

MINUTES of Trent Graduate Students' Association Executive Meeting
Meeting Date: April 19, 2013

Call to order: An executive meeting of the Trent Graduate Students' Association was held in the Senior Common Room of Trill College on April 19, 2013. The meeting convened at 12:03, President Kaiti Nixon presiding.

Members in Attendance:

Kaiti Nixon	President
Karen Everett	President (Incoming)
Elizabeth McIntosh	VP Executive
Jason Rae	VP Internal Affairs (Incoming)
Kimberly Demers	VP Student Affairs (Arts)
Adrian Borlystean	VP Student Affairs (Sciences)
Veronica Lai	VP Student Affairs (Incoming)
Jessica Taylor	VP Communications
Gozde Kilic	VP Operations (Incoming)
Jenilee Gobin	VP Finance (Incoming)
Elizabeth Morrison	First Year Representative
Kyle Morrissey	Senator
Kaitlyn Watson	Senator (Incoming – not acclaimed)
Andressa Lacerda	International Representative
Andrea Samoil	CUPE Representative
Ayden Sherritt	Environmental Commissioner
Allen Priest	Environmental Commissioner (Incoming)
Adam Marques	Equity Commissioner
Ian Fyfe	Health Benefits Commissioner

Regrets: Shrikaar Kambhampati (VP Finance); Stephanie Dotto (VP Operations)

Approval of minutes (March 8 and March 22):

- *Motion carried*

Approval of agenda:

- *Motion carried*

VP Executive Update (Beth):

- Motion to purchase a computer tower for 289.00 plus shipping, to maximum of \$450 to also cover windows
 - o Motion seconded
 - o DISCUSSION:
 - Possibility of sky drive – yearly subscription. Google Drive 25 GB also an option. Purchase would come from operations budget as capital budget is overspent.
 - o *Motion carried*

- Referendum results/Trent Radio mix-up:
 - o Trent Radio announced TGSA passed student centre referendum
 - o Beth spoke to coordinator – discussed biweekly radio show to discuss graduate research, not intended to replace Symons
- 2013-2014 honorarium increase
 - o we can vote to increase incoming TGSA’s honorarium
 - o has been concern from membership that board should not be able to set their own pay (but they do), though we can have a failsafe of planning now, and the budget will have to be approved in fall AGM
- Motion to pay the 2013-2014 TGSA Directors \$50 per term pending on regular attendance and providing satisfactory reports on committees, duties as judged by the Board and pending approval of the budget at the Fall AGM
 - o Motion seconded
 - o DISCUSSION:
 - Jess: why are we voting on this as they are setting their own budget?
 - Kaiti: we set the pay structure for the next executive, what they do with it is up to them, but bylaws may be changed in fall. Build in ability to say no if neglect of duties.
 - Kyle: ask Andressa and Adam to abstain as they are on new exec
 - o ***Motion carried***
- Motion to pay 2013-2014 TGSA Executive \$1000/year, (300/300/400) per term pending regular attendance and providing satisfactory reports on committees, duties as judged by the Board and approval of the budget at the Fall AGM
 - o Motion seconded
 - o DISCUSSION:
 - Beth cost-breakdown in AGM report, not all of levy increase to honorarium (we’ll have extra money)
 - o ***Motion carried***
- Motion to put \$774 of remaining emergency donation funds to Kawartha Food Share
 - o Motion seconded
 - o DISCUSSION:
 - Adrian: suggests go to Red Cross to deal with emergency (Boston bombing)
 - Kim: should go someplace closer to home, and having no food is an emergency too
 - Motion amended: donate \$387 to Kawartha Food Share and \$387 to Red Cross
 - o ***Motion carried***

Equity Commissioner Update (Adam):

- Plans for over summer (tentative):
 - o anonymous grading to schools to reduce prejudice (lower grades for women, higher plagiarism accusations to international students)
 - o September workshop to cooperate with DSO and Active Minds as outreach (Adrian has contacts, Kyle supports as needed)

- do a poll around equity and accessibilities – need anonymous way to realize what needs to be improved and want to work with administration

First Year Survey (Liz):

