

MINUTES of Trent Graduate Students' Association Executive Meeting
Meeting Date: February 8, 2013

Call to order: An executive meeting of the Trent Graduate Students' Association was held in the Senior Common Room of Traill College on January 25, 2013. The meeting convened at 12:12, President Kaiti Nixon presiding.

Members in Attendance:

Kaiti Nixon	President
Elizabeth McIntosh	VP Executive
Jessica Taylor	VP Communications
Stephanie Dotto	VP Operations
Adrian Borlestean	VP Student Affairs - Sciences
Kyle Morrissey	Senator
Adam Marques	Equity Commissioner
Andrea Samoil	CUPE Representative
Ayden Sherritt	Environmental Commissioner
Ian Fyfe	Health Benefits Coordinator
Snow	Storming

Regrets: Kimberly Demers (VP Student Affairs - Arts); Shrikaar Kambhampati (VP Finance); Elizabeth Morisson (First Year Rep) Adam Marques (Equity Commissioner); Andressa Lacerda (International Rep)

Approval of minutes:

- *passes*

Approval of agenda:

- *passes*

Senator Update (Kyle):

- OGSA and advocacy efforts
 - o OGSA incorporating - hiring a legal consultant to assist with drawing up bylaws
 - o Cannot currently afford to pay directors so tabling pay issues
 - o Trent: our involvement at this point is mostly intellectual and promising that we are continue to consider joining in the future
 - Also we are giving them advice re: our situation with CFS
 - No referendum re: paying fees to OGSA because we have an upcoming referendum re: student centre.
 - Nobody knows what OGSA is
 - DISCUSSION: website, blog post, seminar follow-up
 - Referendum: do they endorse us working with the group ?
 - Emphasize that this isn't about money but about research and advocacy
 - Investment of time as opposed to money

- We just need to be explicit about the nature of our commitment
 - MOTION: to hold a referendum on the GSA's involvement with OGSA, asking: "Do you endorse TGSA becoming an official member of the OGSA?"
 - Blog, email, open forum to inform people
 - *Passes unanimously*
- Kyle will send out: info about meetings with political leaders
 - Universities now have a target goal of 15-20% international students – will bring in more money with the new head tax imposed on international students

CUPE Representative Update (Andrea):

- GSA solidarity with Trent Food workers? (read this article for more info: <http://trentarthur.ca/aramark-staff-struggling-over-slashes-in-hours-positions/>)
 - Are job losses the results of advocacy against Aramark – are Trent staff being cut due to decreasing Aramark sales?
- upcoming social events
 - Feb 28: pub night; March 3: archery (possible)
- new CUPE website
 - still not online
- Trent Lands committee update
 - community consultation event – last Tuesday in gym
 - lots of negative reaction – angered
 - final meeting at end of March - they tend to announce these things at the last minute

VP Executive Update (Beth):

- ING Update
 - we now have access to our savings account
 - "the worst is over"
 - we have roughly \$25 000 in savings
 - Shrikaar is looking into low-risk investments
 - Beth has looked into low-risk GICs @ interest rate of 2.5% (current rate 1%)
 - more for GSA of the future to think about
- GSA levy
 - currently \$27, only 25-50% of what students at other unis pay
 - MOTION: Be it resolved that the GSA hold a referendum at the AGM about raising the levy by \$13 to \$40.
 - DISCUSSION: payment of \$50/term for board members
 - executives get \$1000/year
 - leftover – hire board chair
 - Nona Robinson has pointed out that by not paying Executive well, we are marginalizing people who cannot afford to work for free
 - *Motion passes*

- Wallis Hall advocacy
 - o Housing-specific meeting for CASSC March 15 – would like to hold a Wallis Hall before then general meeting – discuss the possibility of a Tenant’s Association (or maybe a *Trentant’s* Association)

Health Benefits Update (Ian):

- MOTION: Students who opted out after the deadline will still receive a full reimbursement
 - o DISCUSSION: none of them have used their coverage but we’ve still been paying for them to be on it
 - o Many of these people opted out with the TCSA in that confusion
 - o Modification: we figure out who opted out through the TCSA – and give them a full refund
 - o **Motion tabled**
 - Ian will figure out the names of students who opted out through TCSA

VP Student Affairs Update (??? proxy for Kim):

- meeting with Doug Evans
 - o Traill will support fitness prizes and after-celebration @ Trend
 - o we just need a breakdown of costs
 - o Traill will support an incentive for grad students to attend our general meeting: free food @ Trend, free appetizers, etc.
- Pete’s game March 7 – tx @ Athletics for \$13/tkt
 - Possibility of GSA buy a block

VP Operations Update (Stephanie):

- CPC Traill forum update
 - o happening Tuesday February 12 at 3:30pm in Scott House 105

President Update (Kaiti):

- Meeting with board of governors report
 - o bicameral – Board of Governors handles everything financial; Senate handles academics
 - o relationships not well-developed between grad students and Board of Governors previously
 - o different board members expressed interest in coming to our meetings and developing relations
 - o may be passed on to next GSA
- Meeting with MPP Rob Leone report
 - o Useless
 - o no discussion of substance
 - o don’t let MPPs ask you about yourself; get right to asking about money
- Funds left over from travel grant
 - o 1991 – GSA invested \$500 into an account for travel bursary \$100
 - o interest rate of \$100/student

- if we top it up to \$2500, we can offer minimum \$100, or top up to \$15 000, we can give \$500
- we already have an endowed bursary of \$1000 for one PhD and one Masters
- MOTION: to move \$1094 to our other funds to boost investment
 - DISCUSSION: money goes to make our endowment fund stable
 - *Motion passes unanimously*
- Email changeover update
 - no dedicated GSA account, stuff to GSA goes to Kaiti and Jess's (alias account) personal account – no institutional memory
 - with the Gmail changeover, tech is trying out some new things with this sort of account, we are a guinea pig
- Meeting with Grad studies and others regarding email communication
 - issues with duplicate emails
 - Jess is going to head that up
- Budget Review
 - read the budget

Other Business:

- Adam – Equity Commissioner Update
 - Fitness Challenge is off to a slow start, we hope to have better turnout to cardio
 - Will be speaking @ Trent Active Minds Symposium as grad rep
 - PACHREA going ahead with PostSecret campaign about discrimination on campus – Adam will send out some information
 - Jess will send out a fitness update email
- Kaiti proxy for Liz – First Year Rep Update
 - Liz putting together a survey
 - MOTION: spend up to \$30 to update survey form to include comments
 - *Motion carried*
 - Survey will be anonymous
 - Prize (see last board's minutes)

Meeting Adjourned at 13:33