

## **MINUTES OF TGSA BOARD MEETING 11/03/2015**

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**Start:** 11/03/15 5:00pm – **End:** 11/03/15 7:00pm

**Location:** Senior Common Room, Scott House, Traill College

### **Members participating:**

Rathika Balthasar (President)  
Tayo Aloh (VP Internal Affairs)  
Bex Williams (VP Finance)  
Latchmi Raghunanan (VP Operations)  
Gary Larsen (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)  
Greg Tracey (Psychology Representative-M.A./M.Sc.)  
Sage Flemming (Environmental and Life Sciences Representative-MSc);  
David Bak (Applications of Modeling in the Natural and Social Sciences-M.A./M.Sc);  
Karen Everett (Canadian Studies Representative-Ph.D);  
Michelle Klein (International Representative);  
Philip Abbott (Health Coordinator; CUPE rep);  
Alison Fraser (Cultural Studies, PhD)  
Kristen Potter (Sustainability Studies Representative-MA)

**Regrets:** Kaitlyn Sykes (English: Public Texts-M.A.); Ashley Neale (Equity Commissioner); Lisa Kennedy (ENLS-PhD)

### **\*\*AGENDA\*\***

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Feb 11 meeting minutes
4. Approval of deferred minutes from Aug 11, Sept 29, Oct 27, Nov 24, Dec 18, Jan 29 and Fall AGM (Latchmi)
5. CUPE bargaining report [Phil, 10 mins]
6. CUPE 3902 Unit 1 UofT support request
7. OGSA policy request [Karen, 10 mins]
8. Savings distribution changes [Bex, 10 mins]
9. Spring AGM [Tayo, 20 mins]
  - a. Space, date and time confirmation
  - b. April board meeting
  - c. Schedule of events leading up to AGM
  - d. Motions
  - e. Bylaw constitutional review
10. Honorarium discussion [Tayo, 15 mins]
11. Spring Fling [Jamie, 10 mins]
12. Conference and Group supports [Bex, 10 mins]
  - a. Conference support
  - b. Intramural support
  - c. Networking event
13. Health benefits
  - a. Mid year report
  - b. Student VIP bursary
  - c. Draw for free glasses; Student VIP
14. Other business
15. Meeting adjourned

## **\*\*AGENDA\*\***

### **1. Call to Order : 5.03 pm**

### **2. President's Note : We will try to keep speaking order**

### **3. Agenda**

- Three comments under AOB Lauren's item
- **MOTION TO APPROVE AMENDED AGENDA [Gary]**
  - Seconded: Latchmi
  - In favour: All; Against: 0; Abstained:
  - **Motion APPROVED.**

### **4. February Minutes**

- **MOTION TO APPROVE FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES [Gary]**
  - Seconded: Latchmi
  - In favour: All; Against: 0; Abstained: 1
  - **Motion APPROVED.**

### **5. All other Minutes**

- An online motion was made to approve previously deferred meeting minutes from Aug 11, Sept 29, Oct 27, Nov 24, Dec 18, Jan 29 and Fall AGM by Latchmi
- All minutes were voted upon by the membership; quorum was met.
- The minutes were passed with no substantial changes (small revisions made)

### **6. Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE): Phil**

- CUPE 3908 was in bargaining same time as University of Toronto and York;
- A deal was reached at ~ 5 am Friday of strike deadline
- Bargaining team states that membership vote was important, voting was open for ten (10) days
  - email Phil; communications at CUPE if did not receive CUPE email
  - Check junk or promotions folder.
- Where it is as of now : Waiting for ratification vote (Saturday). Plan for two (2) possibilities:
  - Approved versus being turned down; will be in touch with plan moving forward
  - Does not necessarily have to call strike right away results 6 pm, email.

### **7. Canadian Union of Pubic Employees (CUPE) 3902 (Rathika)**

- An email request was received from CUPE 3902 asking Trent's GSA to show solidarity/support for their ongoing negotiations
- Also asked other universities
- CUPE 3902 includes graduate teaching assistants, contract faculty.