- Survey Results: 68 respondents, improvement of 24 last time
 - Most from full time ENLS MSc, all programs except Indigenous Studies, from 2007-2013
 - Findings positive, students adjust fairly easily, access information they need from us
 - No difference between PhD and Masters, can't tell from part-time any trends
 - 2012 orientation events as very well advertised (best yet), students that start in January don't have the same orientation experience – majority don't attend
 - Nothing had poor ratings, student life/extra-curricular might need improvement, and website updates, improve communication about financial assistance
 - Numerous comments: need better representation for RA's (feel they are being taken advantage of), TA's need better support throughout the year, need better communication in general – need more consistent emailing times, better use of equal advertising on both campuses, need more scholarship information, need more inclusive events – family events not just booze culture
 - Recommendations:
 - 1) special events in January to connect to students who come in then
 - 2) hold inclusive events for mature, spouses, children
 - 3) continue with communication – frequently update website, regular email
 - 4) advertise bursaries etc. better/more thoroughly
 - 5) support RA's and TA's – consider advocating for unionization, link to cupe website
 - encourage students to get involved with clubs, groups, organizations

Spring Fling and Events (Adrian):

- motion to reimburse Adrian under \$300 for laser tag (Shrikaar has exact amount)
 - Motion seconded
 - *Motion carried*
- Motion to spend any extra money to buy more food and raise pay-out to DJ
 - Motion seconded
 - DISCUSSION:
 - Kaiti: \$500 from TGSA budget, \$200 from CUPE – increased \$250 from last year
 - Adrian: DJ charges \$50-75 per hour, so he offered \$350 – wants to put another \$50 toward DJ, \$200 would be more appetizers or appetizers and wraps
 - Adam: where is food coming from? Are we sure that we have enough in budget
 - Jess: we were running out of food at last Riley's events, not want to pay ½ of budget to DJ
 - Beth: we can reallocate up to \$1000 in budget

- Kaiti – do we have a contract with DJ? – no
- Motion amended: If the extra \$200 is available that we spend in on spring fling, per discussion on food
 - *Motion carried*

Transition Bonanza (Kaiti):

- incoming Senator
 - after AGM problem of multiple runners for senate and nomination period no longer open, now only one standing rather than three
 - Kyle: not sure if she will be recognized by Senate
 - Allen: historically college cabinets have been interim-appointed have voted so theoretically we could do that
 - Motion to appoint Kaitlyn Watson as interim senator
 - Motion seconded
 - *Motion carried*
- Honoraria
 - Shrikaar has made out cheques for everyone
 - issue of people coming in September, means that per semester they should only get \$200, instead of \$300
 - Adrian: the wording in the AGM was that it would be \$300 increase across the board – said everyone would get it
 - Adam: if more than one person shares a role, then breaking down by semester makes most sense
 - Kyle: letter of the law, vs the expectation/spirit of the question – see it as paying off friends
 - Motion that each member of executive currently serving receive \$300
 - Motion seconded
 - Motion amended to pending transition documents
 - DISCUSSION:
 - Interesting that people voted this down at AGM are now voting on this
 - Kim: she had a separate transition document, but Adrian included her activities in his, should we just have a combined doc
 - Kaiti: give to incoming person in your position when you meet passed
 - Ayden: who makes ruling on whether we are filling duties
 - Kaiti: hoping not a problem again, if someone didn't deserve it, it should have been addressed before the end of the year
 - *Motion ?????*
- Motion to pay Ian Fife \$500 for his term of work
 - Motion seconded
 - *Motion carried*

Other Business:

- Health Benefits (Ian)

- Beth sent an email about Morneau-Chappelle – have not heard back from them, no information about quote or renewal
- had asked for information by April 3 and not received, so we should look for another healthcare insurance broker
- opt-out cheques for those who opted out in January – people are asking about them
- tabled at last meeting, Ian requested full reimbursement, but issues of half of reimbursement
- Motion that 23 students receive full reimbursement of full \$300 from us,
 - Motion seconded
 - DISCUSSION
 - Ian can confirm that those students didn't use health plan during September and opted out through TCSA
 - *Motion carried*
- Andressa: anti-plagiarism software being introduced for ENLS
 - Adrian – cost is still a consideration, coming through WebCT, don't think it will be enforced, but an added feature for those who chose to use it and thinks some already use it
 - Allen: issue of intellectual property rights – he will keep track
 - Kyle: haven't heard it from Senate – just amended plagiarism policy a couple of weeks ago, not discussed in Senate, Senate Executive, or Graduate Committee – was discussion of professors not turning in plagiarism cases, concerns about Patriot Act and US security monitoring, union issues for TUFA

Meeting adjourned: 13:40