

Tri-University Graduate Student Association (TUGSA)
General Meeting
January 30, 2013
HH139, University of Waterloo 4-6pm

Presiding: Co-Presidents Geoff Keelan and Marjorie Hopkins
Attending: Ryan Kirkby, Matt Roth, Whitney Wood, Jeremy Wiebe
Regrets: Jonathan Crossen, Ian Muller, Gwen Cross, Alice Glaze

1. Introduction of New Business
 - a. Matt Roth asked to give an update on a Waterloo History department Meeting
 - b. Whitney Wood asked for TUGSA approval as the TUGSA representative to the CHA
 - c. Ryan Kirkby asked to give an update on the Waterloo GSA
2. Constitutional Changes
 - a. Marjorie Hopkins reviewed the constitutional changes. (outlined in the Agenda)
 - b. Jonathan Crossen sent feedback via email asking for an amendment stating that if three Co-Presidents from each University can't be found, two should be acceptable (rather than having two from one university).
 - c. Matt Roth asked about Tri-University Director Dr. Andrew Hunt's response, the Co-Presidents answered that he was in favour of the changes.
 - d. Whitney Wood inquired about when there would be a new Tri-U Director – it was clarified that the new term would start in June of 2013 and would be someone at University of Guelph.

Jeremy Wiebe motioned to accept the Constitutional Changes with the following amendment proposed by Jonathan Crossen. "4.a. In the event that there is one campus without a presidential candidate, then only two presidents shall compose the TUSGA executive."

Matt Roth seconded.

Motion Carried unanimously.

3. Finances
 - a. Marjorie Hopkins reviewed her efforts to organize TUGSA's financial records and new support TUGSA would be receiving from the Tri-University Program
 - b. Discussion of proposed financial support for those driving from/to Waterloo to/from Guelph to help TUGSA members attend meetings in either city
 - i. Jeremy Wiebe stated there should be no difference between taking a car or a bus, but bus tickets would quickly add up in expense
 - ii. Ryan Kirkby asked how to make those receiving the support accountable?
 1. Geoff Keelan replied that that was definitely a concern and there could easily be a form that could be filled out at the event by which the Executive could confirm that the person had driven there and attended.
 - iii. Discussion over the exact amount – maybe 10-15\$ for gas, but bus tickets were too expensive.

- iv. It was decided that a survey be given to TUGSA members about the details of the proposed financial support and the issue be decided at the next General Meeting in March.
- 4. TUGSA relationship with GSAs and University History Departments
 - a. Matt Roth asked about the role of Graduate Student representatives at History Department meetings, a discussion about it followed.
 - i. TUGSA should be involved in, or at least aware of, the process behind choosing Graduate student representatives as they should be either representing Graduate student concerns or reporting back to other Graduate students what was going on in their respective Departments.
 - 1. This has been discussed at the University of Waterloo, but it's uncertain whether Laurier or Guelph has the same purpose
 - ii. TUGSA should extend an invitation to Graduate Student Representatives to attend the next General meeting
 - iii. TUGSA should contact Department Chairs to find out more information about the selection process and the purpose of having Graduate students at the meetings
 - b. It was decided that if TUGSA is moving to fill the role of student advocacy/communication, it requires further discussion. Time will be allotted for discussing it at the next General Meeting. Several points that had to be discussed were highlighted:
 - i. What is the role of Graduate students at Department meetings?
 - ii. Should TUGSA be in control of selecting those students? Should they be TUGSA representatives?
 - iii. How should TUGSA organize information from each university? Should it be presented at meetings even if only a portion of the members are from that university? Other options include posting it on the website.
 - iv. If approved, TUGSA should approach both the Tri-U Director and Department Chairs and clarify its new role.
 - v. Should one of TUGSA's responsibilities be to inform its members about what is happening at each university?
 - c. Matt Roth reported on the most recent UW Department meeting. They were discussing whether or not to have First Year tutorials examining the basic tools of historians, such as essay writing, research, etc., and whether Graduate students should be the TAs for these tutorials
 - d. Ryan Kirkby reported on the most recent meeting of the Waterloo GSA and informed the meeting that they had decided to join the federal student lobby group, CASA. He also raised the point that TUGSA had an official responsibility to elect a history representative to the GSA. It was decided that TUGSA should maintain that responsibility and an election for the position may be held in March. It was noted by Marjorie Hopkins that reference to that responsibility had been removed from the Constitution in 2011, so a vote was asked on reinstating it.

Jeremy Wiebe motioned to accept the changes to the Constitution regarding TUGSA's responsibility to elect a member to the University of Waterloo GSA. This is a revision of the March 2008 Constitution and aligns TUGSA with the University of Waterloo GSA By-

Law 6.6.0. The amendment is "19.a. TUGSA shall be responsible to nominate one graduate student currently registered at the University of Waterloo to serve as the GSA Council representative for the History Department. This nomination will take place annually in conjunction with Executive elections in March."

Whitney Wood seconded.

Motion Carried unanimously.

5. Tri-University Conference Update
 - a. Geoff Keelan and Whitney Wood updated members about the Conference. The planning has been moving along well and is more student-focused than in previous years.
6. Upcoming Events
 - a. Review of upcoming TUGSA Events. Skating on February 8 was cancelled due to the unpredictable weather this winter, instead it was suggested that members attend the Guelph Trivia night on February 7.
 - b. There are future History and Film Events (see Agenda).
 - c. The next General Meeting will be the Executive Elections and it was suggested it be held at one of the Grad Pubs at Waterloo or Laurier. Matt Roth reminded the members that meetings should be at different Universities, so it will likely be at Laurier.
7. Whitney Wood to be the Graduate Student representative at the next Canadian Historical Association meeting in Victoria, but requires affirmation from the Graduate Student Association.

Geoff Keelan motioned to affirm Whitney Wood as TUGSA's representative at the CHA.

Matt Roth seconded.

Motion Carried unanimously.