

MINUTES of Trent Graduate Students' Association Board Meeting

Meeting Date: June 9, 2014

Call to order: A board meeting of the Trent Graduate Students' Association was held in the Senior Common Room of Trill College on 9 June 2014. The meeting convened at 9.12 AM, President Rathika Balthasar presiding.

Location: The Senior Common Room

Members participating:

Rathika Balthasar (President)
Tayo Aloh (VP Internal Affairs)
Latchmi Raghunanan (VP Operations)
Elizabeth Ramsay (Interim VP Student Affairs)
Gary Larsen (Senator)
Paul Ciuk (Theory, Culture, and Politics Representative-MA)
Alexander McPherson (History Representative-M.A)
Stephanie Dotto (Canadian Studies-PhD)
Athira Mohanan (Materials Science Representative-PhD)
Steve Martin (CUPE)
Greg Tracey (Psychology Representative-M.A./M.Sc.)
Peter Hammersley (Anthropology Representative-M.A)

Regrets: Bex Williams (VP Finance); Kristen Potter (Sustainability Studies-MA); Ashley Neale (Equity Commissioner); Lauren Banks (Environmental Commissioner); Philip Abbott (Health Coordinator); Michelle Klein (International Representative); Richard Herman (Environmental and Life Sciences Representative-MSc)

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY 15th, 2014

- MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM MAY 15th, 2014
 - **MOTION SECONDED AND APPROVED**

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA

Amended: Regrets from Richard Herman accepted; Items 8 and 9 moved to 5 and 6, respectively; CUPE item added.

 - **AMENDED AGENDA APPROVED**

4. INTERIM REPRESENTATIVES:

- MOTION TO APPROVE PETER HAMMERSLEY AND STEPHANIE DOTTO AS INTERIM PROGRAM REPRESENTATIVES FOR ANTHROPOLOGY (M.A.) AND CANADIAN STUDIES (Ph.D.), RESPECTIVELY.
 - **MOTION SECONDED AND APPROVED**

5. BURSARIES

A total of 17 applications were accepted. Of these, 8 were awarded the maximum amount of \$250. 1 person received less than claimed but within full allotted amount per calendar year (this person had previously been awarded a bursary), and 1 was denied because of a very late submission. In total, the total amounts awarded were under budget for the semester (\$3325.67) of \$4000). This balance will be rolled into the amounts for the next (fall) semester.

General: food claims were denied; gas claims were subsidized but only when a receipt was provided.

- MOTION TO APPROVE 17 BURSARY APPLICATIONS.
 - **MOTION SECONDED AND APPROVED**

6. PROFESSIONAL STAFF HEALTH PLAN

TGSA executives have been offered a 100% health care and life insurance coverage by Student VIP for duration of our office terms at no extra cost to the membership. This is to follow for every year (April-May) for which we maintain coverage with them. For this present year, coverage shall include the Senator and the Health Coordinator posts (the former shall be an executive post next year, and the latter shall not exist) and shall extend from Sept-April.

- MOTION TO ACCEPT 100% STUDENT VIP COVERAGE FOR THE PRESENT TGSA EXECUTIVE, THE HEALTH COORDINATOR, AND THE SENATOR.
 - **MOTION SECONDED AND APPROVED**

7. AUDIT UPDATE

Status: still collecting documents. Audit cost expected to increase from amount quoted last year (up ~\$1000 from \$2500); this increase has been allocated to extra help required from accounting to clean up the books.

Note: As of 2012, the TGSA is officially a not-for-profit organization. As per this status, we require yearly audits. This, however, was not done last year – hence the extra work cleaning up the books this year. This is also why we now have liability insurance.

