

## **MINUTES of Trent Graduate Students' Association**

**Meeting date:** Monday, June 13, 2011

**Call to order:** An executive meeting of the Trent Graduate Students' Association, was held in Scott House Senior Common Room on June 13, 2011. The meeting convened at 7:00 PM, President Karen Gillis presiding, and Shanel Raney, VP Operations.

**Members in attendance:** Bethany Hunt, Hilary Fast, Kristen Schultz, Megan Lloyst, Agnès Pelletier, Jason Henry, James Lisowski, Robert Arkell, Kama Maureemootoo

**Members not in attendance:** Diana Kouril

*Motion* to approve agenda → Karen Gillis; Seconded by Hilary Fast – Passed Unanimously

*Motion* to approve May 30, 2011 minutes → Karen Gillis; Seconded by Agnès Pelletier – Passed Unanimously

**Drop Box:** Need to add new GSA members to the folder so that documents can be accessed more easily by all members

### **First Year Survey Initial Comments (James Lisowski)**

- Issues with funding: some students would like the option to have their pay from TAing to be spread over the course of 12 months not the 8 that they work; because not all Trent graduate students get paid over the summer months.

-For intro week some students would like the GSA to make new students more aware of their options on how to deal with stress and/or anxiety through workshops or mentorships

-Also a graduate student group as a forum for first years to ask questions to would be a potential useful tool for people new to the area

-Students would also like campus tours in their first week

-Students would also like social events to be more structured and try to break the barriers between arts and science. An example would be to have a competitive trivia night with arts vs. science

-Students would potentially like general forums or GSA office hours so that they could ask questions or air grievances. Also a better way to communicate information to students would be to reduce emails and maybe introduce newsletters which have been previously discussed.

-Students would also like events which appeal to all ages since some graduate students are older and have families therefore may not necessarily be interested in the pub night events.

-More information/results from this survey James Lisowski will produce a formal write up which can be consulted later on.

**Robert Arkell (Environmental Commissioner)**

- Would like to start up a net impact group, which will look at getting undergraduate and graduate students together in the group

-Sustainability Trent: would like to look at connecting up with them

**Hilary Fast: weekly report**

- Met with Rachel Herron to look into the future trail cabinet

**Agnès Pelletier: no report**

-contacted Rachel Herron about previous international survey made, had only seven international graduate students filled it out. The survey has not been analyzed yet so no results to report.

**Summer BBQ: Megan Lloyst**

-First BBQ will be this Thursday (June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011) from 12pm to 1pm at lock 22

**Conference Bursaries:**

-Kristen Schultz: made a mistake on bursary budget it is actually \$2000 not \$3000. Also, 10 more applications for bursaries were missed and have to be added to this bursary term.

- Now there is a total of \$5400.92 of applied reimbursements

- But once the two previously discussed people who were not truthful are removed then the actual need is \$5359.03. So students can only receive back 37% of their claim.

-Wondered if could wait till our budget for this year is made before making a decision but the cheques are 4 weeks over due. Also wondered if departments could pitch in, but that would likely not work.

- It was mentioned that CUPE has \$200 each TA can apply for if to reimburse for anything that was related to professional development (such as a conference). Therefore, the letters back to the students who will only receive a percentage of their application will be informed of this option.

- *Motion* to shift \$500 from future budget to help offset the large application volume of conference bursary reimbursements (James Lisowski; 2<sup>nd</sup> Hilary Fast) Passed unanimously

### **Health Plan: Pregnancy leave; Part time students; Dependants**

-There are two current students who want to be able to opt into our health plan despite they will be on leave from the university therefore not paying any tuition or fees to Trent. This is a situation which has not come up before.

-This brings up the question of who should be allowed to opt in?

- Part time students (Previously not allowed), pregnancy leave individuals, or sick/mental health leave

-But if they pay the full fees to the GSA maybe they should be allowed to opt in, since the GSA taking on a new health plan meant that we have the ability to control our own health plan, not the university.

- *Motion* (Kristen Schultz): Students on university sanctioned leave should be able to opt into the GSA's health plan for up to a year of their leave; as long as they agree to pay our GSA fees and the health plan fee.

→ All in favor; one abstaining (Kama Maureemootoo)

- Part time students will increase our numbers in the health plan. But if they want to opt in they would have to pay the full GSA fees just as the full time students do.

- *Motion* to allow part time students to opt in the GSA health plan as long as they pay the full GSA fees. Karen Gillis; 2<sup>nd</sup> Megan Lloyst; Passed Unanimously

- Dependants: Karen will have to look into and discuss with green shield so that we can become more informed before making any discussions.

### **Health Plan Information Sheet**

- All agreed that copies of the sheet should be printed and distributed to current students not just new students or look into getting a health plan card to distribute to students

### **Trill College**

- Will have a head of the college in the next few weeks

-\$1000 from this year's budget and \$1000 from last year's budget will be given towards trill college cabinet

-Cabinet → AGM proposal from Rachel Heron

- the sum given from the GSA to the cabinet will help enhance student life for graduate studies. The funds are contingent on better access to common space and the trend during the day. James Lisowski agreed to take over as the liaison with the new trail cabinet college head.

**Intro Week** (Megan Lloyst)

- Movie night on the lawn of Trail (done in previous years) agreed by all that it is a good idea. Trivia night arts vs science also all agreed as a good idea. Finally the pub night, to potentially get more people to come to events could have tickets distributed at each event then have a draw for a prize; therefore the more events attended, the greater the chance to win a prize.

- CUPE: would like to plan for an event with the GSA after their workshop on the Wednesday of intro week

**Facebook** (Hilary Fast)

- It was determined that the best option is to make a new group, not a person.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

**Next Meeting:** In two weeks (June 27, 2011) at 7:00pm in Scott House. Before the meeting everyone will send all members reports on what they have worked on over the two weeks between the meetings.

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VP Operations  
Trent GSA

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Date of approval