

MINUTES OF TGSA BOARD MEETING 24/11/2014

Start: 11/24/14 9am – **End:** 11/24/14 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 (VP Senator)

Jamie Lynch (VP Student Affairs)

Philip Abbott (Health Coordinator; CUPE rep)

Athira Mohanan (Materials Science Representative-PhD)

Paul Ciuk (Theory, Culture, and Politics Representative-MA)

Michelle Klein (International Representative)

Karen Everett (Canadian and Indigenous studies Representative-Ph.D)

Lauren Banks (Environmental Commissioner)

Maya Gunnarsson (Canadian and Indigenous studies Representative-M.A)

Theresa Treasure (First Year Science Rep, *Interim*)

David Bak (Applications of Modeling in the Natural and Social Sciences-M.A./M.Sc; *Interim*)

Regrets: Ashley Neale (Equity Commissioner); Greg Tracey (Psychology Representative-M.A./M.Sc.); Sage Flemming (Environmental and Life Sciences Representative-MSc; *Interim*); Kaitlyn Sykes (English: Public Texts-M.A.); Alexander McPherson (History Representative-M.A); Peter Hammersley (Anthropology Representative-M.A)

****AGENDA****

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Voting in of interim Board of Directors [Tayo, 5 mins]
4. December social activities update [Jamie, 15 mins]
5. January social update: Multicultural Potluck [Michelle, 15 mins]
6. Senate update [Gary, 10-15 mins]
7. Curriculum and Regulations Committee meeting update [Paul, 5 mins]
8. Other
9. Meeting Adjourned

****MEETING MINUTES****

1. Call to Order: 9:05am

2. Approval of Agenda

- Bex added two items, conference & group support apps, and budgetary considerations

- o **AMENDED AGENDA APPROVED [In favour: All; Against: 0; Abstained: 0]**

3. Voting in of interim Board of Directors [Tayo]

MOTION TO OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZE THE FOLLOWING AS INTERIM MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, FOR EACH OF THEIR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS [Tayo]

Theresa Treasure (First Year Science Rep, *Interim*)

David Bak (Applications of Modeling in the Natural and Social Sciences-M.A./M.Sc; *Interim*)

Sage Flemming (Environmental and Life Sciences Representative-MSc; *Interim*)

- o **MOTION SECONDED [Bex] AND APPROVED [In favour: 12; Against: 0; Abstained: 3]**

Rathika Q: are there any open committee positions?

Tayo A: The Board will be emailed with latest update

4. Finance update [Bex]

[A printout is circulated]

Q: Did CUPE overpay us? Normally they donate \$200 for intro week, this time \$400 was collected...

Bex A: reviews every line item and will look into any discrepancy through correspondence history

Tayo Q: has Symons Seminar Series filed paperwork requesting funds?

A: They always ask towards the end of the year

Karen Q: why is there a discrepancy in the college levy?

Bex A: they owe us another semester

Maya Q: does the GSA make money on the health plan?

A: No

Maya Q: students are upset with the opt-out process? What's up with that?

Phil A: That process has been made more difficult this year than anticipated. This is in no small part due to our transitioning to a new health plan provider, but is primarily the result of Trent administration not forwarding the student list to us quickly enough. The first problem should be solved now. The second will hopefully be made better in the future.

---discussion ensues---

Rathika A: Next year no expectations should be set for opt-out reimbursements

Maya Q: Can we change the opt-out process next year?

Phil A: No, its contractual and beneficial when compared against known alternatives

--- Discussion ensues imagining possible alternatives---

5. Group Support Apps [Bex]

MOTION TO APPROVE INTRAMURAL SOCCER TEAM APPLICATION [Bex].

MOTION SECONDED [Tayo] AND APPROVED [In favour: All; Against: 0; Abstained: 0]

6. December social activities update [Jamie]

Festivus will be held on December 13th at Junction and it's basically free.

---A discussion ensues regarding the philosophical legitimacy of the toonie---

Jamie proposes that prizes be made available for contests.

Phil suggests that we support local businesses.

MOTION TO APPROVE A BUDGET OF \$750 TO HOLD FESTIVUS AT THE JUNCTION [Jamie]

Festivus will include:

- o Drink tickets
- o Appetizers
- o The use of the space
- o Gifts cards to Whistle Stop, Black Honey, and Shoppers' Drug Mart
- o Taxes (Canadians are odd folk to include such a thing in their daily reality!)

