

**MINUTES of Trent Graduate Students' Association Executive Meeting**  
**Meeting Date:** September 24, 2012

**Call to order:** An executive meeting of the Trent Graduate Students' Association was held in the Senior Common Room of Trill College on September 24, 2012. The meeting convened at 16:05, president Kaiti Nixon presiding.

**Members in Attendance:**

Kaiti Nixon	President
Adrian Borlestean	VP Student Affairs (Sciences)
Kimmy Demers	VP Student Affairs (Arts)
Stephanie Dotto	VP Operations
Shrikaar Kambhampati	VP Finance
Elizabeth McIntosh	VP Executive
Ayden Sherritt	Environmental/Human Rights Commissioner
Kyle Morrissey	Senator
Andrea Samoil	CUPE Representative
Andressa Lacerda	International Representative
Cookies	Delicious

**Regrets:** Jessica Taylor (VP Communications); Adrian Borlestean (VP Student Affairs); Lindsey Beals (Science Liaison)

**Approval of Agenda:**

- add Beth talking about Constitution/executive honoraria increase
- add Andressa – idea re: GSA-TCSA
- Kyle motions to approve, Andrea seconds

**Approval of Last Week's Minutes**

- Ayden motions to approve, Andrea seconds

**Graduate Studies Committee Update (Kyle):**

- transition from microfiche to online filing of theses
- they are working out an agreement with Proquest
- the cost will be half what it was per person to file this way; but microfiche fees will go up this year in the interim
- nothing set in stone; nobody used it yet
- they will want to meet with the GSA to talk about this

**MTCU Summit Update (Kyle):**

- discussion document has been available since June but we didn't get access to it until recently. Suspect it went to CFS, university admin, larger orgs first
- Talking points from Glen Murray: Minister of Training
  - o Last 10 years – post-sec funding has increased significantly
  - o Yet they've been seeing tuition and fee increases at maximum legal amount

- They can't sell idea of more investment in post-sec education until they know where the money is going
- They want increased use of technology in learning (Smartboard, iClicker, online course delivery, 'interactive pedagogy')
- Want better use of GTAs using these technologies
- Bologna Process – process in Europe to standardize education so students can transfer between countries
  - Makes undergrad degrees 3-years
  - In this system, 3-years is general, and the Masters is where you specialize
  - The idea is to have people graduating with their PhD's before they're in their 30's
  - Not necessarily a plot to make degrees more college-like
- Glen Murray willing to come to Trent to speak about these things
- Kaiti: we need to communicate this to our membership so that people have the option of responding
  - We still have time to send thoughts – CC Kyle and Kaiti and they will figure out who is going to summarize and respond
- The people with the most pull at the meetings were the big groups and only one of which represented Grad Students (CFS, where grad students are in the minority)

#### **Constitution Update (Beth):**

- now that we are incorporated we need to switch from Constitution to Bylaws
  - currently we are governed by both; this is not standard practice for incorporated organizations, and it creates a lot of redundancies
  - also, the two documents are sometimes contradictory
  - long-term project: switch entirely to Bylaws

#### **Executive Honoraria (Beth):**

- looking to assemble a sub-committee on this issue
- look into what other schools' execs make
- moving to a board/executive structure
  - only execs get honoraria and more work would fall to them
- last year they sat around and voted on whether or not each person had done enough to deserve their honoraria
  - in board/exec structure the board is responsible for monitoring executive's performance

#### **TCSA/GSA Idea (Andressa):**

- should the GSA get involved with mature students?
- we don't think there is a Mature Student Association on campus
  - that's something that we could talk to Brea/Nona about
- right now we are talking to Part Time Student Association

#### **Executive Updates – Kimmy (VP Student Affairs):**

- The Trend wants to join GSA on events

- pre-Head of Trent party this Friday
- general idea to have Trent pub nights every Thursday starting Oct 11, special events Friday, Risk Tournament is November
- they got their liquor license today
- save things in doc, not docx format on office computer because computer is old and can't read certain formats
- Intramural – we have five teams and 60 grad students participating – excellent rate of participation

**Executive Updates – Ayden (Environmental/Human Rights Commissioner):**

- PACHREA meeting
  - Federal employment equity program has had its funding drastically reduced
    - Trent is in the process of making its own employment equity rules
  - Accessibility audit
    - DNA is inaccessible and people are dropping out/not coming because of it
    - Possible shuttle/Handi-Van to DNA
  - Now you are able to go by a non-legal name on documents – they just haven't made it very public to prevent abuse of the system
    - Contact Jenn Moore
  - We have a multi-faith room now – there is a website – we don't have it
- Going to work on online bios and send an email to us

**Executive Updates – Andressa (International Rep):**

- For the first time at TIP Camp grad students repped as their own group and they really appreciated that as they were generally older than the undergrads
- She is helping some students get used to Peterborough
- Pub Event last week. Looking into other events.