- Q. Have we been reached out to in the past?
  - A. [Karen] We were going to provide financial support to them from strike fund last year, but they resolved before we got around to it.
- Q. What is the position of person who sent the request?
  - A. We don't know; it just says a PhD candidate
- Discussion ensues:
  - Supporting this may send the message that we want to strike / support a strike.
  - While individuals support, does GSA? Is this a position we want to take?
  - A TGSA show of support will only show our support for the decision that they make for themselves, but not necessarily that we'll make for ourselves.
  - We are endorsing dialogue process, call for their provost to join the discussion
  - Value of supporting: brings a "Capital" or a "Friend" on our side.
- **MOTION TO APPROVE AND SEND LETTER OF SOLIDARITY TO PROVOST / CUPE 3902 SUPPORTING THE ACTIONS OUTLINED IN THE LETTER TO RESOLVE NEGOTIATIONS [Tayo]**
  - Seconded: Jamie
  - Motion passed [In favour: All Against: 0; Abstained: 1 Rathika]

## 8. OGSA Policy request

- A lot of student issues have arisen at Trent about wages and working hours; currently this limit is based on the ten (10) hour work week.
- This is based on a directive that comes from the province. Trent simply enforces.
- Trent semester = 12 hours / week. We lose sixteen (16) weeks of potential works.
- Can we petition OGSA to readjust this policy?
- Is this something that we wish to pursue given directive from COU?
  - The 10 hour work rule has been informally endorsed since 1950's,
  - formally in the 1990's.
  - No two (2) institutions in the Province use a single method for calculating how many hours we can work.
- **MOTION: ASK OGSA TO WORK AT ELIMINATING OR RESOLVING TEN (10) HOUR WORK WEEK FOR FULL TIME STUDENTS [Karen].**
  - Seconded (Latchmi).
  - Motion passed [In favour: All Against: 0; Abstained: 1 Rathika]
- Q. [Alex] Does the ten (10) hour rule apply to work only done for the University, or also outside of University?
  - A. [Gary] The University can't legally enforce this rule outside
  - A. [Karen] Vague, not clear, not fair.
- Q. [Latchmi] How often do reaffirmations of this work rule occur?

- A. [Gary] Probably not for another five (5) years; Doug Evans supported the ten (10) hour work week last year. His justification was that graduate students finish programs of studies.
- Other:
  - Jamie provides example of where she tried to gain extra employment, but the department said would take away scholarship if this were the case.
  - limits international students because it requires funding to be brought in before starting
  - Alex: Vagueness given that external scholarship can be taken away, version of rule that affects scholarships such as OGS, SEHIRC.
- *Action item: SAGE, can we take this forward to OCGS? Sage: Yes.*

## 9. Savings

- According to the Bylaws, 2.5% of our income needs to be transferred to a savings account.
- So far, we have transferred five hundred dollars (\$500) from the College Fee account to the Savings account
- We are proposing to take the next five hundred dollars (\$500) from Levy
  - we have a surplus in the Levy fee account, but are drawing close to a deficit in the College fee account.
- **MOTION TO APPROVE TRANSFER OF FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500) FROM LEVY TO SAVINGS ACCOUNT [Bex]**
  - Seconded: Karen
  - Reason for motion: This transfer of funds to the savings account is different from the motion made at the Fall AGM.
  - **Motion passed [In favour: All Against: 0; Abstained: 1 Rathika]**

## 10. Spring AGM planning

- Timeline:
  - Bagani Hall confirmed for April 8th, 6.30 pm
  - Announce and call for nominations – done
  - Nominations Open
  - March 16th: nominations close, names released
  - March 25th: Campaigning beginning
    - Fifty dollars \$50 campaigning costs will be covered by GSA, posters, leaflets etc.
    - Q. [Gary] can I use funds for beer? A. No.
  - April 7th campaign closed
  - AGM 8th elections online
  - April 15th results announced
  - April 22nd: transition meeting – all board members should be present
  - **MOTION TO APPROVE ACTIVITIES PRELUDING TO AGM [TAYO]**

- Seconded Gary.
- Q. March 15th – is this a viable date to close nominations?
  - A. Bylaw only allows for one (1) week, officially;
  - Comment: After 15th, nominations cannot be contested is already have nominees. Only applies to unfilled positions.
  - Some programs have nominations outside of this period.
- Motion passed [In favour: All Against: 0; Abstained: 1 Rathika]
  -
- April board meeting
  - April 8th was supposed to be our next Board Meeting;
  - MOTION TO HAVE APRIL BOARD MEETING MERGED WITH SPRING AGM [Tayo]
    - Seconded: (Bex)
    - Question: Two (2) Meetings in April?
    - Answer: Yes. Was supposed to be three (3). This motion would cut it to two (2).
    - Motion essentially makes April 8th meeting an AGM with Board meeting; if you have items, bring them forward.
    - Motion passed [In favour: All Against: 0; Abstained: 1 Rathika]

