

GSA MEETING AGENDA – Monday, February 22, 2010 @ The Crypt

Present

Lindsay Thomson – President
Rathika Balthasar – VP Student Affairs (Science)
Julia Lane – VP Student Affairs (Arts)
John Franey – VP Communications
Kaitlin Breton-Honeyman – Senator
Rachel Herron - Arts Liaison
Kim Wilson– CUPE Representative
Alison McDonald – Environment Commissioner
Carling Beninger - First Year Representative
Lisa Pollock– VP Operations

Absent with regards

Shera Birnbaum – VP Finance
Kelly Woodley – Human Rights Commissioner
Stephen Oni – Science Liaison
Andrew Farnsworth – VP Executive Affairs

1. Approve minutes from January 18 and February 1 meetings.

Motion to approve Jan 18, 2010 minutes: by Julia

Seconded: by Alison

Voted: unanimous

Minutes approved

Motion to approve Feb 1, 2010 minutes: by Julia

Seconded: by Rathika

Voted: unanimous

Minutes approved

2. Senator

- a. The GSA has received a temporary seat on senate until May 2011. This new seat will set a precedent for the GSA to permanently have a seat on senate. Julia Lane will be on senate for the next 2 meetings. There will be a university wide session tomorrow at 9am. If the GSA has 2 seats on senate, one should be an arts and the other a science student.
- b. Student concerns document – Kaitlin brought this document to the graduate studies committee and many were excited about these issues being resolved. A meeting with Doug and Alison will take place on Wednesday. There appears to be many people interested in resolving these issues.
- c. Graduate Studies Committee – The overall graduate student funding increase was discussed at the last meeting. Graduate student Teaching Assistant stipends were increased but it was unclear as to whether the overall total funding for each student would also be increased. There is no guarantee that the total funding will be change.

If the total funding is not increased, the student will not be given more money per year. Students with university funding will not be affected. It will have a larger impact on individuals who are funded through their supervisors, since there is no legal recourse if they do not change the overall stipend.

- d. Trent vision statements will be released tomorrow morning (Feb 23, 2010). They are currently in progress, as these will be revised according to feedback given from this working group.

3. CUPE Representative

- a. The CUPE general meeting will take place on Wed at the Trend at 7pm.
- b. A conference of the Inter-union of university workers across Ontario was recently held. The goal of the meeting was to address issues common throughout the province and develop common goals.
 - i. One interesting issue involved tuition increasing with increasing ancillary fees. There needs to be an agreement across the board addressing this. Kim suggested that increases should be on a wage basis, where by a 5% increase in tuition would result in a 5% increase in wages as well. Another option would be instead of having a percent based increase, 3% of what the highest earner makes would provide the base wage for the increase.
 - ii. Violence in the workplace is beginning to take president, making the workplace safe in collective agreements.
- c. CUPE bargaining will occur again next year.
- d. Jury selection for CUPE trial will occur at the meeting. Only CUPE members are eligible to be a part of the jury. A total of 5 jurors will be selected for the trial.

4. Environment Commissioner

- a. Environmental advisory board – All new water fountains are functioning and signage posted. Old water fountains are going to be retrofitted to aid in the decrease of bottled water usage. In order to ban bottled water on campus, students must go to CASSC (College and Student Studies Committee) and inform them of students wanting this ban. There is an on-line survey concerning the ban and a petition of people opposed to bottled water. Both the results of the survey and the petition will be brought to CASSC. So far, three university campuses have banned bottled water successfully. There has been some backlash at these schools due to short notice of the water bottle ban. There is still a lot of work that needs to be done to convince people that the ban is necessary. One concern at Trent is that there are no water fountains at Traill or the DNA building. Water stations contain filtered water, resulting in better tasting water than tap water. The president of Trent University received a letter from Nestle (who Trent has a contract with) concerning the water ban. The GSA cannot support the bottled water ban without the consent of graduate student body. As a result, we should survey grad students to gauge whether it is supported or not.
- b. Trent has switched to using all environmental cleaning products. They are attempting to educate staff how/why using these products. The credit for changing to green products goes towards LEADS (a standardized green grading system).

5. VP Student Affairs

- a. February GSA event will be the environmental speaker on Thursday at Splice. This is a joint event with the Anthropology department. The GSA will be providing \$100 to supplement the cost of food for the event.
 - b. Venues for Spring Fling have been investigated. Options were The Knights of Columbus (KoC) Hall or Splice Lounge. Splice Lounge can provide catering (KoC does not) and is therefore the likely choice. Attending the February event will allow us to samples some of the available food options at Splice.
6. President
- a. Chef Daniel contract – The office of student affairs holds the contract with Chef Daniel, and will not renew it without GSA support. Removing the Sunrise Café from the Trend and not replacing it would probably not improve student opinions of the Trend. As Trent is currently trying to decide whether to split the position of Traill College head and dean or have one person do both jobs, the GSA cannot approve Daniel without a head in place.
 - i. Another option for replacing the Sunrise Café would be the Seasoned Spoon. However, a few years ago there were issues preventing this move and we are unsure if the circumstances have changed. The GSA could approach the Seasoned Spoon board and talk about the potential of opening a location in the Trend.
 - b. Residence meeting – Environmental concerns were brought up at the meeting and the plans for the building were changed. It is expected to be re-drafted in early spring re-drafted. The builders are looking for student concerns regarding daily life (i.e. transportation, proximity to grocery stores, accessibility, rent etc). The current plan is for north of Tim Horton’s with 3 phases of development. The 1st phase is expected to be complete for the 2011/12 academic year. Prices are suppose to be comparable to renting a house downtown.
 - c. Swipe card – A portion of student transit fees (\$3 of \$9) have been put into a savings fund to purchase a new card machine which will produce a student card with everything on one card.
 - d. Last year there was not enough housing for undergrad students in Peterborough. There is talk of releasing Argyle (previously was a school). For the past 5 years the building has sat empty and has not been maintained. There is the option for it to be re-opened as housing for undergraduate students. Benefits include the building having an extra gym and classrooms, so there is the potential for TAing at that location for graduate students.
 - e. Trent is contemplating shortening intro week in September. Professors feel that the extra time added at the beginning of the semester would relieve exam-scheduling issues. The only impact foreseen for graduate students would be possibly TAing during the first week or conflicts with TA workshops if taking an undergrad course.

Motion to end meeting: by Alison

Seconded: by John

Meeting Adjourned