

MINUTES OF TGSA BOARD MEETING 11/02/2015

Start: 11/02/15 5:02pm – **End:** 11/02/15 7:08pm

Location: Senior Common Room, Scott House, Trail College

Members participating:

Rathika Balthasar (President)
Tayo Aloh (VP Internal Affairs)
Bex Williams (VP Finance)
Gary Larsen (VP Senator)
Jamie Lynch (VP Student Affairs)
Lauren Banks (Environmental Commissioner)
Athira Mohanan (Materials Science Representative-PhD)
Peter Hammersley (Anthropology Representative-M.A)
Paul Ciuk (Theory, Culture, and Politics Representative-MA)
Alexander McPherson (History Representative-M.A)
Maya Gunnarsson (Canadian and Indigenous studies Representative-M.A)
Theresa Treasure (First Year Science Rep)
David Bak (Applications of Modeling in the Natural and Social Sciences-M.A./M.Sc);
Karen Everett (Canadian Studies Representative-Ph.D);
Alison Fraser (Cultural Studies, PhD)
Kristen Potter (Sustainability Studies Rep-M.A.)

Regrets: Michelle Klein (International Representative); Ashley Neale (Equity Commissioner); Sage Flemming (Environmental and Life Sciences Representative-MSc); Kaitlyn Sykes (English: Public Texts-M.A.); Latchmi Raghunanan (VP Operations)

Absent:

Lisa Kennedy (Environmental and Life Sciences Representative-PhD); Greg Tracey (Psychology Representative-M.A./M.Sc.); Philip Abbott (Health Coordinator; CUPE rep);

****AGENDA****

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Committee reports from Reps [Tayo]
4. Clubs process - assistance request [Rathika, 5 mins]
5. OGSA Tax technology update request
6. CUPE item [Karen, Lauren, 5 mins]
7. Meeting Adjourned

****MEETING MINUTES****

1. Call to Order – 5:02pm
2. Approval of Agenda
Jamie Motion: amend agenda to discuss budget for next month's social event
Approved unanimously.

3. Committee reports from Reps

Peter – Distinguished Research Awards Committee

- No contact
- Dean of Social Science Selection Committee
- Offer made to successful applicant. Life is good.

Alex – Research Policy Committee

- Met 3 times thus far
- Focused on implementing internal research plan vis-à-vis SMA
- VP Neil Emery convinced U15 have inside track on funding proposals
- Submitted digital report
- Karen Q: is there being anything done to promote grad student visibility?
- Alex A: RPC doesn't do much to promote grad student visibility because its work is focused on faculty members, particularly those in STEM disciplines.

Paul- Curriculum & Regulations Committee

- Actually doing work
- Learning outcomes being added/revised in syllabi
- Creating a template for reading courses
- Academic integrity policy has no grey area, trying to make it workable
- Student-supervisor contracts/regulations in development: using Ryerson and Laurentian and template documents
- Supervisions of theses will be compensated in future, promise made by Dean, according to a formula roughly equivalent to:
 - o 6 defended theses supervised = 0.5 course release
- Intellectual property policy being revised for grad students

Athira – Co-Curricular Committee

- Software builds database of volunteer positions held
- Engaged in philosophical discussions of the boundaries of what committees or workshops will be included in database
- Bex likes the record keeping service
- Tayo: this is an opportunity for everyone

Jamie – Food Advisory Committee

- Promised to try to increase knowledge about superior food offerings
- Will not be giving \$5 of free food to each student as promised
- Anti-coupon
- Starbucks is generally desirable
- Chartwells should be open more than they presently are
- Vending machines can takeover DNA building!

Welness Committee, subcommittee of CASSC

- Want to increase grad student fee because undergrads pay more per student

- Entire framework for funding through ancillary fees is under revision, details to be provided by Jamie
- Tayo echoes Jamie's concern that Stewart, Director of Wellness, has different numbers and ideas floating around, quotes him as saying, "I have yet to get my head around this situation."
- Vote to take place at CASSC meeting on the 25th, three fees to be adjusted:
 - o Wellness fee
 - o Counselling fee
 - o Accessibility fee
- Action item Jamie to present discussion points at next meeting; Tayo to defend our positions at CASSC

Tayo – CASSC

- Re: Student Charter of Rights: no student has complained about violation of rights, committee plans to become more proactive to foster possibility of complaint
- Budgetary consultations ongoing, details to be returned at next meeting

Athletics Advisory

- Looking to develop additional teams across different sports, volleyball and rowing are not as sexy as they used to be

Rathika presents Michelle's report to the Board, which was submitted electronically

