

**MINUTES of Trent Graduate Students' Association Annual General Meeting**  
**Meeting Date:** April 3, 2013

**Call to order:** An annual general meeting of the Trent Graduate Students' Association was held in Bagnani Hall, Trill College, on April 3, 2013. The meeting convened at 17:08, president Kaiti Nixon presiding.

**Executive Members in Attendance:**

Kaiti Nixon	President
Elizabeth McIntosh	VP Executive
Stephanie Dotto	VP Operations
Shrikaar Kambhampati	VP Finance
Kimberly Demers	VP Student Affairs – Arts
Adrian Borlystean	VP Student Affairs – Sciences
Jessica Taylor	VP Communications
Kyle Morrissey	Senator
Andrea Samoil	CUPE Representative
Andressa Lacerda	International Representative
Elizabeth Morisson	First Year Representative
Ayden Sherritt	Environmental Commissioner
Adam Marques	Equity Commissioner

**Total Members in Attendance:**

50

**President's Introduction (Kaiti)**

**Executive Member Reports on Year's Activities:**

VP Executive (Beth):

- Budget increased to include summer health clinic hours
- Reworking bylaws to introduce a board-executive structure
- Adding content to the websites

VP Operations (Stephanie):

- office moved to Wallis Hall, computer and monitor purchased, introduction of office hours
- served as GSA representative on College Planning Committee
- switch to timed executive and board meetings

VP Finance (Shrikaar):

- maintaining records
- review of budget

VP Communications (Jessica):

- maintain website, Facebook

- sending out less emails
- working on getting a GSA email account
- Beth has started us a twitter account

#### VP Student Affairs (Kim and Adriam):

- 3 BBQ's in the summer at a cost of \$400-\$500 per BBQ
  - o doubled the price from last year thanks to funds from CUPE
  - o each BBQ had an attendance of 100+
- Orientation week
  - o pool night – 60-70 attendees
  - o BBQ
  - o Pub crawl – one of the cheapest events of the year at less than \$300 and some bars gave us some funds too
    - 100+ in attendance, though not all grad students
- Bowling night in October
  - o Offered free pizza
  - o Less than 20 attendees
- December Festivus
  - o ~70 attendees
  - o \$200 from CUPE
  - o free drinks
- Laser Tag in February/March
- Spring Fling will be April 21 pending approval from Risk Management
- We effectively used up our budget

#### Senator (Kyle):

- on Presidential Review Committee, setting mandate and priorities for president's next term
- on University Planning and Academic Budget Committee
- met with Glen Murray (Minister of Training and Universities) re: strategic mandate
- attended first meeting of Ontario Graduate Student Alliance
- met with Education Critics from NDP and Conservatives

#### Environmental Commissioner (Ayden):

- representative on Traill's Principal's Advisory Committee
- representative on transport committee
  - o Going to be increased summer services
  - o Transport committee wants to increase amount grad students are paying

#### Equity Commissioner (Adam):

- Representative on PACHREA
  - o Human Rights Charter is up for renewal
- Post-secret campaign about discrimination on campus
- Building bridges with outreach to undergrad groups

- Fitness Challenge – hope to repeat next year having learned some lessons this year

First Year Representative (Liz):

- sat on Principal's Advisory Committee
  - o working with College Planning Committee
- conducted first-year grad student survey

International Representative (Andressa):

- email newly accepted international students
  - o sent them an info package
  - o went to TIP Camp to make sure grad students were represented as a group
  - o showed international students around campus and town

Health Benefits Coordinator (Kaiti proxy for Ian):

- question of whether or not we're going to stay on our current plan or return to a joint plan with the TCSA
- we are dissatisfied with our current provider

CUPE Representative (Stephanie proxy for Andrea):

- represented grad students on Trent Lands Use Consultation Committee
- kept TGSA updated on CUPE social events, PDEA forms

President (Kaiti):

- Revising bylaws introduced after last year's incorporation
- Moving to a board/executive structure
- Trying to find a balance between keeping members informed and keeping emails to a minimum
- Trying to find more paying jobs for grad students
- Headed up intramural organization
- Served on Research Ethics Board
- Served on Co-Curricular Record Committee
- Served on Presidents Group Committee, composed of presidents of TCSA, TGSA, and college cabinet heads

**Honoraria Motion:**

- Shrikaar: motion to retroactively increase GSA exec honoraria from \$100/year to \$100/semester, bringing total honoraria to \$300
  - ***MOTION PASSES***

**Bylaw Motion:**

- previously GSA was one executive of 14 people, which is rare for grad student bodies
- GSA aims to move to a 5 executive + board structure
- monthly board meetings for all 29 board members
- having program reps

- increased board will make it easier to fill committee positions
- Beth: motion to accept bylaws as written and distributed via the TGSA website
  - o **MOTION PASSES**

### **Referendum Questions:**

- Do you endorse the TGSA to be an official non-paying member of OGSA (Ontario Graduate Student Alliance?)
- Do you endorse the one time TGSA Levy Fee increase of \$13 to \$27 to the total amount of \$40?
- Do you endorse the levy fee of \$80/\$90/\$100 per graduate student for the construction of the Student Centre? (select one option)
  - o We will not start paying the levy fee until ground has broken on construction
  - o More student space (bookable space) – non-academic uses
  - o Better pub
  - o Non-Aramark food spaces
  - o Trent is one of only three institutions in Ontario without a student centre
  - o University attempting to get funding from gov't for academic use of space (lecture hall/theatre)
  - o Students would be majority stakeholders – the spaces we pay for we control – university can't take us over
- Do you endorse the refundable levy fee of \$3.00 per graduate student to support the Seasoned Spoon?
  - o Allows Spoon to expand educational programming
  - o Allows Spoon to keep prices where they are
  - o Allows Spoon to extend staff hours

### **Graduate Studies Budget Cut Update:**

- Will affect the 2013/14 budget onwards
- Will not affect funding offers already made
- Challenges: no inflation increase to base funding in past decade, minimal increase in undergrad enrollment (a revenue source for the university), government instituted a \$750 head tax on international students
- graduate tuition increases of up to 8% allowed (compared to 4% for undergraduates)
- University receives money for grad students only for their 'eligible' time (2 years MA, 3-4 years PhD)
- GTA costs should be passed to undergrad departments as opposed to cutting from our bursaries
- Undergrad is dealing with this cut by not replacing tenured faculty – but we need tenured faculty to supervise – chain effect of cuts
- Joan Sangster (Dean of Grad Studies) and Kaiti are willing to discuss these issues further with anybody interested

### **Introduction of TGSA Executive and Board Candidates for 2013-2014**

- Karen Everett (President)

- Jason Rae (VP Internal Affairs)
- Gozde Killic (VP Operations)
- Jenilee Gobin (VP Finance)
- Veronica Lai (VP Student Affairs)
- Adam Marques (Equity Commissioner)
- Allen Priest (Environmental Commissioner)
- Andressa Lacerda (International Representative)

**Meeting Adjourned: 18:45**