

MINUTES of Trent Graduate Students' Association Executive Meeting
Meeting Date: June 26, 2012

Call to order: An executive meeting of the Trent Graduate Students' Association, was held in the Senior Common Room of Trill College on June 26, 2012. The meeting convened at 19:06, president Kaiti Nixon presiding.

Members in Attendance:

Kaiti Nixon	President
Julia Smith	CUPE Representative
Adrian Borlestean	VP Student Affairs (Sciences)
Jessica Taylor	VP Communications
Kim Demers	VP Student Affairs (Arts)
Shrikaar Kambhampati	VP Finance
Autumn Corvus	Human Rights Commissioner
Lisa Ugray	VP Executive Affairs
Gillian Tibbetts	Arts Liaison
Andressa Lacerda	International Representative
Stephanie Dotto	VP Operations
Elizabeth McIntosh	

Regrets: Lyndsey Beals (Science Liaison), Ayden Sherritt (Environmental Commissioner)

Approval of last month's minutes:

- they do not yet exist; no need to approve

Approval of agenda:

- adding CUPE Update
- Exec updates now an agenda item that can be combined with CUPE updates
- agenda approved unanimously

CUPE Representative Update – Julia:

- Tomorrow night: CUPE Canoeing – free for grad students – reserve a spot by emailing Julia
- June 28: RA info meeting 12-2pm in Ottonabee College 204. They will be discussing results of survey/strategizing. Get in touch with Sean Carleton (seancarleton@trentu.ca) or Karen Gillis (karengillis@trentu.ca) for more information.
- July 15: next deadline for CUPE development assistance fund – anyone who had a GTA in the last year can apply for funding for software, conferences etc, that support/develop your work as a GTA.

- July 15: deadline for applications for funds for UHIP premiums for international students – amount available went up to \$300 (one bursary/academic year/student available)
- CUPE Unit 2 VP, Unit 2 Chief Steward positions open

GSA BBQ (July 27):

- no email went out due to problems with access to grad email list
- Jillian will bring Rubbermaid containers
- Adrian needs to be there at 9-10 tomorrow to help prep. BBQ starts at noon. Andressa and Gillian volunteer to dress kabobs.
- next BBQ scheduled for Tuesday July 31
- Stephanie and others who live/work at Traill will assist in postering on Traill campus next time
- We have enough BBQ utensils for the whole summer. For the next BBQ, we are considering a variety of salads. Also, we are trying to get Kawartha Dairy to donate ice cream for next one
- Julia will ask CUPE for more money for July BBQ

Communications Update - Jessica

- IT has failed to give Jessica and Kaiti access to grad emails
- gsa@trentu.ca is currently just an alias, but we could demand that they change that
- can contact Dean of Graduate Studies to ask for assistance if we are getting nowhere with IT
- Jessica will teach Andressa how to update the int'l tab or update the info she sends her
- Jessica and Kim will make a GSA event for tomorrow (and possibly a GSA Facebook profile, à la Frost Centre)
- Sean will post BBQ event on the CUPE Facebook

Student Affairs – Arts update: Kim

- new to position, gives introduction

Finances Update – Shrikaar: Budget

- we don't have the correct figure for Levy Fee Budget
- Re: our ING Savings account: they need Karen (previous liaison) to talk to them before anything can happen – we need both PIN AND signing authority to transfer account to current exec
 - o Three people can have signing authority
 - o Higher interest rate with ING, but considering the high turnover rate, we might consider transferring over to TD with the other account
 - o By next meeting, Shrikaar should have an answer
- Conference bursary checks got mailed out today
- Conference and groups support bursary going to go out tomorrow
- Health plan budget not updated
- Everything to do with finances should go in finances Dropbox folder
- Budget: interconnected spreadsheets – prevents manual mistakes
- Everyone should go through budget line-by-line and familiarize themselves with it
- If we are going to make any changes, we have to in the next few month, because by November the budget will stand as is

Human Rights Commissioner Update – Autumn:

- University Administration has, this morning, decided not to sign the Access Copyright agreement due to 'universal opposition'
- Went to IT consultation: only one at meeting – could not adequately represent science students' needs
 - o Short meeting – won't be redone, because they tried twice
 - o People can still email comments if need be
 - o They are going to replace the email system and are considering a GoogleBusiness platform – but there are concerns around the Patriot Act
 - They will have a consultation process about that and provide information about it in advance
 - Autumn will research the ramifications of this so that the GSA can take a position on this

Executive Affairs Update – Lisa:

- we need to email re: what committees we'd like to be on
- Send suggestions regarding changes to our constitution/by-law by July 1

- would like to add in a transition report to exec responsibilities – could be tied into honorarium
- KAITI: we will have a meeting dedicated to the constitution
- Committees are posted on DropBox, but there are no explanations – google them in Trent website

Health Plan Update – Kaiti:

- Beth Evans is willing to have someone else transition in, but preferably before September.
- new Health Benefits person will need August to prepare for the September
- Possibility of sending out a call for resumes, hiring ASAP, then in spring AGM position is openly elected – having them start May 1 with us they get a summer transition
- Lisa/Beth will look at Kaiti's notes to get better informed

Update - Beth:

- on RA sub-committee of CUPE
 - o another RA survey going to be done in September
 - o RA's 60% Sciences – 40% Arts – compared to other universities, we have lots of Arts RAs

Arts Liaison Update - Gillian:

- Have had an orientation committee meeting and Adrian has prepared orientation activities.

International Rep Update - Andress

- Possibility of orientation week scavenger hunt (using app Geoswag)
- Emailed incoming int'l grad students to offer help, advice, welcome; got lots of response
- Encouraging international grad students to go to TIP camp. On Sunday of the camp, there will be a special workshop for international TA's.
- Expecting 20 incoming int'l grad students

Any Other Business - Julia:

- OPSEU unit, which represents all staff at Trent who aren't faculty/TA's/RA's (i.e. admin staff), is currently in bargaining and there is a possibility of a strike as early as July 16.

- Motion for a message of solidarity once we have a history and more information from OPSEU (Lisa)
 - o Seconded (Autumn)
 - o Amended: once information is gathered, Autumn circulate amongst executive before we release a statement
 - o Motion passed with one abstention

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 8:18pm (Julia). Passed unanimously.