volunteers. The exec is still searching for a media coordinator, ideally someone from an arts program.

8. Motion by Andrea: to adjourn

Seconded by: Tom

Voted: unanimous