

GSA Executive Meeting Minutes– October 8th, 2008

Present:

Cynthia
Sarah
Colin
Josh
Andrea
Allison
Jonathon
Jean
Tom
Nina
Katy

Absent with regrets:

Benny
Nicholas

Absent without regrets:

Vladimir

Motion by Andrea: to pass the minutes from the meeting on Aug. 28th.

Seconded: Allison

In Favour: unanimous

Motion passed.

1.0 President's Update

1.1. FGM (fall general meeting) – Nina put together ppt.

- a. Agenda and presenters (AGM)
 - Propose budget
 - Jenn will go through charter
 - Trend, website coverage, upcoming events

1.2. Private residence – 12:15

1.3. Food services at Traill

- a. Pub days? Jean and Allison
 - Allison and Andrea met with pubs, liquor licenses, hopefully regular liquor service there, moveable feast hopefully will extend hours

2.0 VP Update

2.1. Charter

Jenn met yesterday with Mary-Kim. Changes to current document (student charter of RTS and RBS, formerly known as NAP) favoured for the most part by Mary-Kim. Now has to be revised. Will post on website soon. Document is not finalized yet so cannot make a stance, we can take an unofficial stance at AGM. Students need to know we are not in support of document as it stands, we can talk about it informally. Students will take it more seriously if we say something about it

Motion by Andrea: to not support the charter in its current form for reasons including:

1. Inclusion of ALL online activity
2. Ambiguity of the definition of off-campus activities
3. Overlap of university policies

Seconded: Allison

Abstention: 1

In favour: unanimous

2.2. Committees - wait til after AGM

Committees that still need reps.

- Academic planning
- Graduate studies at Master's level
- Teaching and learning support
- Housing and food services
- Campus card
- Occupational Health and safety
- Senate budget - Nina
- Transportation – Andrew Farnsworth
- Colleges – needs to be exec

Motion by Andrea: to allow Andrew Farnsworth to serve on the transportation committee (even though he is not an exec.) due to his diligence and fervour.

Seconded: Allison

In favour: 10

Abstention: 1

Motion passed

3.0 Treasurer

3.1. Budget 08/09 – looks a lot like last year's budget

- 2 things: conference bursaries and AGM – from levee of fees, 38/62 split
- Everything else comes from the other fees
- This year organization and conference support was increased because it provides room for additional activities (poetry readings etc.) and Symon's seminars
- Media also increased: for website, public relations, posters
- Honorarium increased in case we have extra program reps.
- Everything else grew because students grew in #s - total students this year: 396 students, last year, ~370.

Motion by Andrea: to pass budget for 2008-09.

Seconded: Andrea

In favour: 10

Abstention: 1

Motion passed

4.0 Communications

5.0 Social Directors

- 5.1. **Trend event – Pub night at Trend Oct. 17th (next Friday) with “The Stables”.** Allison met with Conference Services, who are interested in opening it up more often (maybe weekly). This week is a trial period. Josh will come up

with name. Nina suggested “Let’s get Trendy”. Doug is paying for the band (\$400). A Moveable Feast is catering the event. Security taken care of by Conference Services.

Tom noted: Moveable Feast charged more than quote last time we used them. Pub night is a fundraiser as well; bring in your food and you get food from A Moveable Feast. Jean and Allison will try to get beer from “The Republican” (depending on cost).

- **Festivus Dec. 13th, Saturday** (day before Jean’s bday). Reasoning for Sat.: no exams on Sunday

6.0 CUPE rep – back at bargaining table. Privatization: CUPE has strong stance against it.

7.0 Sub-committee reports back

7.1. Honouraria

7.2. Constitution (Andrea, Josh, Nic)

7.3. Symon’s Series

Andrea posed 2 questions:

1. What is the timeline that funds need to grown?

Endowment fund currently at \$25K, must get up to \$50K to be self-sufficient, time until self sufficient will depend on fundraising.

