

AGSU Meeting, January 19th, 2007. Called to order 12pm.

Present: Jennifer, Emily, Eugenia, Alyson, Kris, Amber, Isabelle, Anna, Andrew, Mike

Apologies: Matthew, Laura, Graydon, Greg, Daniella,

Tentative Agenda:

1) Update about money

Statement Sent by Matthew Mosher: We just received a bank statement (in the AGSU cabinet), but it doesn't reflect the current balance as I wrote several cheques last meeting and deposited the Wine and Cheese money after the date of the balance. I think that we should have around \$600-\$700 or so in the bank, at least, but I don't have any figures in front of me. Sorry for the confusion and get back to me with any questions
Head Check in February, Alyson is looking for the money for other campus students.

2) Wine and Cheese summary

Isabelle, Thanks for help, the wine and cheese went well. Mariam is still deciding on charity for 50/50 raffle. Response to charity draw was very good. Isabelle, wants to write something to beverage services about alcohol cut off. Rule about drunks not getting served and the criteria for serving drinks. Emily, questions the two drinks per hour rule. Also, people buying drinks for others, and getting cut off. People getting cut off, seemed to follow little plan or without consistency. Last year we paid up front, but this year we were not told this and so we did not pay the night of. We have subsequently received a bill. They may have changed their protocol. Suggestions for next wine and cheese solicited by Isabelle, Andrew: concern that the jc common room cut off alcohol rule needs to be clear prior to the commencement of the event, we know how anth's can be and we need to be clear about this. Alyson: thinks writing a letter is a good idea as well. They were young. Jenn: they also seemed to be punitively adjusting the time frame for when we can get a drink. Isabelle: might be a new rule, with smaller quantities that are allowed. Emily: thinks this might be mitigated by the move to the new building and having the wine and cheese there. We need to be involved with beverage services. Eugenia: can we have it off campus; in a restaurant. will this be expensive. Isabelle: a department event, we should have been treated appropriately. General agreement about all points above. Isabelle: work on the letter and then we can all respond to drafts of the letter.

The bill: it appears we have been overcharged; we are looking into this and will address the situation at a later meeting. Too many people, too many hours, etc. Isabelle is going to look into this, and Annette knows that this is ongoing so our payment of the balance will be delayed.

Music is good.

3) Website reveal, and any suggestions:

Web site is done and is up and running, but has not yet been linked to the dept page. It is on SA web site. Emily requests, that there be a poster announcing the web site being up and encouraging feedback from the students. Etc.

<http://agsu.sa.utoronto.ca>

Emily, has a website, or something to send photos too, she will send this info out.

4) Meeting with Dan.

Emily and Jenn had a meeting with Dan, this went well. General agreement about the directions we are all taking on. General agreement for the directions, notes from this will be circulated with these minutes. Andrew: grad student profiles, the importance of making these updated each year, so that the info is current etc. If the AGSU is in charge of this then it is more likely to happen, especially since the position will not be making the website from scratch. Needs to be the student involvement, to keep this current. Amber will draft an email regarding this solicitation of student info.

5) Medusa Schedule for this term

Anna, updating for Grayson who is currently sick in bed. Sweaty fever boy is sourly missed. He emailed Michel Chazen and asked for two dates, no response. Two people are interested. He will send out a call for papers.

6) Vis a vis update

Lesley writes: I am in Edmonton at the moment, so please accept my regrets for tomorrow's AGSU meeting. I will be in Sid Smith the week of Feb 1. I want to pass a couple of things along that may serve as a report for the meeting if any of you would like to pass the word along.

a) Faculty Survey.

I have summarized the responses from our 6 respondents in the attached document. I think it is important to have this document on record should anyone in the future wonder about vis-a-vis.

By way of a summary of the results, I would conclude:

The respondents were few in number, which in itself is indicative of low interest.

The respondents tended to be those who have been involved in the past.

The respondents are generally amenable to being involved in the future; however, most suggest that faculty should not serve as

reviewers but rather as advisors to the overall process.

Some would not encourage their own students to submit to vis-a-vis, (i.e., they are willing to help but don't think it's a worthwhile endeavor -- I suggest).

My conclusion: vis-a-vis is probably not worthwhile if the attitude is "we wouldn't put our own work there".

We should probably come up with a conclusion (a vote?) about doing vis-a-vis again this year and put it in the minutes. Then it will at least be on record that we took the time to discuss and evaluate the situation.

b) Student Survey

I would be happy to draft and compile results of a student survey, but I don't have a lot of enthusiasm for the outcome given the results of the faculty survey. What do others think?

Eugenia: clarifies the above pt, do the students need to be surveyed. Eugenia suggests we need to rethink what we are doing in terms of the online journal.

Kris: a lot of work, no one wanted it.

Alyson: sounds good but.

Eugenia: grad views differ from the undergrad views of this journal. Discussion about vis a vis and the role it plays, alternatives, such as field reports, papers from classes, sell to undergrads. Integrating the journal with Medusa..