## 11. Bylaws constitutional reviews

- We need to take the amended Bylaws to the AGM for approval; we will need to post online, needs Board to approve first.
- At Fall AGM, we moved Senator up to executive and fixed mission statements. These approvals have now been inserted into the Bylaws.
- Bylaws:
  - 6.01: no objections
  - 6.01.2 (proxy issue): Gary Objects
    - Executive discussed at length; majority vote in current wording.
    - Question: How much Proxy vote do we have?
    - Answer: Had non last year; but we don't want to remove option
    - Alex: if it's not broken, don't fix it; leave in.
  - 6.01.3 "Accidental": no objections
  - 6.08: International student rep amendment re TIP camp
    - Michelle: At TIP, graduates appreciated point of contact – very good
    - GSA pays for if part of job.
      - All in favour
  - 7.03.3 Self Nomination
    - Q. Difference between article and bylaw?
      - Article = Guiding principles;
      - Bylaw = Legal Mandate

- 8.03.1
  - Discussions ensue about definition of incur verses present, budget versus expenditure
  - “we will spend responsibly within the means of our budget”
  - not resolved. In the interest of time, an online discussion will be pursued
- 10.01 list programs on bylaw in view of Trents changing add/removal of programs
  - Michelle: Keep names; all in one place;
  - Peter: nice to know which ones have PhDs, Masters
  - Jamie: All maintained on the graduate studies website
  - Karen: can see argument to keep general, not easy to change bylaws
  - Rathika, example would affect having representatives between addn and approvals.
  - Gary: current bylaw would require a referendum at every AGM for the next four (4) years.
  - Jamie: retracts being torn, understands it's best if best if removed
  - Michelle: still would like a list somewhere
  - Sage: Add list to website independently: “as maintained on the website”
  - Alex: how would future GSA know which representatives to add?
    - Answer: Job of Vice President Internal Affairs

## 12. Referendum questions:

- **MOTION TO INCLUDE SADDLIER HOUSE REFERENDUM QUESTION RE \$5 OPT-OUTABLE LEVY FEE AT AGM (GARY)**
  - Tayo Seconded
  - Saddlier H. would like \$5 fee per year
  - Q. Do graduate students pay this?
    - A. All undergrads currently pay; until now, grad students have not.
  - Q. What does Sadlier House do?
    - A. Food cupboard, free-market – provides space for other organizations
    - A. Used to belong to Trent, now belongs to students
  - Q. Why do they need money \$?
    - Helps to support themselves.
  - Q. Why only now asking?
  - Q. Do they do anything for graduate students specifically?
    - A. We have access to, but as graduate we're not paying for this [yet]
    - A. Before major restructuring, GSA membership were in fact paying into this (several thousand) indirectly.
  - Opens up “why don't we pay more for Trail which we actively use”
  - Q. How many graduate studies actually use this service?
    - A. Depends on demographics
  - Trail College levies disconnected from this discussion, may increase substantially.

- Maya: This is a discussion on if we support, not if we short put it forward.
- MOTION PASSES

### 13. Honorarium

- April 22nd meeting, we will discuss this
- Think about bonus or non-payment
  - Honorarium can be denied if member did not meet responsibilities of title
- \$1,000 for executives, \$50 for extras
  - Executives do not get extra
- MOTION TO MAKE MAX ADDITIONAL HONORARIUM \$50 (TAYO)
  - Seconded: Jamie
  - Motion passed [In favour: All Against: 0; Abstained: 0]

### 14. Spring Fling,

- Friday April 10th 2015
- Option 1: Shots
  - Room for free
  - By the bridge catering \$400
  - DJ \$200
  - Paul agreed to professionally DJ for same amount
  - Drinks for a hundred (100) persons
  - Other \$100.
  - Total: \$1,250.
- Option 2: Knights of Columbus
  - room rental \$225
  - Total: 1,475
- Pay five dollars (\$5) per person to help offset cost of event, or a contribution of toonie / canned goods to goodwill
- Theme?
- Sage: Where is the Knights of Columbus?
  - Dead end of Simcoe/Rubidge
  - Room smaller than shots
  - 7pm till midnight
- Peter: Shots
  - T-shirts? Pre-order/pre-pay
- Alex: Friday April 10th good idea can be promoted to wider membership at AGM
  - Shots
- Greg: Shots
  - Five dollars (\$5) at door or canned goods?
  - Jamie: Good idea, but too hard to manage

