

## **GSA Executive Meeting Minutes – January 7, 2009, 4-6pm, Champlain SCR**

### **Present:**

Allison  
Andrea  
Colin  
Jean  
Jenn  
Josh  
Katy  
Lynette  
Tom

### **Absent with regrets:**

Deborah  
John  
Nina  
Sarah

### **Absent without regrets:**

Nicholas  
Peter  
Vladimir

#### 1. Secretary

##### a. Approve Minutes

Motion by Katy to approve minutes – December 3, 2008

Seconded: Andrea

In favour: 6

Abstentions: 2

Motion passed

Motion by Katy to approve Minutes - December 17, 2008

Seconded: Andrea

In favour: 4

Abstentions: 4

Motion passed

Note: tell everyone to check their own attendance in minutes

#### 2. President

##### a. Trill/Trend

i. Trend Sunrise café – Was supposed to open on Jan 5, but will open at The Trend on Monday, January 12 as renovations had not yet been completed.

1. Renovations, followed by a fire inspection, should be done by the end of the week.

2. Staffing – Returning staff members were asked if they still want their positions. Any leftover positions will be offered

- to students
      - 3. Liquor license – They still would like the liquor license and it will be transferred as soon as it is granted.
    - ii. Housing – Now available for anyone looking.
  - b. Discrimination and Harassment Policy
    - i. Peer supporters
      - 1. New peer supporters – Sherry is interested in hiring new peer supporters to deal with complaints. Initial duties would include disseminating basic information and getting things started. However, the budget is tight so the position depends available funds.
    - ii. Sherry Taylor – Would like to meet with the GSA to discuss the policy in February. Everyone should familiarize themselves with the policy before that meeting.
  - c. Volunteers for customer service training – This will be a working group to institute the training protocol based on feedback from customer service.
  - d. Hiring for dons – There needs to be someone to sit on the hiring committee for dons.
  - e. Housing and Food – Overhead costs may be redistributed, to be spread over all foods. Currently all overhead costs are covered by students living in residence; if changes go forward that students living off campus will see a rise in Aramark prices. We need to consult with Debra Harris (the housing and food rep) to find out more details.
3. VP – No CASSC meeting. Nothing to report.
4. Treasurer - Nina not present.
5. Communications
  - a. Website hosting - Should be completed within the next few weeks.
  - b. Update to universities grad student website – the student handbook needs to be updated. Josh will work on it soon.
6. Senator – Colin. Nothing to report.
7. Social Directors - Jean and Allison
  - a. January event(s)
    - i. Hockey! Still have to check the game schedule and advertise. The larger the group the better as larger groups will get discounts.
    - ii. Trivia event – Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> (Thursday), 7-11 pm. Conference services will provide liquor. Since it is a Thursday most people will not want to stay out late. Suggestions for prizes are welcome, as are whiteboards. Need ideas for prizes: Gift certificates? Sunrise café gift certificates? Trophy?
8. CUPE rep – Lynette. Nothing to report
9. Sub-committee reports back
  - a. Constitution (Jenn, Katy, Lynette)
    - i. New Ethics and Environmental position. Jenn will e-mail a summary of ideas so far.
    - ii. Program Reps vs. Execs. There are 13 Reps. compared to 9 Execs. If there is full attendance, this makes for a lot of people at meetings

and could bog down discussions and decision making. Idea is to restructure so that there are fewer Reps. attending meetings. Having only two Arts and Science Reps. to attend meetings and then have them report to the rest of the Reps.

1. Comments:

- a. Two program Reps. may be more effective, especially considering the poor meeting attendance.
- b. Perhaps Reps. should be equally represented according to per capita (i.e. have 2 Arts, 2 Science or 3 Arts, 3 Science, etc. rather than one for each program, because then there are more Arts Reps.).
- c. Having only one position on each side may be a problem for voter misrepresentation. But having one major Rep. for each side that would then report back to the other program Reps. beneath would be a good idea. However, with only one Rep. to attend meetings, then there would be an issue if one is not able to attend a meeting. Maybe having 2 Reps. for each side is better.
- d. Reporting back to other program Reps. would help encourage attendance. Maybe it can be worded that when student body increases, there could be an increase in the number of Reps.
- e. Should there be provisioning for years when there are more Science Execs. than Arts Execs., and vice versa? You want the Execs. to be balanced, especially for voting circumstances. Maybe there could be one Rep. for each Science and Arts but if the Execs. are largely in Science or Arts, then there could be a swing position that would help balance it out. This could be termed a First Year Rep., and would be either Arts or Science depending on what the Execs. are.

2. Will e-mail this discussion to others and discuss at next meeting.

- b. Health Care (Allison, Jean, Josh) – Allison e-mailed Doug but has not heard anything. Should meet in person and set up an appointment through Erin Davidson at Grad Studies office. We are trying to ask grad studies if they would like their own plan, rather than having grad students keep piggybacking on the TCSA plan.
- c. Student funding, fees, tuition (John - Chair, Nina, Vladimir, Jean, Tom, Colin) – There is an interest in indexing, will draw up a model that can be used as a model for other committees. Current method to bump the amount up whenever possible. This is not an optimal system as there is no accountability.
- d. Symon's Series (Tom)

- i. News and updates – The fundraising coordinator had to leave. Katherine Hagen is the new fundraising coordinator.
  - ii. Progress – Working on Symon’s Gala (Apr. 17). Still working on a keynote speaker. So far there are 8 Arts, 9 Sciences abstracts for the winter term. With 3 speakers from each there should be good competition.
  - iii. Next series – Feb. 4 at the Trend.
  - iv. Funding – The Symons Series 2008-09 has currently secured \$2050 for the Symons Series Endowment Fund (opposed to the Operations Account). \$2000 of this amount was donated by the ENLS program, with \$50 donated from the Anthropology department. We are planning on applying to the NIND fund.
10. Next meeting – Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> (Monday), 4-6 pm at Traill. Meetings are rescheduled for Mondays.
11. Other business - CUPE statement on Israeli teaching.
- a. Summary: Sid Ryan made a statement that CUPE wants to put a ban on Israeli academics speaking, teaching, and learning at Ontario Universities if they do not condemn the Israeli invasion (cited from Globe and Mail, Jan 6, 2009).
  - b. Questions: Should the GSA make a statement on this? Should CUPE be commenting on this? Should we wait until the meeting next month?
  - c. Discussion: This could be just a propaganda statement, it might not turn up very much discussion at next CUPE meeting. Lynette will bring forward the following statement to our local CUPE executive tomorrow.

Motion by Katy to approve statement: The GSA opposes a ban on an academic’s speaking, teaching, and research activities based on nationality.

Seconded: Tom

In favour: 7

Abstentions: 1

Motion passed

Motion by Andrea to adjourn

Seconded: Josh

In favour: unanimous

Meeting adjourned