

GSA Executive Meeting Agenda – October 22, 2008

Minutes by Tom H. since Katy is not present.

Meeting Start: 4:05

Attendance:

Tom
Andrea
Lynette
Jean
Josh
Allison
John
Vladimir

Regrets:

Katy
Colin
Nick

1. Approve Minutes – October 10, 2008 meeting

DEFERED TO NEXT MEETING

2. President

a. FGM recap

i. Constitution

-Andrea will complete proposed changes by next week

-Exec will review & form a position on the revised constitution

b. Health care referendum

i. Subcommittee?

Andrea Motion: To strike a sub-committee for healthcare referendum to gain benefits for part time graduate students

-Unanimous in favour: Motion Passed

-Volunteers to plan referendum: Josh, Jean, Allison

c. Private residence

i. Decision on supporting NPRT

-Many executive members feel it may be a good idea to take a stance against private residence and back TCSEA

*-Some concern for the politics of a decision to support NPRT
-i.e. will this identify the GSA with the ideals of special interests groups?*

-Will our position have an impact – i.e. is it a lost cause?

-debate that it is not truly a lost cause, and even if it was that shouldn't stop us from opposing it

- Unsure if we want to take a formal stance on the privatization message
- Many members felt that the private residence is a poor financial decision for the university
 - University's official position is that they are doing it to get much needed funds
 - But likely will only have short term benefits
- Also some concern that a private residence away from downtown may be a form of financial abuse of students?
- Some are still unsure if this is a "graduate student issue", but many feel that it is.

Motion: Andrea

Move to support the NPRT and oppose leasing of endowed lands for the purpose of private residences.

2nd: John

- Discussion:*
- Some felt that maybe we should separate the backing of NPRT and opposition to private residence?
 - Some debate: Is not supporting NPRT but taking a stance against private residence a half stance?
 - NPRT is simply a coalition group, so supporting them or being involved does not link us with all the groups involved nor their ideals.

Vote

In favour: 7

Opposed: 0

Abstentions: 2

Motion Passed!

-Lynette volunteered to sit on NPRT council as the representative for the GSA

Should graduate students be a part of the TCSA voting group?

-some concerns about the GSA being included as "represented" by TCSA elections where little to no graduate students participated or were informed about.

-We should run our own referendums on the various issues

Motion: Andrea

When the TCSA is running a referendum on an issue that concerns graduate students the GSA will hold its own concurrent referendum, if deemed necessary.

2nd: Jenn

Unanimous in favour: Motion Passed

Andrea will notify the TCSA.

d. EPC meeting report back

-Emergency messages from TRENT via facebook or text messages?

-Are they necessary?

-General consensus of executive was that students do not need or want his service

-Call for Mock disaster volunteers – none

3. VP

a. Charter

-2 changes not accepted:

1) Crossing picket lines

2) The requirement to contact the appropriate legal authorities

-This forces the university to contact authorities even when the students involved request otherwise

Inclusion of Post-Doctoral students as students?

Note: -Because of a funding issue the university still deems them as a student

-Many members feel uncomfortable with this

-No way online activity can be removed from charter

Discussion of some current concerns with the Charter:

-Pg 9. Need to remove “but are not limited to” in the “Sanctions include, but are not limited to:” statement. Was supposed to have been removed, perhaps typo?

-University property: Harassment that occurs off campus still not covered

-Still too much overlap with existing documents

-Many colleges have said they will vote for this document as is.

-We shouldn't just vote for it b/c it had student input

-Conflict between original position on NAMP and the Charter at the undergraduate level?

-Up rise against NAMP and not against the Charter?

-Not truly a document with a “Lack of academic sanctions”?

-Arguably not totally removed e.g. “Suspension” and “Expulsion” sections are academic sanctions

-Many feel that if we can demonstrate the areas where we would like to see changes we are more likely to get change

-Voting on this Charter will occur Tuesday October 28th

-Some problems with “supporting the document with changes” stance:

-changes may not get made

-Ultimately it looks like we support it even if we don't b/c of specific areas we do not agree with

-Some executive believe that the university needs some kind of document like the Charter

-Should the GSA have their own Code/Charter? Should it include faculty?

