

Minutes

TUGSA General Meeting - 19 October, 2013

In attendance:

Kyle Falcon
Marjorie Hopkins
Geoff Keelan
Frank Maas
Andrew Moore
Ian Muller
Josh Tavenor
Thomas Wendelboe
Matt Wiseman
Whitney Wood

Regrets: Matt Roth

In our discussion of the upcoming Tri-University Conference we spoke about the organizational ideas put forth by Dr. Susan Roy. This year's conference is tentatively scheduled for March 22 to be held at the Balsillie School of International Affairs in Waterloo. With more details forthcoming, we discussed creating a volunteer student committee to aid Roy in the planning of the event. Whitney and Frank suggested that we revisit the idea of providing a hot lunch for all conferences attendees.

In addition to the conference, Marjorie reviewed upcoming events related to TUGSA and the Tri-U in general. These events included the next Topics on Tap to be held on November 20, PhD Information Sessions to be held on November 27, and the Holiday Party which is scheduled for December 5 and tentatively at the Huether Hotel in Waterloo. In hopes of increasing student attendance at TUGSA events we spoke about carpooling, to which Ian and Marjorie both volunteered to drive.

After reviewing upcoming events Matt spoke briefly about the Tri-U website. He informed everyone that the site is in need of a programming update, and emphasized student contribution by asking for ideas on how to improve website readability and functionality. Frank suggested that 'News and Events' section be synced with Google calendar, and Marjorie suggested that the website be converted for use with visual impairment.

Lastly, Marjorie and Matt opened the floor to suggestions for TUGSA direction from students. No immediate concerns were raised but the idea of creating an advocacy group was discussed. Such a group would be comprised of volunteers who would take student concerns directly to the Tri-U Director, Dr. Linda Mahood. Potential issues to address include, but are not limited to, a lack of continuity between schools, differentiation in student expectations, workloads and requirements, and differentiation in program handbooks.

Following the meeting, Whitney chaired the inaugural Topics on Tap Speaker Series, which included two engaging talks from Frank Maas and Thomas Wendelboe respectively. Thanks to our presenters, and thanks to Whitney for organizing a wonderful event.