

GSA MEETING MINUTES – Monday, November 16, 2009 – The Crypt 6:30 pm

Present

Lindsay Thomson – President
Andrew Farnsworth – VP Executive Affairs
Shera Birnbaum – VP Finance
Rathika Balthasar – VP Student Affairs (Science)
Julia Lane – VP Student Affairs (Arts)
John Franey – VP Communications
Lynette Schick – CUPE Representative
Kim Wilson (going to be new CUPE rep)
Stephen Oni – Science Liaison
Rachel Herron - Arts Liaison
Carling Beninger - First Year Representative
Lisa Pollock– VP Operations

Absent with regards

Kaitlin Breton-Honeyman – Senator
Alison McDonald – Environment Commissioner
Kelly Woodley – Human Rights Commissioner

1. Motion by Andy to: approve minutes from November 2, 2009 meeting and edits from AGM (Oct 21, 2009) and Oct 19, 2009 meeting.
 Seconded by: Julia
 Voted: 8 in favour, 1 Abstained
 Minutes approved
2. President
 - a. Athletics committee meeting
 - i. If people are interested, talk to Lindsay or go to the website for building information. The addition to the athletic center is extremely nice.
 - ii. Students currently are paying an extra \$50 for this expansion but by the time it is finished, many will have graduated and will not be using the space. One possibility would be if alumni could get a day pass to use this facility. This may help promote alumni to use the facility and possibly be more willing to purchase a gym membership after graduating.
 - iii. The athletic center will bring in machines and students will be able to give feedback on this equipment. This will help the center determine what they should purchase for the new athletic center. They plan on having 5 times more cardio/weight equipment than the previous facility.
 - b. Request to social representative – LEC representative enquired about holding a joint event with the GSA. LEC is an undergraduate program and suggested hosting an open mic night. Julia and Rathika requested that Lindsay send them the information so that they can follow up on this idea.

- c. There is a new academic integrity website which may be helpful to teaching assistants. It provides information on plagiarism and if students are unclear about this issue, teaching assistants can direct students to this website. The website provides clear examples for student's reference.
3. CUPE Representative
- a. CUPE AGM update
 - i. Kim Wilson is the new CUPE representative on the GSA (replacing Lynette Schick)
 - ii. A new CUPE president was elected. John Rose is replacing Karen Southerland as president and Karen is now the vice president.
 - iii. The CUPE AGM took place on November 4, 2009. The meeting lasted 4 hours with the budget being approved and the executive was elected.
 - iv. Professional Development Fund (PDF) application – This funding will attempt to fill some gaps in graduate student financial aid. The PDF fund could stagger the application deadline with the GSA fund, so students not approved for GSA funding could then apply to the PDF fund. In the future, the GSA could also develop different applications for arts and science students to make it more accessible for arts students due to different financial needs.
4. VP Student Affairs
- a. Meeting with Chef Daniel and Deb Nicholls
 - i. This meeting was prompted by complaints from graduate students about losing access to a previously open space for students and price increases for food/drinks in the Trend. The space is now locked up outside business hours (8:30am – 4:30 pm Monday-Friday and 7am – 10 pm Thursday nights) due to valuable items, which have been purchased for The Trend by Trent or brought into the space by Chef Daniel and The Sunrise Café. These changes were made due to a couple of incidents which occurred in The Trend over the summer months and because Chef Daniel and Trent University are concerned about liability.
 - ii. Students are particularly concerned by the lack of consultation and lack of consideration for students' needs/wishes in these decisions. This is particularly so as this space, which was previously open for a variety of student uses, is now being run solely as a business.
 - iii. Some of the complaints the GSA has been receiving from students concerning The Trend are:
 - I. Lack of consistency in pricing and quantity/quality of the food being delivered. Groups ordering food for events are unsure of what to expect but consistent payment has been required.
 - II. The GSA has also been told that students wanting to fill up their travel mugs have been charged for 2 cups of coffee as they are bigger than The Trend's mugs.

III. Should have hours of operation posted on the door so students know when the space is open.

IV. Recently a student privately used the space and it appears as though she may have been over charged for food. This student has indicated that she will be meeting separately with Deb Nicholls to provide feedback on her experience having booked and used The Trend for a private function.

- b. Update about Festivus
 - i. Festivus is being held on Saturday December 12, 2009 at 9pm at the Gordon Best Theater. In the afternoon of that day, decorating the space will occur and anyone is welcome to help out. Also, the day after, clean up is required.
 - ii. Since Festivus is a re-occurring theme, having more permanent signage makes financial sense. Julia's father could make re-usable signs (a \$30 honorarium was recommended).
 - iii. The Gordon Best is not an accessible space, so next year the GSA will have to reconsider where to hold Festivus.
 - iv. The GSA has a budget of \$800 for Festivus, with \$400 for renting the space and \$200 for food. Festivus is a free event but students need to bring a canned food item. This food will be donated to a food bank and the GSA will determine which food bank is most accessible to students. The food pantry at Sadler House may be the most reliable choice.
 - v. A graduate student DJ will be playing from midnight until 2am (\$50-75 honorarium). We are still looking for entertainment for before midnight. There is an undergraduate student who is a classical guitar player who recently played with an undergraduate student flutist. Julia is going to ask them if they are interested in playing at Festivus (a \$50 honorarium, each).
 - c. Update about November event - Art Gallery
 - i. This event is taking place on Thursday November 26, 2009. Students are invited to arrive at the gallery at 6pm to see the art exhibit and then attend the lecture at 7pm. This is a free event for students and there is a reception following the lecture with free food.
 - d. Update about December Pub Night – Due to student concerns about The Trend, we are unsure about the current direction of this event. However, the student affairs reps. have been in contact with Doug Evans about funding for the event.
5. Science Liaison
- a. Departmental graduate program – There are discussions between administration and the biology department regarding biology splitting off from the Environmental and Life Sciences Program and forming its own graduate program. No agreement has been reached but the biology

department submitted a proposal. The biology department feels that they make up a large percentage of science students and are thinking of future expansion with the new program. Students need to give Trent their feedback about this issue. If biology were to split off ENLS, there may be less collaboration between disciplines. Many other schools do have their own program. The GSA could send out a survey to graduate students in order to get their opinion on this move.

6. Arts Liaison

a. Trent re-visioning

- i. The GSA should remind students that this re-visioning is occurring and the workshops they can take part in. The schedule for these workshops can be found on the president's website. Those interested in participating can sign up for a workshop by clicking on 'I want to participate' button on the website. Workshops are occurring Nov 16, 20, 24, 26. There seem to be mostly staff members at these workshops so far. More student input and participation would be beneficial.

7. VP Finance

- a. Both of the budgets passed on the WebCT vote (obtained quorum with 54 votes).

Motion to end meeting Lisa

Seconded by Julia

Meeting adjourned