

**MINUTES of Trent Graduate Students' Association Executive Meeting**  
**Meeting Date:** July 26, 2013

**Call to order:** An executive meeting of the Trent Graduate Students' Association was held in the Senior Common Room of Trill College on July 26, 2013. The meeting convened at 10:05AM, President Karen Everett presiding.

**Location:** Senior Common Room, Trill College

**Members participating:**

Karen Everett	President
Jenilee Gobin	VP Finance
Veronica Lai	VP Student Affairs
Kaitlyn Watson	Senate Representative
Allen Priest	Environmental Commissioner
Kyle Kenniphaas	Psychology Representative
Erin McMorro	History Representative
Stephanie Dotto	Canadian Studies Representative
Andrea Samoil	CUPE Representative
Kaiti Nixon	Former President

**Regrets:** Jason Rae (VP Internal Affairs), Gozde Kilic (VP Operations), Adam Marques (Equity Commissioner), Laura Greenwood (Cultural Studies Representative), Joy Tian (Applications of Modeling in the Natural and Social Sciences Representative), Barbara Potter (Indigenous Studies Representative), Latchmi Singh (Materials Science Representative), Elizabeth Morrison (First Year Representative)

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES from June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013**

- MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM JUNE 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2013
  - **MOTION SECONDED AND APPROVED**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

- MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA
  - **MOTION SECONDED AND APPROVED**

**ACTION ITEM REVIEW FROM JUNE 21, 2013**

- SEE UPDATED LIST OF ACTION ITEMS

## REPORTS

### 1) OGSA (Kaiti)

OGSA feels that CFS does not do enough for graduate students, which has brought together this lobbying group. They are now incorporated and had their first annual meeting in June, which Kaiti attended as a Trent representative. Eight schools are currently involved with OGSA, with one board seat for each. Kaiti is also currently the secretary of the board. Plans going forward are to hire a policy researcher in the fall and to become incorporated at the federal level, develop bylaws, etc. They are currently working on SOPs. Trent is currently a non-paying member. By their 3<sup>rd</sup> year (Dec 2015) they would like to see fees being paid by all members. One of the main issues they are currently dealing with is the creation of a technology tax credit for grad students. Kaiti is requesting that anyone with issues relating to graduate students (at the provincial level) contact her to have these brought forward by OGSA. For the general membership, would also like a second Trent rep. The question was raised as to whether we should be electing someone to this position at the spring AGM. OGSA is ok with someone who is simply approved by the TGSA board (does not require individual to be elected, so this would be our choice). In summary – need two reps from Trent – one to act as a general member and another to sit on the board.

Financial donations: Not asking for membership fees for now, but other schools are putting in money for startup fees. Kaiti raised the question whether she should submit an application as a conference and group application? These funds would ultimately be used to pay for the policy researcher they wish to hire in the fall, obtain office space, pay administrators, etc. It was suggested that she submit the application, which will then be reviewed by the board to decide if this is something we wish to fund.

- MOTION TO APPROVE KAITI TO REPRESENT THE TGSA ON THE OGSA BOARD
  - MOTION SECONDED AND APPROVED

Jenilee/Gozde to send minutes to Kaiti when approved

### 2) Cuts to Graduate Studies (Stephanie)

Stephanie met with Joan (the previous Dean of Graduate Studies, and now Director of the Frost Centre). Cuts to graduate studies will be in the amount of \$165k took place when she was Dean and there was little outcry/movement in response. Suggested the TGSA develop a sub-committee and perhaps a letter writing campaign to the Provost. Departments will start seeing cuts (e.g. from overhead funding). Stephanie is also thinking of publishing an article in the Arthur describing the impacts of cuts to grad studies on undergrads (e.g. less TAs, etc.). Perhaps also worth getting program reps involved if effects will be department specific. Stephanie to coordinate with Gozde to contact program reps directly.

## **SPECIAL ORDERS**

### **3) Reallocation of funds from summer BBQ to intro week (Jenilee)**

Of the \$1375 currently allocated to summer BBQs we still have a balance of \$974.10 with one BBQ left to go. Last year they only ended up spending \$720 on summer BBQs. On the otherhand, \$1500 is currently allocated to intro week, which is the same as last year when they overspent by \$320. This year we will not be having a pub crawl, but this also means we cannot expect to receive funds from t-shirt sales this year.

- **MOTION TO RE-ALLOCATE \$500 FROM SUMMER BBQ BUDGET TO INTRO WEEK BUDGET**
  - **MOTION SECONDED AND APPROVED**

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **4) Long Term Planning Committee (Karen)**

- Collaboration with Academic Skills and Career Centre  
Academic skills is keen to work with us on offering specific workshops (e.g. CV writing, employment outside of academia, etc.). We will need program rep input to organize these.
- Clarifying the internal OGS and tricouncil funding processes and seeking transparency  
Joan seemed to feel we should already know how this works. Kaitlyn and Erin to work together on this; starting with researching what information is available to students.
- Seeking out a new health benefits broker for next year  
We will address finding a new health insurance broker and HBC. We are not under any obligation to involve CFS in any way.
- Equity, accessibility, discrimination assessment  
Adam will assess the most pressing issues for students – probably via survey. Qualtrix on MyTrent could be used for this.
- Budget cuts (addressed by Stephanie)
- Updating by-laws and improving accountability/transparency of TGSA and finances in particular are other priorities for this group.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **5) Director's Insurance (Karen)**

- RJ Brown - \$550 for 1 million liability and \$700 for 2 million liability
- Monkman, Gracie & Johnston - \$700 for 1 million liability and \$1080 for 2 million liability
- Stewart Morrison - \$1400 for 2 million liability combined with general liability
- **MOTION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF DIRECTORS INSURANCE WITH GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1400 + TAX**
  - **MOTION SECONDED AND APPROVED**

## **6) Swag Items (Veronica)**

Can purchase keychain flashlights (96 for \$190 + tax or 144 for \$240 + tax) and stressballs (96 for \$170 + tax or 144 for \$270 + tax)

Standard shipping is \$7.99 - and will ship in time for mid August

- MOTION TO PURCHASE 144 STRESS BALLS (\$240 + TAX) AND 144 KEYCHAINS (\$270 + TAX) + SHIPPING FOR ORIENTATION SWAG.

- **MOTION SECONDED AND APPROVED**

## **7) August BBQ Budget Approval (Veronica)**

- MOTION TO SPEND \$450 FOR AUGUST BBQ

- **MOTION SECONDED AND APPROVED**

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

## **8) Orientation Week Activities (Veronica)**

University sees pub crawl as too high risk. Instead of pub crawl, plan to have a pool night with drink tickets, appetizers, as well as a happy hour menu on the Friday; a sporting event (soccer baseball) and scavenger hunt on Wednesday; and the BBQ on Thursday.

Allen joined the events planning committee.

Leftover TGSA mugs to be brought to next board meeting!

**MEETING ADJOURNED 11:09AM**