

## **GSA Executive Meeting Minutes – November 4, 2008, 12-2pm, Champlain SCR**

### **Present:**

**Allison  
Andrea  
Andrew  
Katy  
Jean  
Jenn  
Josh  
John  
Thomas**

### **Absent with/without regrets:**

**Colin  
Cynthia  
Nina  
Nicholas  
Sarah  
Vladimir**

#### **1. Approve Minutes – October 10 and 22, 2008 meetings**

Motion to approve meeting minutes from:

- Oct 10: 7 in favour, opposed none, abstentions 2
- Oct 22: 6 in favour, opposed none, abstentions 3

Motion approved

#### **2. President**

- i. Constitution – revised, final version forthcoming, bounded copies in office, pdf on website
- ii. Supervisory Practices (refer to emailed PDF) – vague, should have one for each department. Program reps will form program specific suggestions. Opinion of GSA will be tabled at first meeting beginning of Jan

Side notes:

- Benny is no longer able to serve as the Canadian Studies/Native Studies MA program rep, or on the academic planning committee. Please spread the word that we are looking to fill these positions.
- Transportation rep Andrew introduced (ENLS)

#### **3. VP**

- i. Charter –
  - Regrets that Nina was not able to attend.
  - About list: Most of the questions were coming from other student reps. The purpose of the list was so that Jenn could support GSA's arguments.

- “We do not support the document in its current form” opens up the way for simple changes in wording; it is a quick fix instead of addressing major issues.
  - Main issue: Misconduct policy
    - a. Catch 22 – Trent U. is already operating a misconduct policy but without any formal misconduct policy. We fundamentally do not support the policy but since we fall under it, we would like our suggestions incorporated. The matter concerns a difference between whether Trent has a right to govern misconduct and whether they have a right to a document to govern misconduct. If the issue cannot be resolved by arbitration then maybe Trent does not have a right to act as jury (Appeals are based on a single person, and the appeals committee can only make recommendations to the chair of appeals committee).
    - b. Overlap – between the charter and harassment policy
    - c. CUPE involvement – any situation that would occur with students in a role of staff position would fall under union responsibility.
    - d. Inadequacies – it does not cover grad students. Research sabotage is not specifically covered under policy but university is mandated to do something should something happen.
    - e. Points of view – must consider 2: from point of victim *and* protester. E.g. International students often have little success with traditional authorities, so maybe international students would really be in favour.
    - f. Time frame – could be a way for Trent to expedite the appeals process.
- ii. Last meeting’s Motion: The GSA does not support the Student Charter of Rights and Responsibilities in its current form.
- iii. Motion by Jenn: The GSA does not agree that universities have the right to govern student non-academic misconduct.
- a. Friendly amendment by Allison: The GSA does not agree that universities have the right to govern graduate student non-academic misconduct.

Seconded by John  
 Favour 8  
 Opposed 2  
 Motion approved

1. Motion by Jenn: Although the GSA does not agree that universities have the right to govern graduate student non-academic misconduct, we realize that this document may be put in place, in which case we would like to put forth these recommendations, which include but are not limited to:

- 1) This charter has been written with mostly undergraduate students in mind, and is not specific for grad students.
- 2) Students who are in a “dual role” (as both a student and an employee of the University) are subject to potential conflicts between their union mandate and the charter. The charter states that, "Conduct that interferes with another student’s ability to complete academic requirements will be considered misconduct." A union strike or other protest might fall into this definition of misconduct. In addition, students who chose not to cross a picket line in sympathy are not protected from the academic consequences of this decision.
- 3) Although the wording of the preamble has been improved in the final version of the charter, the GSA has a fundamental problem with the inclusion of online activity as a place where misconduct can occur.
- 4) Although the Charter is not supposed to have any academic sanctions for non-academic misconduct, the GSA feels that expulsion (one of the possible sanctions) does have severe impacts on academic success and thus could be considered an academic sanction.
- 5) There is considerable overlap between the charter and the existing Human Rights policy, and that many issues that could be covered under the charter are already covered by this policy.
- 6) The GSA feels that it is not just that students are governed by the charter and the Human Rights policy while faculty is governed by only the Human Rights policy. If faculty were subject the charter, students would have the right to take action against a faculty member.
- 7) Although post-doctoral students are defined as students by the Office of Graduate Studies, the GSA feels post-doctoral students should not be subject to the charter, as they are in often in a position of authority similar to faculty, because they do not pay tuition, and do not need to fulfill course requirements.
- 8) The charter should state that the severity of the sanction be dependent on the severity of the misconduct, instead of being solely dependent on the discretion of the Judicial Officer.
- 9) The charter gives the Chair of the Appeals committee the power to decide whether to grant the right to appeal, rather than automatically giving this right, and the decision of the Appeals panel is not binding on the Judicial Officer.
- 10) The charter should include a better outline of the training required of Judicial Officer and Chair of Appeals, and better define how the Chair of Appeals is appointed.