Emily Calls to vote: are we in favor of publishing an edition of vis a vis this Academic year 2006-2007

Eugenia seconds.

Vote by show of hands: 10-no, 0-yes, no abstentions.

We will not be publishing an edition of Vis a vis this year.

Anna, Lesley Jermyn is the ed. of anthropologica and might be a helpful contact.

7) What to do while Em and I are away.

Em: gone Feb to March 14th.

Jenn: Feb 9th to April 7th.

Matthew can sign checks.

Three week overlap, we can deal with meetings as they come up. Zoe will be the point of contact about board and policy meetings while we are away.

Meeting can happen while we are away. Jenn will have one the first week of February.

8) GSU, Alyson.

Have had two meetings, the GSU town hall, Susan Phieffer was there, and the assistant to the dean of arts and science and heather Kelly. 50 people in

total attended. Susan responded to criticisms, bringing up the need to adjust the ratio to undergrads to grads, balance these numbers better. Ideal situation, the need to deal with the double cohort, though this was contested by members in the audience. Arts and science guy discussed the choices given to departments, and the process that was undertaken at the department level. Alyson will have some mins. to distribute a bit later on. Breakfast with the presidents, Susan and vice provost, David (?). Grad expansion was discussed, and finances in general. Post residency fees were also discussed, a big issue of the GSU, and the university is pretty opposed to this reinstatement. Susan says it makes people lag in completing and she says she has numbers that support this fact. Though the numbers are being reviewed and compared to the GSU numbers, multi-causality? Complaint culture at U of T, the need to redirect money back into funding for students, OGS has not agreed to increase numbers in relation to expansion, though the university says it is trying. Does everyone get the peer review. Everyone but Jenn does. The GSU is having a challenge about the peer review. We all pay 5 bucks a year to get four issues, though last year this came to double issues last year. 60 to 80 pages, twice a yr. But he is having problems meeting the deadlines. Summer was delayed most recently. None have been published this year. but the council is discussing how we should be dealing with this, if we pay we need to see results. It's a business; he raises the points of quality's quantity. He has faulted on his contract, and so we are in the driver's seat to make demands. What happens if we get our money back? Does it get distributed? Andrew and Isabelle say that editions are valuable, relevant and interesting.

National day of action, Feb. 7th, lead up events next week. 24th pirates of the high fees at the GSU pub, 6-8. Kris's b-day is the 26th, regal beagle PARTY. Also a student loan movie will be shown.

GSU needs another member at large; this should be addressed in an email. Small honorarium, 150/mth. Alyson will send an email for distribution about all the events mentioned herein. The position needs to fill and start ASAP. Not sure what happens in the summer.

None GSU point: The fellowship checks were to be delivered in the mail or on rosi, we are not getting these checks until the middle of next week, not the 15th as the date was originally suggested by the department. This is the UTF installment, mailed next week, or direct deposited slightly before then. Alyson is going to email Natalia about this so she can send an email about this to the students who are in this position.

9) CUPE Update Delivered by Mike
Information picket, Friday, January 19, 8:45 a.m. Location: 900 Bay Street (at Wellesley)
An information picket will be held this Friday in front of the Ministry of Finance. Already, about 100 people will be attending and participating!

Reduce the Fees Movie Night! Tuesday January 23, 6:00pm, Bahen Centre room

1180 - FREE (with food) -- note: this coincides with the Unit 3 members' meeting, which all Unit 3 members should try to attend, but the movie night is a good alternative for Unit 1 members....

Come see the hilarious (and, unfortunately, timeless) movie "My Student Loan." My Student Loan was directed and produced by Mike Johnston of Peterborough, Ontario. It was the fastest box office seller at the 2004 Hot Docs International Film Festival in Toronto and has been selected for the Calgary International Film Festival. Trent University graduate Mike Johnston decided to make a film about his student loan to pay off his debts. Armed with a Canada Council grant, donated videotapes and borrowed camera equipment, Johnston set out to make a documentary that looks at the absurdities and impracticality of students wallowing in massive debt.

Freeze the Fees Camp-out: January 31, 6:00pm, King's College Circle - FREE

Join us any time after 6:00 on the "one week to go" countdown to Feb 7th by camping out for the night (or the whole week) in King's College Circle. We are so serious about our fight to reduce tuition fees that we are literally freezing for the freeze! Bring a sleeping bag, pillows, and marshmallows!

For more information, contact Emily Shelton at vpexternal@sac.utoronto.ca

Governing council elections are upcoming and very important for people to sit on. Info about this has already been circulated but this is a friendly reminder. Daniella will attend the next meeting next week. Sessionals can now apply for research funding alongside faculty, This is a big step.

10) Anna, master's students who applied to the PhD should get a refund of the 90 buck fee; Anna is going to look into this, first to Natalia, or Dan. Alyson suggests calling financial aid, SGS. Anna will look into this.