

GSA February 16th Regular Meeting, 5pm, Junior Common Room

Members in Attendance:

Allison Hayward	President
Heidi Scott	VP Executive Affairs
Rachel Herron	VP Operations
Beth Evans	VP Student Affairs
Kyle Borrowman	VP Student Affairs
John Franey	VP Communications
Jessica Ellison	Human Rights Commissioner
Geoff Eve	Senator
Agnes Pelletier	Science Liaison
James Lisowski	First Year Rep.

President's Remarks

- Spring Fling will be April 1st
- The General Meeting will be March 15th to allow 2 weeks notice for the general assembly to review any items to be voted on, 1 week for election campaigns, and 1 week for voting. Agenda items for the GM should be organized in the next two weeks (they might include a suggestion that we pass a motion to bind the new GSA to incorporation.)
- The Aramark contract is coming up for renewal soon. Student surveys and requests for proposals will follow shortly.
- The transportation sub-committee has developed 3 options to balance the transportation budget: 1) Increase the fee for fall and winter buses by \$5.75/student, 2) Aggressively increase summer bus pass sales (200 bus passes) or 3) Reduce summer bus service by 25%. Option 2 was recommended and will be voted on Thursday February 17th. It was suggested that graduate students should be able to buy bus passes at Trill so they can get to main campus. It was also suggested that student affairs should have office hours at Trill.

Financial Report:

Rachel made a motion to approve granting \$135 to the motherhood movement evening with Andrea O'Reilly, seconded by Beth, all approved.

Geoff motioned to approve providing \$600 in support of Project Safe Space, Agnes seconded, all approved.

James motioned to amend the former motion for conference bursary to \$403.89 for the Sept.-Dec. 2010 Bursary period (see last meeting's minutes for details), seconded by Geoff.

Integrated Plan:

- There was discussion of CAST response to the Integrated Planning. John motioned to endorse the CAST letter, seconded by Kyle, all approved. Beth motioned to endorse a GSA response letter to the Integrated Plan (already under way), in principle, Heidi seconded the motion, all were in favour.

Student Handbook:

- A disability clause and order of concerns are being brought to student handbook. There will also be a student contract template.
- Jess reported that Graduate students will not be involved in the Positive Space campaign this term.

Events Update:

- The GSA will be holding a St. Patrick's Day Event, March 17, at the Trend. The event will be a cancer fundraiser supporting a Trent student that is running across Canada, The GSA hopes to raise \$1000 and Daniel will donate all profits from drinks to the cause.
- The GM will be March 15th in Bagnani Hall.
- Laser tag March 7th or 8th

Health benefits:

- GSA representatives met with the TCSA to discuss the Health Plan. The TCSA contends that 50% of its budget goes towards the operation of the health plan. They suggested that non-members of the TCSA should be charged 50% more than its members, as this is common practice at other universities. They also stated that graduate students withdrew \$100 000 worth of premiums this year.
- During the GSA meetings several options were discussed: 1) The GSA could pursue its own health plan or 2) The GSA could pay an access fee to the TCSA (\$26 per person).

There was discussion of the GSA potentially of partnering with CUPE, which John will approach at next CUPE meeting.

Questions Arising: Can they kick us off their plan? What they want the money for?

International Graduate Student Social:

- Rachel reminded the executive of the International student social, which has been rescheduled for March 3rd, in the Trend from 4-6pm.

ENLS Exec Committee:

- Heidi reported on the ENLS Exec committee. The committee thanked graduate students for their comments at the forums. OCGS council has told the ENLS program that they need to reduce times for completion. A new program handbook and new committee meeting protocol is being developed to target this issue. The department is appointing a new director—the search committee will include 3 faculty members, 1 external member and 1 student. The committee motioned to make all meeting materials transparent and available. The committee also discussed international fee waivers.

AOB

Rachel motioned to adjourn