**Executive Updates – Stephanie (VP Operations):**

- people need to submit committee reports to Stephanie after meetings they attend
- only needs to contain information pertinent to grad students

**Executive Updates – Andrea (CUPE Rep):**

- send any UHIP reimbursement reqs to CUPE
- has not received copy of receipts from Adrian so that CUPE can reimburse (Shrikaar will be responsible for sending receipts to Andrea)
- Next Pub Night Date TBA
- We will send out req for CUPE Social Committee members with Jess's next email
- AGM on October 30<sup>th</sup> so if people want to run, that is the date
- CUPE is also working on their response to the Bologna Process

**Executive Updates - Kyle (Senator):**

- main contact undergrad student senator resigning
- UofT published their info session online on OGS changes

- You *can* apply in advance to OGS to a university you have not yet been accepted at
- As a small school, Trent will get a small number

**President's Update (Kaiti):**

- if you can't make office hours, contact Kaiti and/or Steph, or ask somebody to cover for you
- Andrea: motion to get a lockbox for the office. Ayden seconds.
  - Discussion: We need to look into a non-permanent lock that can't be taken off the handle.
  - Amendment: investigate the feasibility of a lockbox – if price is under \$30, we approve the purchase
  - Motion passes
  - Ayden will take the lead
- Email from Craig Brunetti
  - ENLS funding only guaranteed for 3 years, with GTA in fourth – Craig is proposing that extends into the fourth year
  - Kaiti wants a response drafted from a PhD rather than an MSc; going to go over the response with her
- Office printer
  - We have a printer so old that Staples doesn't stock the ink
  - We need a new printer with a scanner
  - Steph motions to buy a new printer. Andrea seconds.
    - Discussion: Ayden: we will need to dispose of an old printer appropriately
  - Motion for GSA to spend up to \$100 on a 3-in-1 printer
  - Motion passes unanimously
  - Andrea will take it on
- Mailboxes
  - Everyone now has a mailbox in the GSA office
- Trent Part-Time Students' Assction
  - We are meeting TPSA, Nona Robinson, TCSA in regards to part-time students' proposal re: joining Trill College
- AGM
  - Rescheduled from Oct 3 to Oct 9 b/c we had to give notice re: availability of positions
  - September 24-30 is nomination period; campaigning from October 1-7;
  - We need ~50 for quorum!! Encourage people to come out!!!
  - Send nominations to Jess but CC Kaiti
- Strategic Mandate Agreement
  - Could get Trent more funding from gov't
- We should each start a running document explaining what we're doing every month – will help with transition document
  - Wants to make a comprehensive calendar

**Executive Updates – Kaiti proxy for Jessica (VP Communications):**

- starting to send out weekly emails by Tuesdays – deadline Monday night for us to submit items

**Executive Updates – Shrikaar (VP Finance):**

- Budget will be updated by this weekend – will send out an email
- If we have any proposals for the budget – send to him – don't change it in the Dropbox
- Kaiti: we will have to send out docs in advance of the AGM - budget will be one of them
- Conference bursary applications: has ~12. Should they be processed before AGM?

**Executive Updates – Beth (VP Executive Affairs):**

- Stepping down from PAC (Principal's Advisory Committee) - can somebody else step into that position?
  - o They want two; one from Traill, one from Symons
  - o Monthly one-hour meeting
- Organizing a meeting for program reps and committee members the week of the 15<sup>th</sup> (quick info session)
- Trick-or-Eat: good idea but is there time to organize? Asking TPSA or TCSA if they're interested in partnering?

**Other Business:**

- Shrikaar: motion to reimburse Kaiti for intramural fees
  - o Steph seconded
  - o Carried unanimously
- Next meeting October 15<sup>th</sup> – after the AGM

Meeting adjourned at 17:47.