Rathika- Colleges subcommittee

- Attends on behalf of Bex
- Academic Skills is being restructured
- Career Centre to remain in Champlain
- Academic Skills officer to be decentralized, placed one in each Symons Campus college
- Changes to take place at end of academic year
- Committee undergraduate in focus
- Director of Transitions position to be created, for reasons unknown

President's Committee

- Security @ Traill raised as an issue
- Other colleges also are and/or have security threats
- There are six full time security personnel at Trent University and only two on shift at any given time, always headquartered at Symons Campus
- Security cameras were roundly rejected as a solution to the (imagined?) problem
- Lighting audit results to be released in future
- Rathika Motion: be it that the GSA is opposed to the installation of security cameras
- Tayo seconds motion
- Vote: 12 in favour, 1 abstention (Bex)

Long Term Planning Committee

- Working with Library about getting access to books (concerned this may cause us to be labelled as nostalgic)
- How well does the GSA communicate with our membership? A survey directed at answering this question was considered, until it became apparent that the fact of responding to the survey would necessarily result in effective communication, ergo, survey would be a futile effort

Lauren – Environmental Advisory Board

- Promotes environmental awareness
- Trying to implement STARS program
- Collecting data re: sustainability

Sustainable Trent Committee

- Committee does not actually exist

Sustainable Trent, undergraduate based group

- Has fun ideas like lug-a-mug and divestment
- But the divestment campaign, as a result of the group's affiliation with OPIRG, proved offensive this year
- Recommended that we remove this group from the bylaw requirements of the Environmental Commissioner's duties, particularly given how little of their present work involves either the environment or sustainability

Food Sustainability Committee

- Focused at present on dumpster diving: a program has begun whereby dumpster's are searched for decomposition of food stuffs in order to collect data about recycling habits and sustainability efforts
- Lauren recommends that due to the material significance of the work performed by this committee, that when amending the bylaws and description duties performed by the Environmental Commissioner, this committee replace the undergraduate group Sustainable Trent

KWIC

- Brought in Vandana Shiva
- Developing youth programming
- Created Seeds of Justice campaign
- Tea & Talks series a smash with teetotalers
- Continue to support ReFrame
- Life is good, hard work is being done
- Recommended also that the future Environmental Commissioner work with KWIC more intimately

Gary – Graduate Studies Committee

- A vacant seat has opened up and we require a PhD student from the sciences to fill it
- In the event that a science student cannot be found, Alison has volunteered for the committee

4. Clubs process - assistance request

Rathika requests assistance developing a policy document that would develop a process whereby clubs and groups could be formed and officially recognized.

- Gary will assist.
- Kristen Potter agrees to assist.
- Karen Q: should this be part of the bylaws?
- Rathika A: No, in fact separating policy from bylaw documents should be made a priority

5. CUPE

- Karen requests that the GSA officially support CUPE's bargaining position as ambiguity arose from prior public correspondence
- Karen Motion: that the GSA Board support the strike mandate
- Tayo seconds
- Discussion ensues regarding what form of support is appropriate. At present, a simple motion is decided the most acceptable form.
- Vote:
 - o In favour: 14
 - o Abstain: 1 (Rathika)
 - o Opposed: 1 (Alex)
 - Let the record show that Alex's vote against arises from informal discussions with his program peers who were opposed to the idea of a strike and unhappy with CUPE communications around the issue.

6. March Social Event

- Jamie is planning the March Social Event for Sunday 22nd @ 4pm, Laser Tag
- Budget of \$200 will be required for fees and snacks
- In the past 20 people attend, mostly subsidized
- Lauren states that the \$2 fee in previous years was not a deterrent to participation
- Discussion ensues regarding budgetary constraints and historical practices
- Hermeneutics of "reasonableness" under discussion; decided that \$500 is not an unreasonable sum of money
- Maya Q: can we start budgeting by semester rather than month?

- Jamie mentions that accessibility of locations raises cost of event
- Jamie Motion: That \$170 budget be approved for this event.
- Theresa seconds
- Vote: 13 in favour, 1 abstain

7. OGSA tax credit

- Rathika discusses that the OGSA is seeking our support in approaching the province for a technology tax credit that would see students able to claim expenses related to technology purchases necessary to their success, such as laptops

8. AOB – Theresa Q: is there an update on keypad in library grad student reading room?

Rathika A: No.

Alison Q: speaking order should be recognized and Robert's Rules of Order adhered to more faithfully in future meetings

Rathika A: As Chair of these meetings I will endeavor to do so.

Meeting adjourned: 7:08pm