

**GSA MEETING AGENDA – Monday November 30, 2009 – Senior Common Room at
Traill College, 6pm**

Present

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

Absent with regards

Rachel Herron - Arts Liaison
Andrew Farnsworth – VP Executive Affairs

Absent without regards

Kelly Woodley – Human Rights Commissioner
Stephen Oni – Science Liaison

1. Motion to approve minutes by: Shera
 Seconded by Julia
 Voted: 4 in favour, 3 abstaining, no opposed
 Minutes approved
2. Jonathan Pinto (United Way Youth Liaison)
 - a. United Way Campaign – The United Way benefits many community organizations and provides services such as the new 211 service, which is a phone number one would call to find out where is the nearest shelter/food bank. They also are involved in services beneficial to Trent University students (i.e. child care).
 - b. The goal for this year’s campaign is \$2.5 million and would be the largest sum raised to date. GSA support would be greatly appreciated and could come in the form of a direct donation or by holding an event to raise money. Since the GSA collects food for Festivus, this could be donated to the United Way. If the GSA were to hold an event, the United Way would provide media services and helpers for the event (i.e. logistical support). The campaign is officially over at the end of January. The typical fundraising period is from September until January.
 - c. GSA will look into raising small amounts (jelly beans raffles etc.) at Pub Nights and Festivus. The potential to join United Way event with our “green” event was also mentioned.
 - d. We will inform new GSA of the fundraising period, so they can get started earlier in the year next time.
3. VP Finance

- a. The Canadian science fair is being held in Peterborough in May. The organizers would like graduate students to be involved in a workshop about working in the sciences for the children. It is recommended that students who have already created a poster for another event (i.e. conference) display their posters for the students to view. A call for graduate student posters should be sent out.
 - b. Conference and group support applications are due today (Nov 30/09). The GSA received only 1 application from the Synchronized swimming team. As it currently stands, this application only occurs once a year. However, we could make one due in the fall and another one in February to see if more students apply. The GSA has a budget of \$5000 for group support and in the past this account is highly underused. For a team to qualify, at least 2 graduate students must be members of that team. The Synchro team is asking for \$1500-2000 in order to purchase underwater speakers. It was suggested that we provided \$500 to the team.
4. President
- a. The schedule for winter athletics is now available, with inter-tube Frisbee and dodge ball being of interest.
 - b. Meeting with Meri Kim
 - i. President's meeting – One major issue recently is the attacks occurring in downtown Peterborough against international students. There have also been complaints about on-campus incidents as well. The administration is looking into this issue and attempting to resolve these problems. There has been a history of this kind of conflict. There is the potential for these events to raise awareness on campus as well as in the Peterborough community. Trent wants to implement a reporting system to try to determine who is involved in these conflicts. There was an article about these altercations in the Arthur.
 - ii. Active minds attempts to promote awareness of mental health. A few years ago advertisers attempted to establish advertisements in bathroom stalls, which did not go over well with students. Active minds are now contemplating placing mental health issue posters on bathroom stall doors in order to raise awareness. A suggestion to do a trial run with printed posters and see what reaction/vandalism occurs before more expensive permanent ones are established.
 - iii. The Dean of Traill College will be advertised both internally and externally. Feedback from graduate students about this would be greatly appreciated. The GSA feels that hiring internally would be more beneficial as the individual would know the workings of Trent more intimately. The head of Traill and Dean of graduate studies will be the same individual. Doug recommends that this become two positions as he feels he does not have enough time to devote to Traill issues. Deb is the college assistant and therefore is the person in charge when Doug is unavailable. The committee is proposing that in absence of Traill College cabinet, that there be a Traill College subcommittee consisting of 2 students and 2 faculty members. Clarification about the classification of Traill being a graduate student campus is recommended.
 - iv. COAP – This committee is responsible for sabbatical leave, tenure etc. Student representation has been removed from COAP without prior notice.

Lindsay had a student representative lined up but was informed that they were not required. This issue will be further looked into regarding student rights.

5. VP Student Affairs

- a. The Trend – A meeting with Doug Evans was held and issues regarding the Trend were discussed (i.e. pricing changes, quality of food etc). Doug suggested that groups requesting food be very specific of what they want. Previously a request for a permanent menu with fixed pricing was discussed and Chef Daniel plans to have one in January. Another issue concerning the Trend was the lack of open student space. Doug informed us that the GSA and ALL graduate students could be given a code to get into the senior common room (SCR). He was informed that it is under-utilized and that Deb is rejecting booking now so that it will be more of an open space. A code can be obtained from Deb Nicols at the College office. Deb should send out an email to all graduate students that codes are available; this has not been done yet. We will be advising grad students that the SCR is an accessible space and will follow up on Deb sending out an email. We have advised Doug of our concerns about the lack of communication between the College and graduate students and volunteer Rachel (Arts Liasion) to sit on the College committee when it is formed. Doug agreed with the GSA that we should be able to book the Trend without having to order food from the Sunrise Café. Also, if the GSA agrees to take responsibility for the space, a key to the gate in the Trend could be given to the GSA. Doug is also keen on having the Trend open Thursday nights from 7-10pm for a pub night. As a result, a GSA games night is being held Thursday Dec 3, 2009 and is funded by Traill College. We will attempt to have one Pub type event a month on a Thursday night at the Trend, which will be funded by the College directly.
- b. Festivus – Please send requests to the DJ beforehand, otherwise the music selection will be left up to the graduate student DJ.

6. Senator

- a. Trent Revision - Focus groups were well attended by staff but student representation was poor. There is an online virtual workshop that students can participate in as well.
- b. Senate – There is a new strategic direction committee, which is reviewing the structure of Trent. There are 3 program directors coming up for review this year and the concern is that there will be 3 programs without directors. One idea involves combining programs such as history and theory culture politics in with the undergraduate program.
- c. Trent is the research university of the year (between schools of similar size) but student rankings have declined this year.

7. Alison

- a. Bottle free campus – Aramark is agreeable with having a water bottle free campus but they feel this might decrease consumer choice. Water stations and signage being established will aid in reaching this goal.

Motion to end meeting by: Rathika

Seconded by: Julia

Meeting adjourned