

GSA Meeting Minutes June 21, 2010 Traill College Junior Common Room

Attendance

Present:

Andy Farnsworth	President
Megan Buckham	Environmental Commissioner
Agnes Pelletier	Science Liason
Beth Evans	VP Student Affairs
Kyle Borrowman	VP Student Affairs
John Franey	VP Communications
Agata Durkalec	VP Finance
Judith Mintz	Senator
Carling Beninger	Arts Liason
Rachel Herron-	VP Operations

Absent with regards:

Allison Hayward	VP Executive Affairs
Jessica Ellison	Human Rights Commissioner
Kim Wilson	CUPE Representative

Agenda:

President's Business
Bursary Applications
Events
Trend/Food Committee

President's Business

1) Bottled Water Ban

Over the past year, a Trent student committee has been developing a plan to ban the sale of bottled water on Trent's campus for both environmental and social reasons (See May 4 minutes for further details). The President's group (presidents of all college councils and students associations) must decide whether to pass the group's proposal on to the next level of governance in the University. The proposed ban would not be active until Fall 2011. Otonabee College has already expressed their position against the ban. The GSA has not yet expressed a position on the issue. It was decided that further review of the student groups plan should be undertaken by the environmental commissioner and key issues should be addressed at the July meeting so the GSA can decide how best to move forward with their position on the water bottle ban.

2) Health Plan

The TCSA is still searching for a new health plan provider and the GSA is continuing negotiation about the costs of administration for Graduate students, who previously paid into the plan, but paid noting to the TCSA the cover the costs administration. The TCSA has suggested that the Graduate Students should pay \$26.58/year to the TCSA, the same fee, which Undergraduate Students pay to the student organization for all of the services

that it provides. The GSA discussed the following information, which should be collected before a fee is negotiated:

- a) What do health officers do?
- b) What does the \$26.58/year fee cover?
- c) What services does the GSA already provide to students, which are already covered in the TCSA fee? In particular, what percentage of the TCSA fee goes towards health plan administration and benefits officer's salaries?
- d) Can the TCSA deny us access to health benefits?
- e) Can the GSA deal directly with other service providers and groups covered by the TCSA membership fee such as ISIC and CFS?

A referendum will have to be held for a change in the fee amount to occur. It was agreed that each individual student, whether they be undergraduate or graduate, should pay the same proportion of the administration costs. A formal vote about the costs of administration shared by Graduate Students will be held when more information is collected.

3) Bursary applications:

The GSA has \$2000/ term to divide between conference bursary applicants. The constitution states that bursary applicants can receive up to \$250, or the total amount of their claim, if it is less than \$250. The division of funds between applicants was discussed. Agata presented a series of scenarios that divided the \$2000 of funds for the previous term. Previously, two separate pools of funds were established: one for science students and one for arts students. However, this division was not mandated in the constitution. Rachel motioned to divide the funds as demonstrated by scenario 2B and Agnes seconded that motion. All members approved that motion.

4) Events:

The last GSA barbeque cost approximately \$350. This cost included condiments and food stuffs that will be used at the proceeding barbeques. Beth and Kyle suggested that the GSA should hold three summer events and a non-barbeque event to offset the cost of the first barbeque. Beth and Kyle reported the work involved in the first barbeque and it was decided that all available GSA executive members should meet in front of Wenjack theatre on main campus to help set up and/or take down the next barbeque. The next barbeque will be Friday June 25th at noon across the bridge from the rowing club and directly north of Reggie's Chip truck, to be consistent with the previous barbeque. Beth motioned to spend \$300 on the next barbeque, Meghan seconded that motion. Agata amended the motion to \$250/barbeque to be consistent with last summer's budget and all approved. This leaves \$305 for the last barbeque.

5) Food Services:

Judith reported that she and Rachel are currently sitting on the Food Services Committee, which is revisiting food issues surrounding the Trend. The food services contract for the Trend has been renewed with Mr. Daniels for another year and will be reviewed by this committee on a continuing basis. Without improvements from the previous year, the contract will not be renewed with Mr. Daniels again. The committee discussed hours of

operation, food consistency and lines of communication. The committee identified itself as a feedback mechanism, since it is comprised of individuals who use the Trend and individuals who represent the administrative staff, professors and students. The committee will be meeting again to focus specifically on Trend Food issues; however, issues surrounding access to student space were also identified in this meeting. It was agreed that students' packages should be amended to clarify what spaces are available for use to the students. For example, all Graduate Students have access to the senior common room through a key code that they can obtain from Deb Nichols. However, the college council is ultimately the body that deals with issues surrounding college space. Steps are being taken to develop a Traill college council again once the new Dean of Traill College is appointed. Elected student representatives will need to sit on this council.

Kyle motioned to adjourn the meeting and Beth seconded that motion. The meeting was adjourned.