

GSA Executive Meeting Agenda – March 2, 2009, 4-6pm, Champlain SCR

Present:

Allison
Colin
Jean
Jenn
Josh
Katy
Lynette
Nina
Tom

Absent with regrets:

Andrea
John
Peter

Note: Jenn is chairing this meeting since Andrea is not present

1. Secretary
 - a. Approve Minutes – February 17, 2009 meeting

Motion by Katy to approve minutes

Seconded: Allison

In favour: Unanimous

Motion passed

2. President
 - a. Spring GM – March 9th (next Monday!!)
 - i. Agenda – The Trend booking is confirmed from 4-8 pm. Free food is being provided by conference services, The Republican is supplying beer (for a charge), there may be a fooze ball table as well. The exec should arrive by 3:30 pm to help organize.
 - ii. Katy will book a projector and screen through Traill college for the Spring GM.
 - b. Trend/Sunrise – Sunrise Café cannot afford the insurance required to obtain a liquor license, but Trent University has agreed to allocate a liquor license to them anyway. Mary Kim is going to meet with Daniel from Sunrise Café to verify that this issue has been sorted so that the Trend can finally lay the liquor license issue to rest.
3. VP
 - a. CASSC
 - i. Housing and food – The GSA passed a motion last week to not endorse the decrease in overhead fees for residence student meal plans since this would increase overall food prices (refer to Feb 17th, 2009 meeting minutes). This motion was not met at the CASSC meeting. At this meeting, it was concluded that food prices

in general are rising. Therefore, Aramark would like to raise the food plan prices through 2 options:

1. A one-time raise with no change over the next 3 years.
2. An incremental raise over the next 3 years.

Motion by Jenn that the GSA endorses the Option 2 of the meal plan increase

Seconded: Nina

In favour: 7

Abstentions: 2

Motion passed

- ii. Athletics – Construction of the new Athletics complex have been repeatedly delayed due to rising costs and budget shortages. Should students pay a \$5-10 fee for maintenance of the current Athletics center?

Motion by Jenn that the GSA would be in favour of a proposed \$5-10 increase in fees to go towards building maintenance of the current Athletics center.

Seconded: Josh

In favour: 4

Opposed: 3

Abstentions: 2

Motion passed

- b. Elections – no new updates reported
- c. Budget meeting update –Trent University has a chronic deficit of \$3.4 million yearly. The deficit this year has risen to around \$10 million. A positive aspect mentioned at the meeting was that, being in debt for a number of years has made Trent better equipped to handle this debt (if that is a positive point). Trent University has nonetheless saved some money this year through staffing cuts but has also spent money with subsequent reorganizing of staffing duties. Trent is 4/6 for student funding from government but 2/6 in spending. Informational slides will be sent out by Jenn this week.

Motion by Lynette that the GSA is in support of a coalition between interested parties to lobby for increased university funding from the government.

Seconded: Josh

In favour: unanimous

4. Treasurer

- a. Conference bursaries – Due to increasing demand, the reimbursement amount has been changed to cover 50% of costs, up to \$250. Additional funds may be dispersed subject to availability. Also, those attending more than one conference yearly may submit multiple claims. However, additional claims may be placed in a queue until the end of the year. There was a suggestion that the GSA budget could be rearranged to allow for health coverage and increased conference bursary. If CUPE is distributing funds, then they will have to make their own decision how to allocate funds. No further decision was made.
- b. Ancillary fees – student health service budget update. A \$1.14 increase has been proposed for the student health budget, to cover health clinic and

counselling costs (mostly counselling). The reasoning for this fee is that part time wages have increased. Also, the student health service would like to increase the availability of counselling services offered in the summer. Counselling plays a very important role in student retention.

Motion by Nina to have the GSA approval to vote in favour of a \$1.14 increase for the student health service budget

Seconded: Josh

In favour: unanimous

Motion passed

- c. University finances – letter has not yet been written.
 - d. Newsletter (with Nina) – the newsletter was distributed to members of the GSA. Newsletters will be distributed to graduate student mailboxes and deposited around campus.
5. Communications
 - a. Website – has been updated.
 - b. Posters – have been made for AGM and Pub Night.
 6. Senator – nothing to report.
 7. Social Directors
 - a. February
 - i. Minigolf – report back. Minigolf was a success, with mostly execs coming out, but some first years were present as well.
 - b. March
 - i. Pub Night: Concert at Trend – Friday 13th. There will be a \$2 cover for the band.
 - c. April
 - i. Spring fling – Saturday Apr 4th, 2009.
 8. CUPE rep
 - a. The ratification vote had poor turnout. The vast majority voted in favour of the new collective agreement. The new agreement will particularly benefit international students in terms of health care. The new board of governors still has to vote on the new agreement so it is not final at this point.
 - b. SSHRC cut in funding – less than NSERC to begin with. There should be a movement on this. This move could be combined with concern over NSERC funding cuts. Lynette and Tom will work on producing a letter addressed to Jeff Leal, Joe Flaherty and Dean Del Mastro voicing the GSA's extreme concern over these funding cuts.
 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) – a letter on student funding was sent to the ENLS committee. The consensus is that there is a lot of support and that we may see implementation by next year. This update applies just to ENLS at this point.

- d. Symon's Series (Tom) – this Wednesday. Gala tickets will be sold at the series. The sales target is 60 tickets, with the first 40 tickets sold at \$20.
- e. Teaching and Learning Support meeting update (Katy) – the meeting mostly centered on discussions involving budget shortages related to issues of concern for undergraduate students. Issues of interest to grad students included:
 - i. Fundraising difficulties for library improvements. These are principally aimed at online resources and archives. 80% of student library use is virtual (this figure is probably higher for graduate students) and archives are of value to graduate students, particularly those in the Arts programs.
 - ii. IT resources are outdated and in dire need of improvement. However, the prospect of achieving any progress at this point is pretty bleak, due to budget cuts and lack of funding.

10. Next meeting

- a. General Meeting - Monday March 9, 2009 at The Trend, 3:30 pm.
- b. Exec meeting – Monday March 16, 2009 – 4-6pm, Traill SCR.

11. Other business

- a. GSA merch (Allison) – has been ordered. Mockups will likely be available tomorrow. So far, merchandise includes bags, mugs, and water bottles.
- b. Erin Davidson will be doing a photo shoot for grad students tomorrow, from 11-12:20 pm in Gzowski College. E-mail Tom for more details.

Motion by Jenn to adjourn.

Seconded: Tom

In favour: Unanimous

Meeting adjourned