Seconded by Andrea  
Unanimous

- iv. Transportation Issues – Andrew (new transportation rep) went to 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.
  1. Bus stop at Traill – moved. Problem: no lights and dark. City will not install a crosswalk, states people should use the lights. Route was originally diverted because of construction but it is now permanent. Current proposal is to let students off at the light.

Questions: What about moving it back to the way it was before? Snow can be an issue. Andrew will propose changing it back to way it was.

Motion by Andrea: GSA would like original bus route reinstated to stop on Dublin St on Traill campus. It is necessary to have a bus-stop on Traill campus for reasons of accessibility and safety. Currently we do not see any other viable options to having a bus stop directly on Traill campus.

Unanimous

2. Audit on buses: 2 proposed methods

a. Survey sheets on buses.

b. Employing someone to count people on bus.

Issue: Buses do not come often enough during peak times, only every 20 minute. There is also overcrowding and inconsistency in schedules.

Problem: A complaint cannot be lodged without stats to back it up.

Tabled for January.

3. Need to raise fees

4. Communications

i. Website hosting – should have hosting arranged by the end of this semester

5. Senator – course change requirement for ENLS students, now going to be only 3 instead of 4 for MSc students, and reduced to 2 courses for PhD students, this will take effect in September 2009 for all new and continuing students

6. Social Directors

i. November event – Bowling!

When: Thursday (Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>), Where: Chemong at Bowlarama

Cost: \$10/person + free pizza.

ii. Plan to meet with Doug, Daniel and Mary-Kim to discuss logistics of having future events at the Trend

a. Moveable Feast does not want liquor license, it will still be under conference services.

b. Conference services overcharged for our pub night at The Trend by sending employees 2hrs early and charging for extra time.

c. Need to work out more than one washroom for 80 people; this is not in accordance with the liquor license.

iii. Festivus (Dec 13<sup>th</sup> - Saturday)

7. CUPE rep

i. Bargaining committee talked about a funding for graduate students and increasing TA payment. Signing of a new collective agreement would be conditional on new minimum amount of funding that your supervisor provides you. Fee raises should be matched with funding raises.

ii. CUPE AGM is this Thursday (Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>) at 7pm at Sadlier House.

8. Sub-committee reports back

i. Health Care (Allison, Jean, Josh) – Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>: conversations started for getting PT students covered under the TCSA plan. We have 60 PT students. Also requested for retro-active coverage and being able to opt out. TCSA is looking into referendum logistics.

- ii. Student funding, fees, tuition (John - Chair, Nina, Vladimir, Jean) – Committee will meet soon.
  - iii. Symon's Series – this Wednesday (Nov.6<sup>th</sup>) at The Trend. 7-10pm. Speakers: Nic Robar and Robin Quantick. Catered through a combination of Charlotte Pantry and either Dreams of Beans or Black Honey. Yet to talk to Moveable Feast about their high costs. Got \$1000 from ENLS to put in the endowment fund.
9. Next meeting – Nov 19, 4-6pm at Traill (Senior Common Room)  
To be put on agenda: have to apply for OSAP in order to get bursary
  10. Other business – Athletics – There is a bus chartered for spectators to go to the men's OUA lacrosse tournament in Hamilton (McMaster University).
  11. Motion to adjourn?