MOTION SECONDED [Bex] AND APPROVED [In favour: All; Against: 0; Abstained: 0]

Maya Q: Is there a pole?

Jamie A: Yes

Maya Q: Will there be decorations?

Jamie A: No

Jamie Q: Will Bex volunteer to help?

Bex A: I'll think about it.

Theresa Q: How do we RSVP?

Jamie A: Email

7. January social update: Multicultural Potluck [Michelle]
Event to be held in Bagnani Hall on Sat Jan 10th. No risk management paperwork has been filed yet, and Michelle will contact TIP office.

Jamie Q: will it be family friendly?

Michelle A: yes

Rathika Q: Do you need a budget? Or supplementals of any sort?

Michelle A: Yes, we should provide the beverages

Bex Q: Should the GSA buy extra food?

Phil Q: Could the Board members make extra food?

Rathika Q: What will the RSVP process be like?

Maya Q: Will there be veggie options?

---Discussion ensues, satisfactorily addressing these items---

Rathika Q: will it be a low cost event?

Michelle A: yes

Michelle motions.....Latchmi arrives! 9:49

MOTION TO APPROVE A POTLUCK BUDGET OF \$100 [Michelle]

MOTION SECONDED [Tayo] AND APPROVED [In favour: 14; Against: 0; Abstained: 1 Rathika]

10. Senate update [Gary, 10-15 mins]

Senate is a delightful place to be; significant initiatives taking place 3 policies; all drafted by Kristine McAnan

- closure and merger of academic departments
- creation of schools
- closure of academic programs

These stick with standard practices at Trent for how to theoretically close a program

Enabling policies document discussion:

- GSA amendment: there is no consultation or time restriction *re* when a program could be closed.

Senate executive closed at some point next year; this will be discussed at a later time.

It is conceivable that a program closure could be put forward but missed within Christmas break and slip through the cracks and get closed on a whim. The fact that this is structurally possible is a problem.

Closure with no university wide consultation is of concern; we must remember that many programs are interdisciplinary, we want to make sure that all programs/ departments etc are aware of the implications and that it is not advisable to continue treating programs like silos

Graduate Studies Committee;

The head of every graduate program felt that this was an effort to strengthen the office of Provost; and fails to define how resources are divvied in future a power differential that does not currently exist, if policies get past as is, senate loses autonomy as power head to provost. It is of note that the Senate can debate policies/ etc, not necessarily provost.

Oshawa budget separated from Peterborough budget. Durham region targeted at Oshawa campus with four (4) projects for a 1.2 billion for major expansion constructions of buildings in Oshawa between Durham, UOIT, Trent Oshawa campus. With regard to buildings some academic, teaching oriented other uses still up in the air it is likely that Trent will be responsible for liberal arts program contribution to this collaboration.

Trent may be viewed as viable only as it continues to merge.

GTAs may be assigned to Oshawa; teach etc

Trent grad studies may benefit in the long run with the exception of a few science programs, maybe programs like MTSC will move into Oshawa. A possible way to stop this is to increase enrolment, faculty participation at Trent.

Cotitel: a policy that articulates how a PhD student can do a joint PhD with another university who we do not already have an agreement with a great way for Trent to build relationships this was originally tried five (5) years ago with materials science, but fell through.

In theory, existing students could fall into this the onus is on the student to initiate, along with policies and provisions etc. 1st, 2nd year PhD ideally desired, based on expectations of joint PhD work.

11. Curriculum and Regulations Committee meeting update [Paul, 5 mins]

Cotitel: ready for senate

Form and regulation for students interested in doing joint PhD the student is responsible for making arrangements the University only provides forms.

Academic policy draft is expected to be ready by March it will go to graduate studies, then the Senate.

Problems with plagiarism and other problems that currently exist, presently working on changing the types and nature of punishment to be negotiable and moderate.

Professors violating academic integrity via stealing students' work; remember to include a GSA advocate for student in such a situation.

Incomplete grade policy

A lot of incomplete grades; a policy to deal with this is required.

12. Other

13. Meeting Adjourned: 10.21am.