2. How much is usually spent in a year?

Usually pretty close to \$5000 but varies depending on speakers (major costs: guest speaker, gala dinner [booking, renting bar], food offered at series). Other costs include 2 prizes of \$300 [but this is nominal].

8.0 Next meeting date – reading week (Oct. 22nd 4-6 pm). No need to book because meeting will be at Kerr House.

Motion to pass meeting date

Seconded: Andrea

In favour: unanimous

Motion passed.

9.0 Other business

John: Fee increases, without funding to match it, about \$1000 is lost. This is due to tuition increases, We should say something at AGM. (TA increases are not included because this is government funded). Every program receives different amounts of funding – should go through every program rep and figuring out where money is coming from, collect info to see what we are dealing with, then reconvene at next meeting. Nina will look into info from grad studies on this funds issue.

Mathew Martin: RDC.

- private residence issue.
- Latest plans: no retail/commercial space
- NPRT: Make sure zoning fits, working with city hall, proposal rejected 3 times so far. Would like GSA to join with NPRT.

www.nprt.ca website has 2 reports that discuss “3 p’s”. UQAM (Université du Québec à Montreal) is being investigated by RCMP because they set up residence downtown with private co. and now being investigated for fraud. Trent stands to lose a lot of money with this, location is bad, and private corporation is an issue

because it takes jobs away, there is no sense of community (almost 40 charges so far for pulling fire alarms), and corporation only allows a 12-month lease (instead of 8-month). Price range: 450 to 500.

Andrea:

1. There is word about a housing shortage, is there?

No housing shortage in Peterborough. It is tradition for Trent students to live downtown, and they do.

2. Who is in the NPRT and has the NPRT supported anything else about this?

NPRT is affiliated with:

- Federation of University heights
- TSCA
- CUPE
- OPSU
- Undergrads

Altogether, group numbers in the thousands

John: Bowerful bt – killed relationship between the city and campus, students were limited to the campus and issues came up from students not being immersed in community.

Some questions raised:

1. If this residence is built, would students have the option to live here or on campus, and would they have to buy meal plan from Aramark? Would this motivate students to move away from campus?

Trent says they will not rent to first years, but this is hard to control and won't fill up with just upper years. Also, there are no services in this building (no food, no residence heads), big debate will stem from what defines a "residence". Trent is supposed to aggressively manage it.

2. Would RDC fall into landlord/tenant agreement? What is it actually zoned for?

Zoned for: university/college building (admin), university residence, and 5 retail spaces (specific, must be meant for or be catered to students specifically, i.e. mall across the street violates this).

ZONING is the main issue. Changing zoning is a long political ordeal (At least 2 yrs).

But this is a way for Trent to make money, and it does need money. Peterborough community volunteered to raise 2 million to buy land for Trent but offer was declined because this is not the major issue. It is more about expedience NOW, getting the money right away.

3. What is the incentive for building if it is not that profitable (only 500 beds)?
What about the retail potential?

They will aggressively fill beds. Lancaster example: 12 month contracts get sold at back end of contract. Students cannot back out of this with a corp. (as opposed to small private landlord). We do not solve problem of bad private residence downtown by setting up private residence at Trent. Guelph example: university has slowly sold itself off. The state of their residence is deteriorating. Residences were aggressively marketed.

4. What is the current state of the situation, in terms of getting it passed by city?

The application has not been accepted yet because it has been incomplete every time. Acceptance is still 2 or 3 steps away. Right now the main issue is zoning. Zoning in application should be rejected. If it is accepted then we should object everything in design, citing cost. Then it will go back to committee of adjustment and appeals. Cupe has said they will pay for a lawyer to fight this project, we have the resources to fight it.

5. WHAT IS GSA'S STANCE ON THIS?

GSA will table a motion on NPRT for next agenda, and have everyone check out the website so they can form a position on the issue at next meeting. GSA will vote on it at next meeting.

Motion by Andrea: to adjourn

Seconded: Nina

In favour: unanimous

Motion passed