

MINUTES of Trent Graduate Students' Association Board Meeting

Meeting Date: January 16, 2014

Call to order: A board meeting of the Trent Graduate Students' Association was held at the Senior Common Room of Trill College on January 16, 2014. The meeting convened at 10:03 AM, President Karen Everett presiding.

Location: Senior Common Room

Members participating:

Karen Everett (President)

Jason Rae (VP Internal Affairs)

Gozde Kilic (VP Operations)

Veronica Lai (VP Student Affairs)

Philip Abbott (Health Benefits Coordinator)

Allen Priest (Environmental Commissioner)

Erin McMorrow (History Representative-M.A)

Jesse Lever (Canadian Studies and Indigenous Studies Representative-MA)

Kyle Kenniphaas (Psychology Representative-MA/MSc)

Gary Larsen (Theory, Culture, and Politics Representative-MA)

Theresa Stotesbury (Materials Science Representative-PhD)

Michael Tessier (Materials Science Representative-MSc)

Rathika Balthasar (Environmental and Life Sciences Representative-PhD)

Raymond McKie (First Year Science Representative)

Maureen Elliott (Sustainability Studies-MA)

Regrets: Jenilee Gobin (VP Finance), Kaitlyn Watson (Senate Representative), Philip Cook (Anthropology Representative), Steven Martin (CUPE Representative) Michelle McCay (Environmental and Life Sciences Representative-MSc), Stephanie Dotto (Canadian Studies Representative-PhD), Latchmi Raghunanan (International Representative), Joy Tian (Applications of Modeling in the Natural and Social Sciences Representative), Adam Marques (Equity Commissioner)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 12ND, 2013

- MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 12ND, 2013
 - **MOTION SECONDED AND APPROVED**

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA

- ITEMS ADDED TO THE OTHER BUSINESS: 1) Finding a new storage for the BBQs, 2) Kaitlyn needs two names for the dean search committee
 - **MOTION SECONDED AND APPROVED**

NEW BUSINESS

1. Board Meeting Dates & Spring AGM

- Board meeting dates are: 13 February, 13 March, and two in April: 3 and 24 (transition)
- AGM date: 9 April
- Mention students in your program to participate AGM to elect their representatives and vote on important issues.

2. Student Center

- Karen met TCOSA's President Ben who wanted to check (again) if grad students are going to contribute to the new Student Center. Last year, the membership voted no.
- Karen told Ben that he should promote it well, providing us all the information about the benefits of the center for grad students. Ben said that grad students might have a lounge.
- No objection to entering into discussions with the TCOSA.
- Next board meeting, we can invite Ben to come and talk to us about its benefits' to grad students.

3. Health Benefits, RFP + Post-docs

- Second opt-in period is coming up. Any current grad students that haven't opted in their family can still do it.
- Trying to figure out how to communicate with post-docs in time so we give them enough time to opt-in their families in February.
- RFP: A committee will review the applications, pick the best ones and present them at the March board meeting. A selection committee needs to be put together: Karen and Phil are in. 3 other people are needed. If people are interested, let Phil know.
- March meeting is going to be important because we will revise which brokers are the most suitable and which ones we want to present at the AGM.
- Customer service with the current one is so problematic that we wanted to highlight it in the RFP. We're looking for a better provider that will help us run things more smoothly, and that offer us not a big cost increase.
- We can include the new opt-in period in the newsletter, post on FB and the website.

4. Laser Tag Event

- February 6 is the date. Location: Zap Attack on Landsdowne
- Our first game starts at 6. You should be there at 5:45.

- There will be 3 games. We will have a break in the middle. During the break, you can play a game.
- \$2 entrance fee for everyone.
- Snacks and drinks

5. The Approval of the February Event Budget

- We will have a Green Event (it is in the bylaws) in February before the reading break
- Tree planting event: we provide the pots, seedlings, and the soil. People plant them themselves and once they grow, they plant the tree to their garden (or some other place)
- Will be on the Symons (or potentially dividing it among the campuses)
- MOTION TO SPEND \$200 FOR THE GREEN EVENT IN FEBRUARY
 - MOTION SECONDED AND APPROVED

Reminder: All executive and director positions are open for the spring elections. We will start the nomination process in March. It's good to think about it now.

OTHER BUSINESS

6. ENLS Executive Committee

- Rathika sits in the ENLS Exec Committee.
- The guidelines for the conversion from Master to PhD have created confusion in students, especially the shifting dates and deadlines. Profs voiced concerns about the pressure they feel in relation to passing students in the conversion exams.
- The goal of the committee is to make the guidelines more clear and strict.
- Suggestion: Rathika can contact Andressa, Jenilee, and Latchmi.

7. Transportation of BBQs and Propane Tanks

- We have been storing the BBQs in Biology department. It is not okay anymore, so we need to find alternative ways to store them.
- Suggestion: Chemistry department might provide space. Theresa will help Karen get connected her to relevant people.
- Meanwhile, Karen is waiting to hear back from Doug Evans and Deb Nichols.

8. Volunteers for the Dean of Graduate Studies Search Committee

- Rathika (PhD) and Kyle (Master) volunteered to sit on the committee.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:44