

**MINUTES of Trent Graduate Students' Association Board Meeting**  
**Meeting Date:** December 12, 2013

**Call to order:** A board meeting of the Trent Graduate Students' Association was held in Seminar Room 224 at Wallis Hall of Trill College on December 12, 2013. The meeting convened at 10:01 AM, VP Internal Affairs Jason Rae presiding.

**Location:** Wallis Hall, Seminar Room 224

**Members participating:**

Jason Rae	VP Internal Affairs
Gozde Kilic	VP Operations
Jenilee Gobin	VP Finance
Veronica Lai	VP Student Affairs
Kaitlyn Watson	Senate Representative
Steven Martin	CUPE 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 McMorro	History Representative
Gary Larsen	Theory, Culture, and Politics Representative
Michelle McKay	Environmental and Life Sciences Representative (MSc)
Maureen Elliott	Sustainability Studies Representative

**Regrets:** Karen Everett (President), Philip Abbott (Health Benefits Coordinator), Stephanie Dotto (Canadian Studies Representative, PhD), Philip Cook (Anthropology Representative), Rathika Bathassar (Environmental and Life Sciences Representative, PhD), Joy Tian (Applications of Modeling in the Natural and Social Sciences Representative), Jesse Lever (Canadian Studies and Indigenous Studies Representative, MA), Raymond McKie (First Year Science Representative)

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2013**

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

## REPORTS

### 1) Colleges and Student Services:

- Experiential education (active learning) at Trent is still being worked on.
- Security poles broken in the past couple of years are being fixed and future breakage is being prevented.

### 2) Athletics Advisory Committee:

- The committee will establish a budget; Jenilee saw its draft.
- They released the winter schedule about intramurals—sign up before Jan 9<sup>th</sup>  
[http://www.trentu.ca/athletics/campusrec/documents/WinterBrochure\\_14.pdf](http://www.trentu.ca/athletics/campusrec/documents/WinterBrochure_14.pdf)

### 3) Academic Planning and Budget:

- Hispanics degree program is closed: we have no faculty in this program.
- Hispanics is the third language program closed, with French the only one left.

### 4) Senate:

- Due to the SMA negotiation process, there is currently a moratorium on new programs until March (this affects several proposed undergrad programs such as the BSW, BSc in Water Sciences, and other undergrad and grad programs that were going to come to Senate for approval to move forward with external processes).
- Productivity and Innovation Fund: School received money from the government which must be used by the end of March to work through program prioritization.
  - a. It was suggested by Gillian Balfour to replicate Brock's process and use the Dickeson model (specific weighting mechanisms).
  - b. The motion was withdrawn (even though there are very tight deadlines) to reconsider how the committee will be populated and what its specific role will be.

### 5) Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA):

- Document is written for Paul Genest—not faculty, students, staff. It has a strict format: 10 pages, 7 components, which are 1) jobs/innovation/economic impact, 2) teaching and learning, 3) student population, 4) research/grad studies, 5) program offerings, 6) institutional collaboration, 7) financial sustainability
- How we are differentiated: a) interdisciplinary; b) idea of schools (our colleges not that important to SMA); c) H-index for profs teaching 1st and 2nd year courses; d) interactive pedagogy
- Trent wants a different funding formula not based on growth.
- Need to identify 10 programs including student enrolment; role of TCCBE as placement, internships, and co-op.
- Problems for Trent: metrics don't consider money from industry, a focus on Tri-Council where we don't perform as well as bigger universities.
- Problems for graduate studies at Trent: move towards becoming a member of the U4 (undergraduate universities) with research excellence in a few graduate research

programs; it is not likely that MTCU will “legislate” us to change but will force us to change in other ways.

- SMA doesn’t acknowledge the role of graduate students and the money they bring to providing undergraduate experiences; will need funding for undergraduate research funds which won't happen; could cause 'good' researchers to leave
- Possibility of cutting GTAs (will result in changes to how courses are taught)

#### **6) Graduate Studies Committee:**

- 600 new graduate spaces allocated across Ontario but Trent, OCAD and UOIT did not receive any new spaces; Trent went over allocations
- Leave of absence and transfers to PhDs puts us back within 5% of our allocations which means we should be getting spaces; this will help to point out what the government is trying to do to Trent

#### **7) The Dean of Graduate Studies Search:**

- Committee looking for grad students to help populate committee (one MA/SC and one PhD, preferably from different areas); role from January-July 2014
- We will send an e-mail to the Board before January to see if anyone is interested to fill these positions.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **8) TGSA Office Hours**

- Changing the meeting and office hours. If anyone is interested in staffing the office for a few hours a week, let Jason know.
- Fill out the doodle poll. If a lot of people can’t make it to Thursday, we will change the meeting time.
- **Deadline:** end of December for marking your availability

#### **9) Health Benefits Cheque Pick-up Reminder**

- The office is closed, so if you haven’t picked up your cheque yet, send an email to [gradhealth@trentu.ca](mailto:gradhealth@trentu.ca)

#### **10) Curriculum and Regulations Committee Looking for Rep**

- Mandate: Review proposals for new programs and courses, and general and program-specific changes to regulations in the context of OCGS bylaws, and make recommendations to the Graduate Studies Committee.
- May be particularly important with some of the proposed changes to the university program structure proposed in the recent SMA.
- First meeting is in January; e-mail Jason if you’re interested.

#### **11) Bike Racks**

- Rick who sits on facility and grounds committee points to the need for covered bike racks close to the bridge.

## **12) Report on Festivus**

- Well attended (65 to 70 people)
- Advertised well

## **13) Budget for January Laser Tag**

- Laser Tag is scheduled for the end of January. Based on last year's budget:
  - MOTION TO SPEND \$250 FOR THE LASER TAG EVENT IN JANUARY
    - MOTION SECONDED AND APPROVED

## **14) The Release of Equity Survey**

- Adam will prepare equity survey. Purpose: what discrimination, equity, and accessibility issues students encounter at Trent; it will be sent out to grad students through email.
- It will be an anonymous survey.
- MOTION TO GIVE A CONDITIONAL PRIZE\* OF TWO GIFT CARDS FROM FRESH-CO IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50 EACH TO TWO ANONYMOUS RESPONDENTS OF THE SURVEY
  - MOTION SECONDED AND APPROVED

\*It is conditional because Adam doesn't know yet if he will be able to retrieve the information of the respondents since it is an anonymous survey.

## **15) Research Matters**

- “A public outreach initiative that explores how Ontario university research affects everyday life, and improves the ways people live, work and play” (from the website).
- Latchmi is the student ambassador of Trent.
- This year's theme is What Matters Now.
- Latchmi has two ideas: 1) we make a video on research at Trent and how it impacts, both national and international; 2) we organize a workshop (different than Symons and Northern Colloquium) to talk not only about what your research is, but about what it does.

**Meeting Adjourned: 10:57**