

MINUTES OF TGSA BOARD MEETING 09/29/2014

Start: 09/29/14 9am – **End:** 09/29/14 11am

Location: Senior Common Room

Members participating:

Rathika Balthasar (President)
Tayo Aloh (VP Internal Affairs)
Bex Williams (VP Finance)
Latchmi Raghunanan (VP Operations)
Gary Larsen (Senator)
Philip Abbott (Health Coordinator)
Ashley Neale (Equity Commissioner)
Athira Mohanan (Materials Science Representative-PhD)
Peter Hammersley (Anthropology Representative-M.A)
Paul Ciuk (Theory, Culture, and Politics Representative-MA)
Kristen Potter (Sustainability Studies Representative-MA)
Michelle Klein (International Representative)
Greg Tracey (Psychology Representative-M.A./M.Sc.)
Karen Everett (Canadian Studies Representative-Ph.D)

Regrets: Alexander McPherson (History Representative-M.A); Richard Herman (Environmental and Life Sciences Representative-MSc); Lauren Banks (Environmental Commissioner); Maya Gunnarsson (Canadian and Indigenous studies Representative-M.A)

****AGENDA****

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes from August 11, 2014
4. Vote to separate college and levy fees [10 mins; Bex/Rathika]
5. AGM discussion and approval of referendum questions [20 mins; Tayo]
6. TIP camp update and retroactive expense reimbursement [10 mins; Michelle]
7. Trail security issue and board vote [10 mins; Rathika]
8. VP Student Affairs portfolio discussion [10 mins; Rathika]
9. Office hours [10 mins; Latchmi/Tayo]
10. Senate update [20 mins; Gary]
11. Library dropbox update [10 mins; Karen]
12. Meeting Adjourned

****MEETING MINUTES****

1. Call to Order: 9.02 am

2. Approval of Agenda;

- modification:
 - Karen Everett's position;
 - intramural sports item added;
 - conference item added.

MOTION TO APPROVE MODIFICATION (Rathika)

MOTION SECONDED [Latchmi] AND APPROVED

3. Approval of Minutes from August 11, 2014

- Deferred to next meeting

4. Conference and group support *re* Intramural sports

- dodgeball; 8 students;

MOTION TO APPROVE ALL INTRAMURAL SPORT ACTIVITIES (Gary)

- **MOTION SECONDED [Rathika] AND APPROVED [In favour: All; Against: 0; Abstained: 0]**

5. Vote to separate college and levy fees [10 mins; Bex/Rathika]

- The GSA allowed to spend college fees on social events; used to support conference bursaries and conferences etc.
- This will not affect bookkeeping; another checking account will be used. Next year's GSA will need to be aware of which account they use to write checks.

MOTION TO SPLIT COLLEGE FEE AND LEVY FEE INTO TWO SEPARATE ACCOUNTS FOR EASE OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING (Bex).

- **MOTION SECONDED [Karen] AND APPROVED [In favour: 11; Against: 0; Abstained: 3 (Phillip, Rathika, Tayo)]**

6. Trent International Programme (TIP) camp update and retroactive expense reimbursement [10 minutes; Michelle]

- Saturday August 29th, TIP camp to be held in Camp Timberlane; Two (2) international students out of nineteen (19) are new incoming.
- There is no set agenda by the TIP office. There was lunch, informal question and answer on classes, grocery stores; cell phones; they wanted our representative to stay longer; felt like hanging out with undergrads all the time. We should promote a graduate only program. There was a good reception from TIP office, however better coordination is required with regards logistics.

MOTION TO APPROVE reimbursement to Michelle for gas expenses incurred during driving up to camp timberland to promote GSA activities with new grad students (Latchmi).

- **MOTION SECONDED [Tayo] AND APPROVED [In favour: 11; Against: 0; Abstained: 0]**

7. AGM discussion and approval of referendum questions [20 mins; Tayo]

- For the graduate student AGM, students can appoint proxies if they want, the program representatives are to pass information on to members.
- Two big events are carded for the AGM:
 1. The GSA is now registered as a non profit organisation; we need objectives and a mission statement.
 2. Transition of Senator Post from board to executive, retroactive vote starting this year.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE PUTTING FORWARD OF THE MISSION STATEMENT, AS WRITTEN, AT THE AGM (Tayo).

- **MOTION SECONDED [Karen] AND APPROVED [In favour: 12; Against: 0; Abstained: 1 (Rathika)]**

MOTION TO APPROVE A SPLIT IN BY-LAW ARTICLE TWO INTO TWO SECTIONS CONTAINING OBJECTIVE AND MISSION STATEMENT (Rathika).

- **MOTION SECONDED [Karen] AND APPROVED [In favour: All; Against: 0; Abstained: 0]**

MOTION TO PUT FORWARD AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS 9 AND 10 FOR ELEVATION OF SENATOR POSITION FROM DIRECTOR TO EXECUTIVE (Tayo).

