

GSA Executive Meeting Minutes – March 16, 2009, 4-6pm, Trill SCR

Present:

Allison
Andrea
Colin
Francis
Jean
Jenn
John
Josh
Katy
Lynette
Nina

Absent with regrets: Tom

- Bill Byrick – Director of the Athletics Department at Trent University came to talk to the GSA about the current state of the athletics facility and proposed fee increases.
 - Current facility and fees
 - Athletics is an ancillary to Trent, and therefore is not funded by the university and roughly half of the revenue generated is from student fees, the other half is generated from about 28 other sources (i.e. swim programs). Right now there is high competition from some new health facilities in Peterborough (i.e. the Wellness Center).
 - Athletics Department is currently in rough financial shape, and major costs include utilities, building maintenance, and increases to staff wages (both CUPE and minimum wage increase).
 - Pie charts of expense breakdowns were passed around, showing that the majority of expenses are from salary increases. Minimum wage has increased from \$8.75 to \$9.25, with an additional increase next year, and CUPE salaries have also increased
 - Student fee increase: Athletics is requesting an approximate \$10 increase to student fees to cover wage increases and building repairs.
 - New facility
 - Athletics needs to raise 5 million for the new facility and will then debt-finance another 13 million, which must be approved by the Board of Governors.
 - The new facility will be 5 times bigger than the current, with a target of 3000 community memberships: 2000 adults and 1000 families. Plans are available on the athletics website.

- The existing facility will be retrofitted concurrently with the new facility. Construction is scheduled to begin this summer.
- Undergraduate students have been paying an annual \$50 fee for the new facility.
- Pool use is 90% community, few students use the pool. Use of the gym is across the board. 800-1000 people use the current facility every day. We are aiming for 1800 with the new facility.

1. VP Operations

- a. Approve Minutes – March 2, 2009 meeting

Motion to approve minutes

In favour: 9

Abstention: 1

Motion passed

2. President

- a. Steven Franklin. Trent's new president elect is going to meet with GSA exec Friday 11:15 to noon in Seminar Room 224 Wallis Hall at Traill. We expect at least 5 execs to attend.
- b. General meeting report back
- i. We did not meet quorum. Some feedback indicated that the event was not advertised enough. This year does seem more apathetic about the GSA.
 - ii. Elections – nominations open on Friday, close at 11:59 pm. The constitution does not allow for self-nominations.
 - iii. Constitution – proposed amendments seemed to go over well, we have decided to incorporate those as a referendum item since we did not meet quorum so they will not be put into affect yet.
 - iv. There was some discussion on mention of budget spending in the constitution, that there should never be more than 10% spending at any one time (refer to AGM minutes). The constitution committee will refer to the constitution to verify what if anything is said about budget spending in the constitution.

Motion to have a referendum for the constitution amendments

In favour: 8

Abstentions: 1

Motion passed

- c. Trend/Sunrise – the liquor board stated they will do inspection soon and the Trend will then actually be under a liquor license. Sunrise Café is not open in the summer, so the license probably won't be in effect until September. There was some discussion on beer. Some do not like the Publican beer.

- d. Ancillary fees – Originally, there was a \$1.00 increase to the wellness budget, but now SAF has increased that amount to \$1.50 plus \$1.15 to health services.
- 3. VP Executive Affairs
 - a. CASSC
 - i. Transportation committee came back with agreement that bus stop will change to original plan with the exception that in inclement weather, the bus may change its route without warning.
 - ii. There is going to be an increase in bus fees. A profit was allowing for a lowering of the cost before but now that profit has been spent, the bus fee will increase to \$2.36.
 - iii. Starting March 23rd until the end of exams, the last bus will leave at 2 am. This is funded by the TCSA
 - iv. Charter was approved by the board of governors. In terms of disseminating information, they are waiting until September.
- 4. VP Finance – nothing to report
- 5. VP Communications – nothing to report
- 6. Senator
 - a. Graduate student academic integrity policy draft. This is a no mercy policy. This is not typical of most universities. Comments: the appeals committee should have a student member and there should be a right to appeal.
 - b. There was mention of the federal government wanting to differentiate between teaching and research universities.
 - c. VP academic/Dean of Arts and Sciences suggested that guaranteed funding for Master's Arts students be reduced or eliminated.
 - d. SSHRC was misreported in the news. The 17 million in additional funding has been put on a 2 year limit and will fund projects that are broadly related to business. Original funds will be distributed as normal.
 - e. Doug has been asked to cut 9% of budget from graduate student instructional courses.
 - f. If NSERC is changing their funding to one year instead of two, then most universities will switch to Master's programs that are one year rather than two.

Motion by John: In light of recent internal and external debates about graduate research funding, the GSA supports Trent as a growing graduate research institution that also supports a balance between research in the arts and sciences. The GSA believes that graduate research programs are integral to the image of Trent University as a unique and outstanding teaching and research facility within Canada.

In favour: unanimous

Motion passed

- 7. VPs Student Affairs
 - a. March

- i. Concert at Trend – 40-50 people attended. Feedback was positive, band seemed to have a good time. Payment to the band from Trail College is pending.
 - b. April
 - i. Spring fling – Saturday Apr 4th – need volunteers
- 8. CUPE rep –
 - a. A letter was produced about NSERC and SSHRC and mailed out to the presidents of both NSERC and SSHRC. It was also mailed out to the CEO of Canada revenue, Jeff Leal and Dean Del Mastro.
 - b. The Human Rights office is looking to put together a positive space campaign and would like a GSA representative. Lynette volunteered for this.
- 9. Sub-committee reports back
 - a. Constitution (Jenn, Katy, Lynette) – nothing to report
 - b. Health Care (Allison, Jean, Josh) – nothing to report
 - c. Student funding, fees, tuition (Tom - Chair, Vladimir, Jean, Colin, John) – nothing to report
 - d. Symon's Series (Tom) – nothing to report
- 10. Next meeting
 - a. Exec meeting – Monday March 30th, 2009 – 4-6pm, Champlain SCR
- 11. Other business
 - a. GSA merch (Allison) – the bag and water bottle were passed around. They look very attractive. The following prices were proposed - Bag: \$3, Bottle: \$10, Cup: \$5. Buy all 3 for \$15.

Motion by Allison to adjourn
Seconded: Nina
In favour: Unanimous
Meeting adjourned