8. UPDATE ON NEW PRINCIPAL OF TRAILL

- MOTION TO SUBMIT A LETTER FROM GSA TO GARY BOIRE, CCED TO THE NEW PRESIDENT, RE THE EROSION OF DEMOCRATIC POLICIES IN THE NEW PRINCIPAL SELECTION.
 - **MOTION SECONDED AND APPROVED (in favour, 6; abstain, 3).**

Michael Eamon was selected as the new principal of Traill College (1 year appointment) without the consultation requested by PAC or GSA. The GSA does not have an issue with the individual selected, but rather with process by which this person was appointed, i.e., the selection of a head without allowing a voting opportunity. This is not a one-off instance; the same happened with dean search.

Action item: Stephanie shall draft this letter. After discussion with the executive, it shall be taken to the board for approval before being forwarded to Gary Boire, with a cc to the vice president.

9. SUMMER BBQ UPDATE (June 18th)

First BBQ event scheduled for Champlain Quad, 12-2pm. \$477 budget (\$1400 budgeted for all events over the summer). Soccer balls etc can be rented for free from athletic center.

- MOTION TO APPROVE A BUDGET OF \$477 FOR THE JUNE 18TH BBQ EVENT.

- **MOTION SECONDED AND APPROVED (in favour, 10; abstain, 1).**

Action items:

- Will CUPE help us this summer? Steve to follow up.*
- Program reps to contact their student bodies to help us with a ballpark amount of how many students are still around this summer. Also charged with extending invitation to department faculty (eg postdocs, office support etc).*
- Latchmi to send doodle poll to board soliciting help for Elizabeth before, during, and after event.*

10. TGSA WEBSITE UPDATE

Discussion with board members to have them more involved in website management; possibility of program pages, achievements etc.

Discussion *re* overhauling existing TGSA website. Members generally in favour of keeping wordpress; it is easy to use and maintain.

Action items:

- Bios, blurp, photos required from board members for website. Latchmi to send out template to board.*
- Alex to help with website redevelopment. Meeting scheduled with Latchmi June 27th, 9am.*

11. ONTARIO GRADUATE STUDENT ALLIANCE UPDATE

Richard will replace Rathika as the Trent rep at the May 24th agm.

The OGSA is presently lobbying for a refundable technology tax credit, similar to tuition tax credit.

Presently, we do not pay to be part of this group. However, OGSA wishes to hire professional staff to grow its membership. For this, they are in discussions with all universities about fee contributions for continued membership. The most recent offer to Trent is a \$2000 base fee

(university charge), plus an additional charge per full time student (\$1.50 this year, \$4.50 for future).

Action item:

Trent OGSA rep (Richard) will sell this proposal to the membership at the fall AGM agm to see if they would be willing to pay extra to be part of this organization, which is an alternative to CFS;

a. do we still want to be part of this membership

b. do we want to pay levy per student? \$4.00/student

In the meantime, can we sponsor the base funding from our budget (\$2000)?

- MOTION TO APPROVE \$2000 BASE FUNDING FOR MEMBERSHIP IN OGSA FROM TGSA FUNDS PENDING MEMBERSHIP APPROVAL AND CONTINUED OGSA MEMBERSHIP.
 - MOTION SECONDED AND APPROVED (in favour, 7; abstain, 3).

Question: Is it easy to get out of once we're in?

12. POLICY ON BOARD MEETINGS

We need to make quorum to start any meeting in which voting is required. Everyone has a right to speak and vote. Board members are encouraged to use this time to come prepared to speak (send agenda items), let us know what's going on, and raise anything that they think should be discussed at the executive level. All ideas are welcomed.

Members are strongly encouraged to send regrets well before any meeting so that we know beforehand if we can meet quorum or not. Members should note that if they miss more than 3 consecutive meetings *without just cause*, they will be removed from their positions.

13. CUPE

Unit 2 is holding bargaining in the fall; up for review: work hours, expectations, ideas, differently covered, etc. (GTAs, academic assistants, lab assistants etc). Further info to follow.

14. OTHER

Action item: Elizabeth to follow up on the purchase of office and windows operating system, as not-for-profit organization, for GSA.

15. Meeting Adjourned: 10.34am