- Sage: Knights of Columbus
- **MOTION: TO HOLD AT SHOTS WITH BUDGET OF \$1250 AS LISTED ABOVE (JAMIE)**
  - Seconded: Bex
  - **Motion passed [In favour: 13 Against: 1; Abstained: 4]**
  - Email follow-up

## 15. Conference and Group support

- Hundred and fifty dollars (\$150) truly be me – food items
  - **MOTION: APPROVE \$150 TOWARDS FOOD ITEMS (BEX)**
    - Seconded: Sage
  - Theresa: What is Truly Be Me
    - Yoga club and mediation group on campus, caters to graduates and undergraduates, meets once per week
    - Five (5) graduate students
  - One hundred and fifty dollars (\$150) for entire semester
  - **Motion passed [In favour: All Against: 0; Abstained: 2]**
- Trivia Night
  - **MOTION TO GIVE ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100) TO TRIVIA NIGHT (BEX)**
    - Seconded: Alex
  - Lauren: \$70 spent; event really well attended
  - **MODIFIED MOTION: \$70 TOWARDS RECENTLY HELD TRIVIA NIGHT EVENT**
    - **Motion passed [In favour: All Against: 0; Abstained: 3]**
- Upcoming Trivia Thursday March 26th – Lauren
  - Three (3) rounds / 2- 2.5 hour window
  - Ten (\$10) – twenty (\$20) per round, gift certificates to the Trend
  - **MOTION: REQUEST FOR FUNDING OF \$60 FOR MARCH 26TH TRIVIA NIGHT [LAUREN]**
    - Seconded: Jamie
    - Q. One after April? The Trend closes
    - **Motion passed [In favour: All Against: 0; Abstained: 3]**
- Psychology graduate student association (Bex)
  - **MOTION TO FUND HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100) TOWARD FOOD ITEMS FOR AS PER PSYCHOLOGY APPLICATION [BEX]**
    - Seconded: Tayo
  - Networking between all cohorts (20-25 students)
  - Rileys event
  - **Motion passed [In favour: All Against: 0; Abstained: 2]**
- Indoor Soccer
  - **MOTION TO APPROVE \$120 FOR INTRAMURAL REIMBURSEMENT (BEX)**
    - Seconded: (Gary)



- **Motion passed [In favour: All Against: 0; Abstained: 1]**

## 16. Health benefits report

- Re increasing benefits fee next year:
  - We collect \$450/student
  - We make claims which exceed this (overuse maximum level)
  - Suggestion from Student VIP to increase to \$485 per student
    - For the next years GSA to decide
    - **Report to be included as attachments Minutes (See SI 1)**
  - We need to use direct to you more, more cost effective
  - Program representatives asked promote D2U
- \$500 Student bursary provided by Student VIP
  - Discussions with Jane Renee about distributing this on our behalf so that student privacy maintained will be maintained.
- Free Glasses draw
  - **MOTION TO APPROVE ONE (1) PERSON FOR FREE GLASSES [RATHIKA]**
    - Seconded: Greg
    - **Motion passed [In favour: All Against: 0; Abstained: 1]**

## 17. Networking Event

- \$1,800 budget
- Executive formed committee for event
  - Planned to use conference and group support
  - Partnering with College will save us money; we may not be using all this
  - Got a thousand dollars (\$1,000) from ENLS donation
    - Plan to use balance for conference funds to sponsor tickets to College / GSA event
  - Sixty (60) people; Bagnani; Twenty (20) alumni
- Collaboration with Research Matters to have student posters at event
- **MOTION TO USE REMAINING FUNDS IN THE CONFERENCE AND GROUP SUPPORT FOR NETWORKING EVENT [RATHIKA]**
  - Seconded: Gary
    - **Motion passed [In favour: All Against: 0; Abstained: 1]**

## 18. Other Lauren

- Recycling Challenge (Lauren)
  - Fifty dollars (\$50) requested
  - Promotional outline email requested from Lauren by Latchmi

## 19. Meeting adjourned 7.00 pm