

GSA Meeting January 19<sup>th</sup>, 7pm, SCR

Members in Attendance:

Allison Hayward	President
Rachel Herron	VP Operations
Kyle Borrowman	VP Student Affairs
Agata Durkalec	VP Finance
Meghan Buckham	Environmental Commissioner
Jessica Ellison	Human Rights Commissioner
Geoff Eve	Senator
Agnes Pelletier	Science Liaison
John Franey	VP Communications
Hilary Fast	Arts Liaison
James Lisowski	First Year Rep

Rachel motioned to approve the last meetings minutes; Meghan seconded the motion; the motion was approved with three abstentions.

John voted to approve the agenda, James seconded the motion and the motion carried.

President's remarks

- Allison reported on President's meeting and the proposed large-scale changes to increase enrolment and reduce debt at Trent. There was discussion of the cause of Trent's debt. Discussion led to the proposed private residence, which has been suggested/approved to bring in more students and reduce debt. Environmental concerns and overall goal of the private residence were discussed.

Incorporation

- There was discussion of what form the incorporated GSA structure will take including the size of the board of directors and the positions that would exist in the form of appointed officers and/or on standing committees.
- Objects: It was agreed that objects should be short, vague, and broad in nature. It was proposed that a mission statement should be written after the objects to clarify the GSA's projects. John and Agata were selected to revise the objects.
- Incorporation consultation meeting with students: There was discussion of developing GSA executive structure options to propose to Graduate Students in a consultation meeting. Agata proposed to have a student consultation session before filing for incorporation. It was agreed Heidi should organize the consultation with Agata. Allison motioned to strike a subcommittee to develop a plan for the graduate student forum on incorporation. The sub-committee will include Allison, Heidi, Agata, Meghan. Two forums will be held Wednesday February 9<sup>th</sup>: one at 1pm and one at 5pm. Rachel will book the trend. Agata will make a poster.

International Student Social/Survey

- The GSA is holding the first ever Trent International Graduate Student Social with the support of Traill College and Graduate Studies to give international graduate students a forum to discuss their distinct experiences and concerns at Trent and collect information that will inform strategic policy and support for international graduate students. The event will be held February 2nd in the Trend from 2-4pm. Free refreshments and snacks (egg rolls, samosas, pizza, cheese, fruit and vegan/vegetarian options etc.) will be provided. Rachel will invite Gary Boire and Michael Alcott and send John information to update the website/posters.
- February event update: There will be a professional development event focusing on writing, time management and argumentation, geared towards all graduate students, February 10<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm in Bagnani Hall. Drinks and free snacks will be provided. Leonard Conolly has offered to cover the costs of refreshments and cash bar at trend afterwards where there will be an open. There was also discussion of a ski trip.

#### CUPE 3908

- CUPE unit one is in a process of conciliation and they are not expecting a settlement with the University, which may lead to a strike vote. They are looking for support. Agata motioned be it resolved that the GSA express its solidarity with CUPE 3908, and that the GSA calls on the university to meet CUPE bargaining demands including a wage increase and improved health benefits. John proposed a friendly amendment to add to the end of the motion “to avoid the divisiveness and destruction of a strike.” The motion was seconded by Rachel. The motion carried. It was agreed we should write a press release to post on the website and inform other association presidents.

#### Traill library service

- A Graduate Student brought a request for library returns to the English board. The issue has been raised with the accessibility committee and the head of Traill College has brought the issue back to the GSA. It was suggested books could be returned to the porters lodge. Jess motioned that the GSA supports a Traill library service starting with the implementation of a book return service, James seconded the motion. The motion carried.

#### Graduate student handbook update

- Changes to the graduate student handbook should be complete by March to be implemented for 2011-2012. The proposed changes include: the implementation of signed student-supervisor contract, a student disability policy, and a written protocol outlining the order of concern to be followed when a supervisor or committee member is not compliant. The proposals will be presented at the next student handbook meeting.

#### ENLS

- Agnes reported on the ENLS student forum for the proposed division put forward by the biology department to form a separate graduate program because the interests of biologists are not represented in the ENLS program. Agnes will be

writing a response to the forum after contacting Caitlin Breton-Honeyman about the cons of the proposed division.

#### Senate

- Agnes reported that Trent has passed an agreement with the catholic college to create several courses serving them. The new integrated plan was discussed briefly. Point 15, page 8 concerns graduate studies. There was discussion of professional programs, developing niche markets and program overlap. The plan will be revisited at the next meeting.

#### AOB

- James is developing a survey for first year graduate students to gauge their transition into graduate school. James proposed striking subcommittee to work on the survey and Meghan seconded the motion. It carried. Hilary, Kyle, and James were selected as sub-committee members.

Kyle motioned to adjourn