

TGSA EXECUTIVE REPORTS-
October 22nd, 2015

Laura: Since last exec report: Attended Presidents' Meetings, Constitutional Changes Committee meeting (working on bylaw drafting), Symons Seminar Series meeting, entrepreneurship centre meeting, chaired our board meeting and long term planning committee meeting; went to the Student Centre announcement to present scarf to Stephen Stone; was interviewed about the importance of GTAs for the wider Trent community; discussed strategies with Phil Abbott about our concerns of tuition and post-residency feels; met with Cory Baldwin (from our board) to discuss some strategies for improving board meetings; will be presenting donation of \$500 for the 3 minute-thesis and the \$150 donation to the Fekete lecture; working with Renee on getting enrollment lists properly sent to Student VIP; organizing and sending two online motions about the October event to the board; working with David B. to help finish the audit and to look into the GSA's liability coverage for Trent's Insurance renewal (*we need this for October 30th); starting the Student Survey to send out ASAP; working with Alison and Phil on the Trent Voting Initiative, manning the table and offering students information about voting; sent a follow-up Google document to the other grad associations in attendance from the OCGS to begin to collect information on how other exec bodies are functioning at other universities; set up meeting on October 29 for GSA exec to meet with Symons committee; met with Rathika to go through filing cabinet in the office; meeting with Student VIP on Friday; will be spending the weekend doing lots of baking for our Tuesday Autumn Social event

David H.: Going to begin shooting the Traill documentary this Friday (Oct 23rd). Am also arranging interviews with help from Michael Eamon. I'm going to send out an email to the full Board shortly so we can potentially organize some interviews, and also plan our mock Board meeting. I hope to shoot this by the end of November, as this will give me time to acquire the necessary equipment--mostly lights.

David B.: September Conference Bursaries have all been evaluated and total claims remained higher than expected after review at \$6191.49. Our budget initially was \$4285.39, but as a result of the high volume of applications and claims, I have re-allocated \$1000.00 from the Levy Fee account, and used the residual amount of our donation from Laura's Mom (\$1000.00 - \$497.15 = \$502.85) towards reimbursing these claims. The budget is now \$5788.24, which still leaves us short of the amount claimed, but the pro-ration will have far less of

an impact than before.

McColl Turner Chartered Accountants are in the middle of performing our GSA audit. We have a few outstanding items that need to be submitted, however we appear to have very few questions coming our way which I view as a positive sign.

The 2015/2016 GSA Budget is still undergoing some work and should be completed before the end of October at which point the Executive can review before it is presented at the November board meeting (and subsequently at the AGM for a vote of approval).

Alison: I have a meeting with housing on Nov 3rd. So far things to be discussed are international student housing, 9 month leases, and pets.

L. Renee: I'm waiting on the results from the online vote regarding the Fall Social instead of pumpkin carving, but if the vote is affirmative we will have a reduced budget of \$100 in order to save Monday for our AGM and Festivus. We will have apple cider, coffee, tea and hot chocolate in addition to various Halloween themed snacks available on Tuesday, October 27 from 12 - 3 PM in order to give people a good excuse to get out during reading week. Laura volunteered to make some cookies and cupcakes, and I will be making gluten free and vegan options as well. We still have some granola bars and chips from the summer events we can use for snacks as well.

I am meeting with Jamie and Theresa over reading week in order to begin planning the AGM, I will also be looking at budgets from last year so I can put forth a budget at the Board Meeting in November. I will also start thinking about Festivus and where it will be held, as well as a budget breakdown.

I have been trying to get the updated enrollment lists to VIP, but we are still having students email us about not having coverage as Donna Hoard is out of the office. We might need to propose something next year to get this squared away, as students had to enroll by September but yet they are still not getting coverage in the middle of October. There really isn't an excuse for this. It makes us look bad, although this is an administration issue from Trent. Perhaps there will be a way to streamline the process next year. We've also allowed a few late opt outs, but overall we want to set a precedent that unless there are outstanding circumstances we will not allow opt ins or opt outs after the deadline. We sent numerous

reminders and the dates were available on numerous websites and orientation presentations, so there really is no excuse.

Avinaash: I have not had all of my committee meetings again since my last update but in terms of information for graduate students there is a new Education course of the M.Ed program that went through along with 2 new program streams for the Applied Modelling and Quantitative Methods section – Big Data Analytics course based Master’s (Fall 2016) and financial Analytics course based Master’s (Fall 2016). In addition, there is a new program stream for the sustainability studies M.A. : Entrepreneurship and Innovation management (Co-op) Stream (Fall 2016). This stream will provide experiential learning for students and is aimed at a distinct set of students. The organization who they are currently working with is North Water Capital for this stream. There is also a change in the admission requirements to the Master of Educational Studies program (which I voted for) in that applicants with a 3 year degree and a domestic B.Ed will be considered equivalent to a 4 year program for admission to the M.Ed (under exceptional circumstances).