

GSA Agenda, January 31st meeting

Members in attendance

Allison Hayward	President
Heidi Scott	VP Executive Affairs
Rachel Herron	VP Operations
Beth Evans	VP Student Affairs
Agata Durkalec	VP Finance
Jessica Ellison	Human Rights Commissioner
Geoff Eve	Senator
Agnes Pelletier	Science Liaison
Hilary Fast	Arts Liaison
Jim Johnson	International Student Rep.
James Lisowski	First Year Rep.

President's remarks:

- There was discussion of budgeting to be completed this month: The University, specifically Gary Boire, must cut \$2.9 million from the University budgets. There will be a 5-10% cut to services provided at the Academic Skills Centre, the Career Centre and Counselling Services. Cuts will be equal across the board.
- Housing development, phase one built (town house construction): Traffic lights are being installed at the intersection of University Heights and Water Street in response to student accident and potential student building.
- There was a health plan meeting with Tracey, TCSA health plan staff, to discuss Graduate Students staying on the TCSA health plan and under what terms they would share the plan. The TCSA promoted new flexible plan options. The administration fee would be about \$20 (rising from \$0). Part-time Graduate students would be included in the plan even though part-time Undergraduate students are not. More information will follow in the next meeting.

Colleges

- There was discussion of colleges, college system and college fees. Potential restructuring options discussed included raising GSA fees and transferring the college fee back to college. Rachel motioned to strike a College and budget advisory sub-committee, seconded by Beth. All in favour. Agata chaired committee, Beth, and Rachel.

Integrated plan

- The GSA discussed the proposed integrated plans noting the following concerns: emphasis on professional programs at the expensive of already existing non-professional programs, potential risks of starting new professional programs without pre-existing expertise in these areas, and limited recognition of double-role of graduate students as mediators between teaching and research.
- It was suggested that a revenue generating 'arm' should subsidize struggling programs.
- The next senate meeting March 8th

Positive space campaign

- There is a new campaign to support an LGBT inclusive environment at Trent called the positive space campaign. The campaign includes training staff and students who would then display positive space logos on their office doors.

Incorporation student forum update

- Two different general models of the new incorporated GSA structure were presented.
- There was discussion of potential paid positions within the GSA and the particular roles of executive officers
- The models will be reviewed to ensure present duties are covered.
- Agata reported that she made edits to objects of incorporation, which the executive should review.
- The student forum on incorporation will be held twice: Wednesday February 9th at 1pm in the Crypt and 5pm in the Traill Junior Common Room.

Events up-date

- There was discussion of event turnout and effective promotion strategies.
- There was suggestion that GSA members should promote events by speaking directly to core courses
- February 10th 6-8pm there will be a writing workshop at Bagnani Hall. An open mic will follow in the Trend.
- The Symons Gala will be April 15th
- The Spring Fling date was set for Friday April 1st
- March 17th there will be a St. Patrick's day Event at the Trend

International student social

- A final reminder was given about the international student social occurring this week.

Bursaries

- Agata motioned to approve the eleven applications for conference bursaries amounting to \$2201.79. There was one abstention. The motion carried. The total amount of funds requested was less than the budget allocation so previous applicants receiving less than \$250.00 will receive top-ups.

Jim motioned to adjourn