

GSA MEETING MINUTES – October 18, 2009, 8pm

Present

Lindsay Thomson – President
Shera Birnbaum – VP Finance
Rathika Balthasar– VP Student Affairs (Science)
Julia Lane – VP Student Affairs (Arts)
Kaitlin Breton-Honeyman - Senator
Lynette Schick - CUPE Representative
Lisa Pollock– VP Operations
Rachel Herron - Arts Liaison
Alison McDonald - Environment Commissioner
Carling Beninger - First Year Representative.
Kelly Woodley - Human Rights Commissioner
Kathryn Hargan

Absent

Andrew Farnsworth– VP Executive Affairs
Stephen Oni - Science Liaison

1. Motion by Lisa: to approve minutes from Oct 5/09 meeting
Seconded by: Julia
Voted: 8 in favour, 2 abstained
2. VP Finance
 - a. AGM- Shera will present a few slides of notable points about the current budget. This will inform the graduate student body about the budget and therefore they can vote to approve/not-approve it. There will be a slide concerning how the budget is calculated. There has been an increase in the number of graduate students, from 289 to 350 full time students. According to the constitution, there must be 2 budgets, one for the levy fees (daily GSA costs) and the other for college fees (Symons Series/group support/savings). There must be 2.5% of the budget put away into savings. Shera is allowed to move \$1000 without having the general assembly's approval. The final budget is \$600 lower than predicted in the summer.
3. First Year Representative
 - a. Nature update – Carling met with the nature areas committee and was informed that Camp Karwartha wants to use the nature areas around Trent. The committee approved all activities except for the removal of invasive species.
4. Arts Liaison
 - a. Sunrise/common space issue – There are a couple of issues with the Trend being locked at 4pm when the Sunrise Café is not open. A cage has been put in place due to students misusing the space. Chef Daniel feels it is his responsibility to close the space while not there, since many of the items are his. It was suggested that a few GSA executives meet with Chef Daniel to give feedback about issues brought up (price increase of beer, closing times etc) and Doug Evans should be invited to the meeting to discuss these issues.

5. Senator

- a. Vision committee – Stephan Franklin is attempting to create a new vision statement for Trent University. He is chairing the committee and the plan is to receive input from a variety of people (undergraduate, graduate students, faculty etc) and then form a drafting committee to synthesize the results of the workshops. Adam Gzowski is on the committee but is predominantly there to represent alumni students. It is important to have a grad representative so we can share our ideas for the vision statement. Currently there are no undergraduate and 1 graduate student on the committee, with the remaining being faculty and administration. This is on a volunteer basis, and for those wanting to participate can go to website for details. The vision is projected to be finished in February 2010.
- b. Senate – The senate student caucus is in disarray this year. There are 13 student seats on senate with voting privileges and there are still several seats that remain unfilled. Traill is dissolving their cabinet, which leaves 2 seats empty. Traill will keep one seat this year but they are not able to fill the other seat and there is debate over where the other seat should be allocated. The GSA would like this seat as would Julian Blackburn/ part time students. The person taking the seat should be an elected person so it makes the most sense to fill it from already elected members (ie the GSA). Julia has indicated that she would be interested in filling this seat.

6. Human Rights Commissioner

- a. Non-academic Misconduct Policy (NAMP) – There are major problems with this policy. There is supposed to be a review of the policy this year. The president's group suggested that the same people sitting on board should also be part of the review group. The policy came about, as Trent has to keep students safe and cannot ignore the problem as something worse could happen.
- b. Leadership training – This training is not mandatory but if a GSA members does not have it and an issue is raised, that member without the training could be held responsible. The new thought is that students are like our customers so we have to be able to provide good service to those customers.
- c. All public institutions will have to be completely accessible as of January 2010. After this date, it will become standard for all businesses.

7. President

- a. Website – The old website is complicated and the new GSA is having trouble updating it. It will be converted to a Wordpress document, which is a blog like site and easy to use. The new website is a carbon copy of the previous one but can be updated by each executive. The photo gallery will be changed, with pictures being uploaded to flickr, which will automatically load to the GSA website. The contact us page will contain the GSA e-mail address instead of each executive's personal e-mail.
- b. Emergency planning meeting (i.e. fire, epidemic)
 - i. The recent fire drill in the science complex was very unorganized.
 - ii. The Pandemic meeting flagged people with asthma as at risk with recommendations for the flu shot given.

8. CUPE Representative

- a. CUPE met with the administration and received Professional Development Fund (PDF) permission.

- b. The CUPE AGM is to be held Wednesday November 4 from 7-10pm at Sadler House. There have been issues with a professional mediator being brought in to deal with the conflict costing \$6000. A document is in the works detailing the situation, which will be made available. Lynette is no longer a TA so is not an official CUPE member any longer. As a result, elections for a new representative will take place.

9. VP Student Affairs

- a. The November social event will be held at the Peterborough Art Gallery. There will be a free lecture by the artist whose work is currently on display entitled Hunter-gatherer. There will also be refreshments before and after the lecture.
- b. Bowling night was a success with it only costing the GSA \$22 since each student paid \$10.

Motion by Lisa: to conclude meeting

Seconded by: Julia

Vote: unanimous

Meeting adjourned