AGSU Executive Meeting Minutes

Tuesday May 8, 2012

AP 318, Time: 11:00am

Catherine Merritt, Guy Duke, Alvina Tam, Matt Hilder, Bess Doyle, Michelle Cameron, Cadell Last, Rastko Cvekic, Sandy Oh, Emma Yasui

Call meeting to order 11:09

1. CUPE (Matt Hilder and Rastko)
   * CUPE meeting update – elections for executive and chief steward positions, concerns about ballots at UTSC (filling ballots and running polls), request to recast ballots and positions stand unless challenged. Chief Steward elected.
   * General members meeting, nominations for exec and vote whether to support Quebec groups with donation ($20,000) for strike support, not finalized
   * Concerns with working groups, push to expand readership of CUPE journal (Guardian), and interest in increasing attendance at executive meetings
   * Health care spending account, still waiting for money from last academic year, supposed to receive more but amount unknown
   * Chief negotiator position no longer filled and need to negotiate for other units
   * First executive meeting Wed. May 8, 2012
2. Social Events (Sandy)

* Update from Spring Wine and Cheese – turnout less due to timing, but successful and good amount of help/faculty. Waiting on Beverage Services bill for final budget. Croft Chapter House is a free venue for internal groups, so good place for future events (but need to check timing for booking, well in advance?)
* For next year, possibly authorize interac card for social coordinator to purchase for event, or get treasurer to take out cash for purchases (must keep receipts) – issues this year with people not being reimbursed because they lost receipts
  + Summer social activities? – picnic on Toronto Island in June (before mid-month). Tentative date for June 13th?

1. Vis-à-Vis Updates, if any (Bess)
   * Cleared many papers on wait-list/archived, and several on way to publishing. Possible release of early publication, as well as formal issue later
   * Positive response to announcement at wine and cheese, accept articles through summer. Search for editors discussed
   * Created a document for vis-a-vis with amendments voted on this year by the executive; changes to this document need to be voted on by the AGSU Exec, not the membership
2. Computer and communications (Matthew Pettit)
   * Printer and ink update – good, bought last round for summer, 2 cartridges
   * Submission of Computer Budget to Roger – waiting for response for 2 new computers, usually hear by July/August
   * Graduate Student News – Matthew will have first two ready for next year – Profiles of exec and people back from field.
3. GSU (Alvina and Jacob)
   * Meeting update – election results, 2 referenda passed (for U of T enviro resources and sustainable food co-op). Most members from Refresh slate, one returning from previous year in new position. At meeting elected new exec at large (one of 2, other to be voted in fall).
   * UTSC push for shuttle to campus since TTC shutting down line to Scarborough.
   * Financial committee projected surplus this year
   * Many amendments, also reports from sub-committees. Of note, union head grants policy change, attendance to 4/6 gets 100%, 3/6 gets 50%, 2/6 gets none (25%)
   * Reports coming in at end of year, moved this to earlier in agenda when more members present to facilitate communication
4. Medusa (Cadell and Amber)
   * Medusa for next year; students seem keen on "invited lecture" type seminars – maybe more faculty involvement, also combine with social event. Make it monthly to be a more regular event, divide into smaller sessions (1 or 2 people with ½ hour), include a discussant who can keep the talk on time and organize discussion
   * List of first 4 sessions to be set up for fall, if large response make it 2 people per day, incoming students can present in second semester if interested
   * Limit individuals to one medusa talk a year
   * Cadell will continue for next year
5. Treasurer (Steve)

* Final budget – currently $3000 in bank but no payments for spring wine and cheese yet, invoice not for 2-3 weeks
* Final budget not until end of month

1. External Review Report and Department Chair Search Update (Catherine & Guy)
   * Report said to be sent to entire department, not received by everyone but Catherine has it. Did well in report, parts highlighted for change were funding, but suggestions not likely to happen, and increasing the number of international students. Will send to AGSU members thru listserv
   * Department chair (Ted Banning) begins July 1st
2. DCA Meeting Update (Catherine)
   * Meeting on 26th of April, unanimous decision that funds split evenly amongst 5th and 6th year students eligible, international students will get 2.25% more because of increased tuition costs. Amount variable every year, but likely students won’t have to pay full tuition amount in September
   * Approval of form before releasing to department, read to exec, similar to other applications for financial support
   * Distributed in 3 payments due to SGS requirements, $700-800 at a time
   * AGSU email to Janice that exec approves of distribution (Anthro department DCA distribution evenly to all students eligible)
3. Electronic Voting Amendment to Constitution (Catherine & Guy)
   * For time sensitive matters, when meeting not possible. Amendment can be edited and sent to entire AGSU, needs to be approved in AGM w/ 2/3 majority
   * Catherine read motion, no suggestion for edits. Option also to make all votes virtual to allow members not present to have input (while still holding a General Meeting for those present), Guy supports addition of sentence about this, potential issue about meeting quorum, sentence will be added. Make announcements at wine and cheese to meet quorum and allow discussion, voting done after event
   * May need to change quorum to account for graduate expansion, what constitutes quorum (percentage?), table broader discussion of quorum to next year, check number of students present at time when quorum number was set
4. Executive reports - DUE MAY 30TH
   * Read over by presidents and distributed to new members next year
   * Issues with presidential report? Distributed to membership and put online, executive must sign off on it. No issues, approved. Add paragraph about amendment for virtual vote
   * Space coordinator needed for next year, departmental committee position, will advertise for this position for July 1st.
5. Introduction of new AGSU Presidents and Social Coordinator
   * Presidents – Matt Hilder and Steven Dorland, officially take positions in July 1st
   * Social coordinator – Michelle Cameron
   * Meeting of new and outgoing members to go over reports
6. Other business

* Any new business?
* Rastko – call to proof read new collective agreement, due ASAP, 55 pages in length, considered peer assist and not paying position
* Back pay should have arrived in April pay cheque

Meeting adjourned at 12:13