AMENDED MOTION ‘AND ALL THAT IT ENTAILS’ AND ‘RETROACTIVE’ AND FINANCIAL COMPENSATION

- **AMENDED MOTION SECONDED (Phillip) AND APPROVED [In favour: 11; Against: 0; Abstained: 2 (Rathika, Gary)]**

- Executive positions require election by membership, the post of Senator is an elected post as such the issue of election may not apply to the change from Director to Executive.
- Description of Senatorial duties as at July of this year comprise one full day of meeting times for GSA-related activities. Posts in the Senate commence duties one month earlier, ends one month later (14 mths instead of 12) excluding board and executive meetings. Big picture policy issues; 5 yr plan, governance review (architecture in place this year) are scheduled for this year

8. Ontario graduate student alliance, already voted to approve this motion it needs to go to the membership, Sage to present at AGM.

- Base membership fee of \$1000-\$2000 plus student fee we asked for a presentation and more details for the AGM.
- Sage to move a motion at the AGM for a graduate student fee of two dollars (\$2) per year, effective fall 2015, established to support continued membership to OGSA?

Note: TGSA President may not be present at the AGM Tayo will to Chair in her absence.

9. Microfiching

- From discussions with grad studies, it is suggested that we will pay for \$xx microfiching costs, instead of per no. of copies.

MOTION (REFERANDUM QUESTION) TO BE PUT FORWARD AT AGM REGARDING THESIS BINDING 'DO YOU SUPPORT THESIS BINDING REBATE OF \$33XX/YEAR" (Rathika)

MOTION SECONDED [Ashley] AND APPROVED

- The 29th was proposed as the date from the AGM, a meeting time is required for the Board to approve finances (from auditor) at least one (1) week before the Board meeting. Online voting is preferred; it has to be open for one week a quorum of only 25 persons.
- Everything for the AGM should be ready for the next Board meeting.
- The proposed date conflicts with the Canadian Association conference (Rathika).

10. Traill security issue and board vote [10 mins; Rathika]

- Julia Smith brought up a security issue. She emailed everyone who matters and wants to spearhead a drive for increased security presence on Traill it was noted that the older buildings only locked by key.
- The GSA is willing to support this initiative. The cost for 24hr security is 1.4 million dollars (from Nona Robinson's office) there has been no incidence of attacks or reports from Traill.
- Discussion; increase awareness vs onsite security, presence as a deterrent. Students living on Wallis hall should be working with us, even if there are limitations, instead of brush offs that we feel we are getting.
- (No vote required) as it is an issue that falls under the mandate of the long term planning committee.

11. VP Student Affairs portfolio discussion [10 mins; Rathika]

- Elizabeth has indicated that she can no longer continue in position, the position is open, if you know anyone, or if your yourself want to step up, you are more than welcome.
- In the short term, and in the instance that we do not get someone at AGM, we need one board member per month to step up and lead monthly activities.
- The part-time student association has requested a joint event: Phil (October)

- Since the health plan automatically defaults to this post, it is felt that this post should be actively pursued as opposed to monthly board leads.
- CUPE is having a showing of the PhD movie in November

12. Office hours [10 mins; Latchmi/Tayo]

- We need members to volunteer for office hours
- Initiate doodle polls for board members.

13. Senate update [20 mins; Gary]

- Applied programs - unfunded course based masters programs in September 2015
- Expansion of Oshawa campus - tenure tracks being moved to facilitate teaching in Oshawa
- Distance education
- Student centre - will be approved before December 2014; to be located between Bata and AC entirely in parking lot, no trees will be removed.
- Series of different research institutes, institute and school model that is interdisciplinary based.
- Responsibility centred management; RCM – an austerity plan used to trim the fat advocated by Elaine and Gary this model will starve out programs which do not bring in new growth.
- The State allocates the number of students that we take in (biu - govt support).
- This works at a large level, but not at program level for example in the arts, programs aren't meant to grow each year.
- All PhD's are guaranteed 4 years; retroactive for students offered 3-year funding packages.
- Elaine's hiring still source of much disconcert amongst staff and grad students mostly the fact that it was not made clear that Dean was being merged with VP provost.
- President Groake is researching this; another letter from GSA to reiterate our position. A letter to Leo (drafted by Gary) "we're bringing this up again because it was brought up in senate, to be clear: we're still not pleased with the process; no transparency; still not clear of the designation of VP provost.
- Academic integrity - no faculty member is willing to expel a student for a 'minor' offense this is going to be reviewed by curriculum and regulations (Paul's committee).

14. Library drop-box update [10 mins; Karen]

- Last year, GSA was looking into getting a drop-box at trail initially, it was going to be a possibility, now, not so much, because of check-in guarantees. An alternative, can be to use the mail box to return books there is the need for clarification of pick up dates this is a major issue) Michael will look into a bigger box.

15. CUPE update:

- Representative for Research Assistant committee required
- Research Assistants are not technically covered under CUPE, so we need coverage there is a move to unionize RAs and want our official endorsement.

MOTION TO APPROVE GSA TO SUPPORT CUPE IN EFFORTS TO UNIONIZE RESEARCH ASSISTANTS. (Karen)

- **MOTION SECONDED [Gary] AND APPROVED [In favour: All; Against: 0; Abstained: 0]**

16. Conference announcement (Paul, 5 mins)

- Send e-mail to people in programs with regards the [TCP] conference; looking for accommodation Thursday night - Sunday morning.
- Volunteers for accommodation, five (5) spaces, Oct 23-26th
- Paul to send poster and write-up to support email.

17. Meeting Adjourned 10.53am