

MINUTES of Trent Graduate Students' Association Annual General Meeting
Meeting Date: October 9, 2012

Call to order: An annual general meeting of the Trent Graduate Students' Association was held in Bagnani Hall, Trill College, on October 9, 2012. The meeting convened at 19:05, president Kaiti Nixon presiding.

Quorum: not met

President's Remarks (Kaiti):

- Introduction
- Because we have not met quorum, we can't approve the budget in this meeting – election will go online
- Members pay \$27 to GSA and \$52 to college in levy fees
- Trent has a ratio of 20-1 undergrads to grads – GSA is a voice for grad students

Budget Update (Shrikaar):

- Levy fee budget – pays for summer BBQs
- College fee budget - \$15 given to college, rest to GSA
 - o This money goes towards conference bursaries, Symons seminar, etc
 - o \$2500/semester as conference bursary limit
 - o Conference and Group support: for events here - \$5000
 - o We do get money from pubs downtown for ISW week but we don't have the money yet so it is not reflected on the spreadsheet
 - o We also get funding from CUPE for BBQs and events
 - o Microfilming: for theses - a graduation gift
 - i. Question: Microfilming moving to PDF's?
 - ii. Answer: Yes, microfilming is being phased out, but it will be more costly in the meantime and we don't know how much – depending on how many grad students graduate this year, we may not be able to cover the full cost. The next GSA will be in charge of deciding what to do with those funds when it does switch over to PDF.

Incorporation (Beth, Stephanie, and Kaiti):

- GSA incorporated last year – it provides protection for individual members on our executive – liability is to the corporation, not the individual
- Beth: changing to a Board Of Directors with an executive (~7 execs, BOD consists of representatives, and all non-executive positions already existing on the GSA)
 - iii. Question: When it will occur?
 - iv. Answer: We're hoping to have it in place by January – should have been done by last GSA so we're playing catch-up.

Executive Updates

VP Executive (Beth):

- Restructuring health benefits position
- Looking at joining CFS health plan
- Principal's Advisory Committee (Traill)
- CUPE – Research Assistant Union discussions committee
- Constitution bylaws

CUPE Representative (Andrea):

- Took over in late August
- Setting up a joint GSA-CUPE political action committee to deal with austerity measures, strategic mandate going on in Ontario

VP Student Affairs – Arts (Kimberly):

- assisting with bbqs and organizing social events

International Student Representative (Andressa):

- Emails incoming international graduate students
- Smooths the transition for first year international students
 - o Many have never left their country before
- Creating a package for new internationals
- Went to TIP Camp – international-specific orientation weekend
 - o First time grad students were represented as a group
 - o Talked about TAing, research options, etc.

VP Operations (Stephanie):

- handles meeting minutes, helping with incorporation transition

VP Communications (Jessica):

- emails, website, Facebook page

VP Student Affairs – Science (Adrian):

- handled all four summer BBQs
- handled Orientation week activities

Environmental Commissioner (Ayden):

- Sustainability plan for Traill – trying to start one up
- Student/community plant garden @ Traill
- Setting up GSA executive online profiles

Health Benefits Coordinator (Candy):

- In office Tuesdays from 10-12
- Opt-in is done; opt-out is done
- Reimbursement: create your own account on the Greenshield website – email Candy if you have issues – blackout period over so you can register

Senator (Kaiti proxy for Kyle):

- Strategic Mandate

- Eight pages ordered by Glen Murray from each university on the future of your university. There is one posted on the portal - take a look and read it.
- MTCU – big changes to post-secondary education in Ontario
 - We are being asked for input (albeit with short notice)
- Represents grad students on Senate
 - Body makes all academic decision
- Access Copyright
 - Defended our rights for use of copyrighted material on campus

Election:

- We do not have quorum
- We need program reps
- We need committee membership
 - List of open committee positions online – please take a look
 - October 12th – they want names on the committees

Meeting adjourned at 19:48.