

Trent Graduate Students' Association General Meeting
March 28th 2011, 6-7pm
Bagnani Hall

Quorum met- 43 members in Attendance.

Call to Order

Approval of the Agenda

1) Financial Report

Beth Evans gave the financial report on behalf of Agatta Durkalec.

2) Incorporation

BIRT the GSA endorses incorporating the organization in principle.

Motion passed, 41 in favour, one against.

BIFRT that name of the not-for-profit corporation that will succeed the GSA be entitled Trent Graduate Students' Association. BIFRT that the objects of the Trent Graduate Students' Association be as follows:

1. To draw into formal association all graduate students at Trent University on a democratic and cooperative basis;
2. To contribute to the intellectual growth and cultural development of members of the Trent University Community;
3. To uphold and respect principles of academic freedom;
4. To promote the welfare of graduate students and advocate for individual and collective graduate student needs and concerns;
5. To promote and maintain communication between graduate students, other members of the Trent University community, and the community at large;
6. To organize services which supplement the learning experience and develop a sense of community with our peers and with other members of society;
7. To provide avenues for the exchange of ideas between graduate students of all disciplines and promote the dissemination of graduate student research;
8. To pursue equity and social justice by promoting respect, honesty, and fairness in matters relating to the work of Trent University; and
9. To act as the official voice of all graduate students, both inside and outside Trent University.

Motion passed unanimously.

BIFRT the GSA register as a not-for-profit corporation in Ontario according to the name and objects specified above by November 30, 2011, and that the Bylaws of the Trent Graduate Students' Association be registered after approval by the graduate student membership at the fall General Meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

3) Health Plan

Beth Evans presented current health plan issues and future options. Given the limited amount of time available for the meeting, Beth motioned to limit discussion of the health plan to five minutes. Motion passed.

Suggestions and concerns raised: The GSA should avoid health plan contracts longer than one year while seeking out a new provider for the first time. There was scepticism whether the GSA can negotiate a plan that offers as much coverage as the TCSA plan given the size of the GSA. Generally, members were willing to pay more to get more coverage but they were unwilling to pay more to the TCSA for their current coverage without and control or input into the plan. Health Plan issues should be resolved by the end of May and discussion forums should be held.

The motion was put forward:

Be it resolved that the GSA be given the mandate to pursue alternative health benefits options for the 2011-2012 academic school year. Be it further resolved that future health plan options will be decided upon through a referendum.

Motion passed unanimously.

4) Traill College

Rachel Herron presented the Traill College-Graduate Student Constituency proposal. There was discussion of potential duplication of roles and where the money for a cabinet should come from. It was suggested that the Cabinet should focus on offering social events and therefore money should come from the social budget. There was some scepticism about having more events for Graduate Students that are not well-attended.

BIRT (be it resolved that) the GSA endorse the Traill College-Graduate Student Constituency Proposal dated March 14th.

Motion passed unanimously.

BIFRT (be it further resolved that) the GSA transfer \$2,000 to Traill College for the 2011-2012 school year from the College Fees Budget pending the fulfillment of the four conditions specified in the proposal.

Motion passed with two abstentions.

BIRT the GSA transfer \$500 from Capital Expenditures and \$500 from Donations in the 2010-2011 College Fees Budget to the 2011-2012

College Fees Budget to be disbursed to Traill College according to the Traill College-Graduate Student Constituency Proposal passed on March 14th 2011.

Motion passed with two abstentions.

Motion to Adjourn