-lots of work to develop the document

- still may end up scrapping it in the end – waste of time?
- i.e. online activity is likely to need to be included and is a contentious issue
- Likely no true overlap with current school Human rights policies
- To some still seems like overlap with harassment policies
 - Is harassment for faculty-student, the charter is for student-student?
 - Students can still be sanctioned by both the harassment AND Charter
- Some issues with appeals process: regarding the right to appeal and the discretion of a single person to determine if an appeal is warranted
- Many exec still do not agree with the need for ANY document

Andrea: Motion

The GSA does not support the student charter of rights and responsibilities in its current form.

Second: John

*In favour: 7
 Opposed: 1
 Abstained: 1*

Motion Passed!

- Document with FAQ responses will be coming soon and passed out to exec
- Board of Governors still may not accept this document.

- b. Fill remaining committees
 - i. Academic Planning -
 - ii. Graduate studies (MSc) - **Katy**
 - iii. Teaching and learning support - **Katy**
 - iv. Housing and food - **John**
 - v. Campus card - **Jean**
 - vi. Occupational health and safety - **Vladimir**
 - vii. Senate Budget - **Nina**
 - viii. Transportation (exec) – **Andrew Farnsworth**
 - ix. Colleges (exec) – **Jenn**

- Will send out one more e-mail to GSA exec
- Positions should be at least be tentatively filled

4. Treasurer
DEFERRED – Don't currently have our student fees

5. Communications
-Looking into getting new server, may have a monthly/annual fee

- In talks with a few places. some are as low as 70 dollars/yr, may want to go locally
- Website update to include new program reps, new pics, videos

6. Senator

- Update from grad studies:

The Grad Studies committee voted to reduce the course loads for both M.Sc. and PhD ENLS students by one semester course. A survey of students and a GSA letter were circulated at the meeting and were important for arguing that courses should be reduced

7. Social Directors

a. Trend event report back:

- Estimate: 75 ppl for a capacity of 80, went over well
- A moveable feast was too costly for what was provided
- Symons Seminar Series feels the same way.

b. November event:

- Another pub night? Perhaps with trivia?
 - Maybe could get this covered by Doug Evans
 - Some concern expressed about having to pay for the pub but allow them to take all the profit
 - Try to open up a dialogue with "A moveable feast" regarding the pricing of their food services.
- Need more family friendly events though: Bowling??
- This Month - Family friendly event: Bowling could be great, and easy to organize. Include Pizza? Subsidize cost to graduate students

November event will be bowling

- cost is expected to be subsidized.

c. Festivus

i. Dec 13th (Saturday)

8. CUPE rep

- Thursday Nov 6th AGM at 7pm at Sadler house
- CFS e-mail drop fees campaign looking for support from local unions and groups to reduce ancillary fees and tuition fees also. A big deal for TCSA
- General consensus that we should continue to avoid association with CFS including being involved in any CFS activities

9. Sub-committee reports back

a. Student fees, tuition, and stipends (John, Nina, ?)

- Money/funding:
 - Difference b/w 07-08 and 08-09 is 365.96 for All humanities PHD programs.

- With no associated increase in funding*
- International students need to pay UHIP fees, which didn't rise this year.*
- Should we as students expect our funding to increase equally with the increase of school fees (ancillary/tuition)?*
- The GSA should re-address this issue POST CUPE bargaining?*

Motion: John

Minimum level of funding should increase proportionally with increases in tuition & ancillary fees ad students should benefit

2nd: Vladimir

In favour: unanimous

Motion passed!

Sub committee: Jean, Nina, John, Vladimir

b. Honouraria - DEFERRED

c. Constitution (Andrea, Josh, Nic) - DEFERED

d. Symons Series - DEFERED

10. Next meeting date:

-2 weeks from this meeting

4-6 November 5th tentatively set to be in the Chaplain SR common room.

11. Other business

Motion to adjourn: Andrea,

Unanimously accepted.