

GSA Meeting Minutes– July 23rd, 2009, 2pm @ The Trend

Day Agenda

2pm - Meet with CUPE to discuss what is to come with TAships

3pm (or whenever we are done with CUPE) – GSA business meeting starts

3:30-4:30 - Meeting with Dr. Franklin (minutes excluded as approval was not asked for)

4:30 - GSA business meeting continues

GSA Meeting Agenda

Prepare for meeting with Dr. Franklin

Housing board - Lindsay

Social Update (intro week and BBQs) - Rathika and Julia

Book sale - Allison

Symons Update – Kathryn

Finance Update - Shera

AOB

Dr. Franklin Meeting Agenda

Introductions

What the GSA currently does, plans/ideas for expansion

- Outline what we do
- New things this year
- Long term ideas

Trill

- How does he see it forming/would like it form
- Trend sign
- Funding - staff

Administration Structure changes?

New Residence?

Graduate Student and GSA support

- Funding concerns
- Concern over arts students lack of participation in the GSA

Present:

Lindsay Thomson – President

Andrew Farnsworth– VP Executive Affairs

Shera Birnbaum – VP Finance

Rathika Patankar– VP Student Affairs (Science)

Kathryn Hargan– ENLS Representative, Interim Science Liaison

Lynette Schick – CUPE Representative

Kaitlin Breton-Honeyman – Senator

Julia Lane – VP Student Affairs (Arts)

Absent with regards:

Lisa Pollock– VP Operations

Allison Hayward– VP Communications

Guests:

CUPE – 3 representatives (for the CUPE part of the meeting)

Dr. Stephen Franklin (for the President's part of the meeting)

2:12 - Introductions

2:15 – Start of CUPE meeting

Our big question = how TAs will be chosen (who does what course)

- Pg. 31 in the booklet is the clause that enables say into what course we get, clause 18.02
- Purpose: to learn how to switch classes; to take choice into account, which will be done by putting the lists out early, to facilitate earlier selection
- By August 1st there should be a list of programs to teach and interest should be expressed; forms should be filled out expressing one's interest. Process is still a bit unclear as they are trying to set up meetings with admin to get involved. If nothing happens by the first please get in touch with CUPE to let them know

Other improvements:

- new clause pg 49 eligible claims (appendix E 3): UHIP and professional development funds that offer up to a \$200 rebate for these costs. This brought up the issues of intertwining the GSA and CUPE conference funds – further discussion for how this would work needs to happen with CUPE at a later date
- This time undergrad marker pay increase and next time intending to get a graduate student marking increase
- Additional year of guaranteed work for Ph.D.s
- Guaranteed office space and access to a confidential space for TAs. As well as insuring books and materials for TAing is covered by the university (article 11 page 19).

Suggestions:

- Check with Allison if there is a link to the collective agreement on our website
- Talk to Erin about sending out both arts and science defense notices

3:10 – CUPE leaves GSA meeting starts

Prepare for meeting with Dr. Franklin

- We went over the agenda, adding a couple things and deciding who would like to expand on what

Housing board – Lindsay

- Lindsay brings up the issue of graduate student's finding suitable off campus housing and the rather high volume of emails that tends to go through the departments to aid in this. She suggests that it would be nice to have a housing board just for graduate students. There are basically 2 options for this. Firstly, having Trent run a separate section on their housing board just for graduate students. The second choice is to run it ourselves through our website.
- The consensus was not to have it on the Trent website, but do our own.
- Optimally it should be done with people emailing the communications rep and they then post it. We would need to ask Allison about adding such a board.

3:30-5:10 – Paused this meeting to meet with the President (see minutes below)

Social Update (intro week and BBQs) - Rathika and Julia

- The last BBQ went well. Julia brought up the concern over whether two hamburgers should be given out at any time, as they take a while to cook and could we run out. It was agreed that it would depend on how busy things are and how long stuff is taking to cook. This time it was fine because the line was never long.
- Intro week: The 2nd floor lounge is booked as is The Trend
- Tentative date for next BBQ is August 20th, 2009 or the 26th, with the final decision being the 26th.
- This Saturday – festival of lights event

Book sale – Lindsay

- A student had emailed about wanting a book sale of non-school related books because she has so many and would like to make a bit of extra cash.
- We decided we would have the Book Sale September 23rd 4-6 most likely at The Trend

Symons Update – Kathryn

- In terms of having volunteers for the positions the arts front is lacking, but the science positions are pretty full
- Symons Seminar Series 1st one = 16th of September

Finance – Shera

- Budget looks good, things seem to be on track aside from the issue about conference funds. They will be sat on until the deadline and only one third of the year's budget will be given out at that time.
- Saving account research: ING 1.2% other banks highest = 0.7%
- Lindsay will ask Meri Kim to get information on how endowment funds work, before we make any decisions about the money

Next meeting

- August 20th @ 3pm in the Trend

Approval of Past Minutes

- Shera motions to approve the last 2 meetings' minutes. Rathika seconds.
- Vote: For (6) Against (0)

AOB

- None

5:45 - Meeting Adjourned

Meeting with the President

3:30 – Meeting with the President Begins

5:10 Meeting with the President concludes and GSA meeting resumes (see notes from above)