

TUGSA Annual Report “What You Got for Your \$10” 2011-2012

Each year, TUGSA sends out a report on the year’s activities. It can be difficult to communicate between the three universities and busy students are not always aware of what our association is up to. Also, some of TUGSA’s work is done “behind the scenes” in response to issues that students brought to us at our meetings, and we would like to communicate our non-event activities as well.

Please consider getting involved with TUGSA. It is a great way to help coordinate the three campuses and to improve student life within the Tri-University Program. We'll have our Annual General Meeting in the autumn semester, and it would be great if you could attend.

Non-Event Activities

- Although TUGSA aims to bring together students for events to improve inter-university cohesion, TUGSA has also adopted an advocacy role. This has arisen due to complaints that come up during our meeting in informal discussions, and TUGSA allows a forum for students to address problems in conjunction with the Tri-U Director. This is one reason we greatly encourage students to get involved in TUGSA. All students are encouraged to attend the meetings and welcome to put forth any item for discussion.
- **Program Cohesion:** TUGSA meeting attendees all discussed ways (other than events) to increase cohesion between the three universities, particularly among faculty. Some of the better ideas, including a coordinated weekly digest of announcement emails and a rotating faculty research seminar, have been passed along to the Tri-University Program Administration.
- **Newsletter:** In the autumn of 2011 we launched the *Triumvirate*, which is a newsletter/journal distributed at the beginning of each semester. Michelle Filice (WLU, PhD) was the editor for the 2011-12 year and we are very lucky to have her as the editor again for 2012-13. Past editions of the *Triumvirate* can be found under “news and events” on the TriU website.
- **Website:** In response to student suggestions at a TUGSA meeting, faculty contact information as well as links to campus maps have been added to the Tri-University website.
- **Tri-University Conference:** In response to concerns about a lack of student involvement in the conference we have established a standing TUGSA Tri-U Conference Committee. This committee consists of two student representatives from each campus who will meet with the conference organizer at the host institution and act as a liaison between students and faculty organizers.
- **PhD Handbook:** Following confusion regarding the PhD handbook Dr Hunt arranged a meeting in the autumn semester to discuss proposed changes to the handbook. Consideration was given to suggestions on all topics and the meeting resulted in changes to the sections pertaining to the colloquium paper and the thesis proposal.

Events

- In the past year, TUGSA held both social and professional development events, including:
- **Christmas Party:** We held our successful third annual Christmas Party at the Huether Hotel in uptown Waterloo. The party was a definite success with many more students attending than in previous years.
- **PhD Information Sessions :** Did we do this this year?????
- **Heritage vs History:** This year we held an event “Heritage vs History: And Exploration of Canadian Heritage Minutes” at the Grad House at UW. Four students presented an analysis of Canadian Heritage Minutes relating to their research. The evening was a resounding success and had more attendees than any other TUGSA event.
- **Canoe Trip:** In September 2011 we held our second annual orientation canoe trip on the Grand River. We had perfect weather for the event and 16 students attended the canoe trip and a social gathering at the Huether Hotel following the canoe trip. The cost of this trip was kept at \$20/student including transportation thanks to support from the TriU and TUGSA.

We had a very busy year and hope to continue similar events in the future. We feel students did get their \$10 worth if they were active in our events. If you have any questions, please contact us: tugsamail@gmail.com

Thank you, Gwenith Cross and Matt Roth, co-Presidents, 2011-2012