

## **GSA MEETING MINUTES – Monday February 1, 2010 – The Crypt**

### *Present*

Lindsay Thomson – President  
Shera Birnbaum – VP Finance  
Rathika Balthasar – VP Student Affairs (Science)  
Andrew Farnsworth – VP Executive Affairs  
John Franey – VP Communications  
Rachel Herron - Arts Liaison  
Kim Wilson– CUPE Representative  
Alison McDonald – Environment Commissioner  
Kelly Woodley – Human Rights Commissioner  
Lisa Pollock– VP Operations

### *Absent with regards*

Julia Lane – VP Student Affairs (Arts)  
Carling Beninger - First Year Representative  
Stephen Oni – Science Liaison  
Kaitlin Breton-Honeyman – Senator

1. Jessica Grover – Vision and drafting committee member
  - a. The Vision renewal committee is in phase 2 of the new vision process. Jessica attended the GSA meeting in order to answer any questions the GSA may have as well as update us on the committee's progress to date. A document detailing the current vision statements and explanations was supplied to the GSA executive, allowing the GSA to provide feedback to the vision committee. The committee is looking for greater student involvement and specifically would like graduate student input as the current vision statements are targeted towards the undergraduate student population only. There is pressure for Trent to be represented as an undergraduate institution. However the GSA, as representatives of graduate student expressed our concerns regarding excluding graduate students from this vision. It is felt that respect still needs to be given to the graduate student population as they contribute largely to Trent University as both researchers and teaching assistants.
  - b. In the document, the president describes aspects of integrative planning, which is where the entire university is planning at same time as a whole. This is the first time in a decade that integrative planning has been implemented.
  - c. Mission and strategic directions – The vision portion of the process deals with the big picture and the committee is furthest along with this process as they feel it is important to have the vision before moving forward. The vision statement should reflect Trent at its best. The mission portion (concrete/strategic aspects) would come after the vision portion is complete. Both the vision and mission portion come out of the visioning workshops.
  - d. VWRC (Vision ? Review Committee) – Together with Trent staff and alumni, this committee consulted with the Trent community and held workshops in

person as well as online. This information was then synthesized into the president's document. There are 7 bolded points provided, all coming out of workshop process. There will be an online survey (20mins) where students can provide feedback about this document ([www.trentu.ca/vision](http://www.trentu.ca/vision)).

- e. There will be a student only meeting on Thurs Feb 4, 2010 in Seasoned Spoon at 3:30pm. This will be an informal meeting and students are encouraged to come and provide feedback on the vision statements.
  - f. The deadline for phase 2 (workshop document) including feedback to be complete is February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2001. After this date, phase 3 will begin. Phase 3 includes a day long retreat where members will draft a vision statement to be completed in March after which the next round of planning will begin.
  - g. Students are encouraged to send feedback to [jessicagrover@trentu.ca](mailto:jessicagrover@trentu.ca). The GSA stated that they would inform the Graduate Student body of this opportunity via email.
2. VP Finance
- a. Conference/group support – There are 4 groups that have applied to the GSA for group support (The Seasoned Spoon, Arthur, Synchronized swimming team and TUNA). Since the Arthur did not submit a formal application they are not eligible for GSA group support.
    - 1. TUNA (7 graduate students on executive) is holding their annual powwow on March 7, 2010. There is usually a large turnout at this event resulting in financial constraints. TUNA is asking for support to run this event, which includes travel fees, prizes for best dance/performance, food costs etc.
    - 2. The Trent synchronized swimming team (2 graduate students) is asking for financial aid in purchasing needed underwater speakers.
    - 3. The Seasoned Spoon (many graduate student customers) applied for help with building a 'green' root cellar, with an estimated total cost of \$27,000.
  - ii. With such a variety of applicants, it is hard for the GSA to judge how to distribute funds among the groups. In future application periods, we could possibly ask the amount the group still requires or for them to disclose any additional funding they have received. Group support could be based on:
    - 1. Tangible costs/items (i.e. cost of running particular event)
    - 2. Regular operational costs maybe covered, but not for organization that have a levy.
    - 3. Have a maximum of \$500 per application (the GSA needs to add this to the constitution)
    - 4. Amend application to ask about other sources of funding obtained or to-be obtained by the organization
    - 5. With the constitution stating group support has to have 2 deadlines, half of the group support budget should be assigned to each round of applications

Motion to give each group \$500 for GSA group support: by Andy

Seconded: by Rachel  
Voted: unanimous; 2 abstained  
Motion passed

- b. Conference bursary – Science students requested \$1200 and arts only \$700. conference bursary sub-committee recommends \$250 per person for conference support. In order to prevent people from double submitting receipts (i.e. digital copies) could ask for Advisors signature to prove that they didn't pay towards the conference in question. The GSA could also compare with CUPE to look for double applicants.

Motion to approve up to the \$250 for each applicant for conference bursary support: by Shera  
Seconded: by Rathika  
Voted: 1 abstained, 8 approved  
Motion approved

- c. Budget update – Shera advises us that overall GSA spending has been under-control and that we are on budget. Currently, there is \$357.06 to spend on social events for the remainder of the school year. Plus \$800 for Spring Fling.

### 3. President

- a. Haiti – The WebCT vote to give a \$300 of the GSA budget towards the Haiti disaster resulted in 39 voting in support, 6 voting against, and 3 didn't pick an answer. Therefore, the vote passed and \$300 will go to Haiti

Motion to ratify the Haiti WebCT vote: by Lindsay  
Seconded: by Rathika  
Voted: Unanimous  
Motion approved

- b. A meeting concerning the new residence building is being held February 2, 2010 from 6-7pm in AGM room at the Bata library. The developer and Steven will be there to discuss undisclosed information.

### 4. CUPE Representative

- a. Due to the recent increase in graduate student teaching assistant wages, there was a question whether the total departmental stipend cap would be increased. Since this aspect of funding is not through CUPE bargaining, they have no influence whether departments choose not to increase the cap. The ENLS department did increase the departmental cap to reflect the TA funding increase. If problems occur, students should phone Dean of graduate studies (Doug Evans).
- b. CUPE – At the general membership meeting, a CUPE trial will be held Feb 24 from 7-9pm at Sadler House. A trial is held if one CUPE member feels that

another was not upholding their position. The CUPE budget will also be approved at this meeting.

Motion to adjourn meeting: by Alison

Seconded: by Andy

Meeting adjourned