

## MINUTES of Trent Graduate Students' Association Board Meeting

Meeting Date: November 21, 2013

**Call to order:** A board meeting of the Trent Graduate Students' Association was held at the Senior Common Room of Trill College on November 21, 2013. The meeting convened at 10:01 AM, President Karen Everett presiding.

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

### Members participating:

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Karen Everett      | President  |
| Jason Rae          | VP Internal Affairs  |
| Gozde Kilic        | VP Operations  |
| Jenilee Gobin      | VP Finance   |
| Veronica Lai       | VP Student Affairs   |
| Philip Abbott      | Health Benefits Coordinator  |
| Kaitlyn Watson     | Senate Representative  |
| Allen Priest       | Environmental Commissioner   |
| Adam Marques       | Equity Commissioner  |
| Latchmi Raghunanan | International Representative; PhD Representative                           |
| Kyle Kenniphaas    | Psychology Representative  |
| Theresa Stotesbury | Materials Science Representative, PhD                                      |
| Michael Tessier    | Materials Science Representative, MSc                                      |
| Erin McMorrow      | History Representative   |
| Gary Larsen        | Theory, Culture, and Politics Representative                               |
| Rathika Bathassar  | Environmental and Life Sciences Representative, PhD                        |
| Stephanie Dotto    | Canadian Studies Representative, PhD                                       |
| Jesse Lever        | Canadian Studies and Indigenous Studies Representative                     |
| Joy Tian           | Applications of Modeling in the Natural and Social Sciences Representative |
| Philip Cook        | Anthropology Representative  |

**Regrets:** Michelle McCay (Environmental and Life Sciences Representative [MSc]), Raymond McKie (First Year Science Representative), Steven Martin (CUPE Representative)

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2013

- MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2013
  - **MOTION SECONDED AND APPROVED**

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

## REPORTS:

### 1) Professional Development Survey Results

- Some highlights: 76 people participated; mostly master students; %80 full time students; participation balanced between arts and sciences
- Top 3 picks in academic choices: a) how to write for academic publications; b) how to write grant applications; c) how to write for other audiences (conferences, public reports, magazines, the media etc.)
- Top 3 picks in career choices: a) how to prepare for an academic job interview; b) what can I do with my degree outside of academia? What transferable skills do I have? c) how to apply for academic jobs such as post-docs, teaching positions, and research jobs
- We will organize at least three of these workshops (hopefully 1 each month in winter semester); we need to find out if we want to have any workshops in summer (low attendance)
- Theresa: Having mock interviews is also a good idea.

### 2) Group and Conference Support Applications

- We have recently received 2 applications:
  - First one is for hosting a conference through Environmental Life & Sciences; 70 attendees expected out of which 50 will be graduate; \$250 of \$500 is requested. We thought it is appropriate to fund them in the amount of \$300.
  - The second one is for a Material Science team building social event; 14 attendees expected; \$385 is requested, but the cost is mostly food related. We will fund them for \$225 because there are less students in comparison and most of the cost is food related.
- We should look into giving a better structure to application forms, and also think about updating the bylaws to clarify what these type of events are for and update the info on the website.
- Suggestion: We can try to get some feedback on what the money is actually used for (after the event ends). We can add this to the application form.
- **MOTION TO FUND BOTH THE ELS CONFERENCE AND MATERIAL SCIENCE TEAM BUILDING SOCIAL EVENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$300 AND \$225 RESPECTIVELY.**
  - **MOTION SECONDED AND APPROVED**

### 3) Graduate Studies and Senate Update

- SMA (Strategic Mandate Assessment): each department has submitted their own assessment and Doug is arranging them.
- MRPs are not going to be held in the archives as they aren't expected to have the same quality as theses. It is decided that there is going to be one year embargo on one year deposit with the opportunity to appeal.

- Appointing faculty to programs and as supervisors: There is an effort to streamline the process across different departments and come up with a more consistent policy. Kaitlyn also mentioned the potential cut in supervisors as retiring professors won't be replaced by new professors.
- Scholarships: The grad studies has the power to give equal scholarships to arts and sciences or upper and first year students; Doctoral SSCRH has decreased from 6 to 3. They want to give more OGS awards to new students.
- Graduate students satisfaction survey results: Kaitlyn will send to Gozde and she will distribute it among the board.

#### 4) Transit Committee Update

- TCSA asked us to include in our next newsletter that information on transit can be found at <http://trentcentral.ca/transit.php>. Feedback, questions, and concerns can be directed at TCSA.
- They will conduct a survey to assess the overall satisfaction with the busses. We will also send it to our members.
- Even though there is some dissatisfaction among some undergrads students about summer bus pass, it is likely it won't be reversed. Right now bus pass is mandatory for undergrads and voluntary for grads.

#### 5) RA Committee Update

- CUPE is going to move ahead with setting up a RA union. They will distribute cards to the committee members, which means they can vote, and then have an election in January. If they have %50 + 1 yes votes, it will pass. The university then will have to decide if they have enough RA representation in the election, which might be helpful in defining what an RA is at Trent because it is still ambiguous.
- They continue conducting surveys and interviews with students. They asked us to forward their email (asking if any student is willing to give a confidential interview) to our members.
- MOTION TO SEND AN EMAIL TO OUR MEMBERS ABOUT THE INTERVIEW REQUEST
  - MOTION SECONDED AND APPROVED

#### 6) Student Center Task Force

- Student center between Bata and Athletics Complex
- Graduate students give no monetary support towards the construction of the building, so our influence and presence is really small.
- There are some people who suggested that we ask for more office spaces for grad students in this new building.

#### 7) Health Benefits

- Opt-out went relatively well. The system is up and running. Funds from the university just came and cheques will be issued and sent soon (hopefully before Christmas)

- Wellness sub-committee: Counselling service which was part-time will be full-time this summer. Also health services will be increased in summer.
- Health benefits review: We are looking into other possibilities, potentially changing our broker, if not service provider

### **8) Traill PAC**

- Trent Talks: Spin-off of Ted-Talks; right now looking for new themes for next year; sub-committee is led by Joan Sangster. If you want to be involved (esp. social sciences), send an email to Stephanie.
- Co-curricular record: if grad students are interested, it is analogous to a transcript.

### **9) Library Advisory Committee**

- Subscription review: 300,000 journal subscriptions are going to be cut, as every year their cost goes up %3-5. Titles under review are on the website. The decision is made by looking at the number of downloads from each journal and seeing if it is more cost effective to eliminate the ones with fewer download rates than getting the articles via racer.
- Another issue brought up was that when new programs are brought in, the library isn't given extra allocation and is forced to use its existing budget to fund a bunch of new journals and other resources.
- We will be getting a drop box at Traill College which costs around \$2000.
- Anyone willing to sit on the library committee, email Stephanie.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **10) Approval of the Festivus Budget**

- Majority prefers the 14<sup>th</sup> of December for the date than the 7<sup>th</sup>.
- **MOTION TO SPEND \$700 FOR THE FESTIVUS EVENT FOR THE COST OF DRINKS, APPETIZERS, AND GIFT CARDS**
- **a. MOTION SECONDED AND APPROVED**

### **11) Paintball Trip**

- New social outing idea: At New Castle. Theresa knows the owner and can get a decent price. It can be a social event in summer.
- Risk management? We can inquire about the risk management and check with our private insurance.
- Theresa will send out an email with more details.

**Meeting Adjourned 11:40**