

## GSA Council Meeting – May 19 2016

### 5. Executive Reports

- President (Adi): Helped with finalizing the budget and fees with UNB; assisted with the final negotiations on the new H&D contract proposals; helped with GRC organizing.
- VP Finance (Thalia): Finalized the budget and sent it to UNB for reporting; setting up weekly meeting Executive Director; society allocations are ready today; Media Fund is still not completely done, email if any groups are interested; QUESTION: What is the media fund? GSA provides \$\$ for media groups on campus, email call went out earlier this year because there were not many applicants.
- VP Societies and Events (Brittany): GRC was held on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and it was a success; all of the volunteers were great and thanks them; 39 different presentations; the session chairs were especially great and kept everything on schedule; thanks all the special guest speakers.
- VP Administration (Bipin): Attended the meetings for the search for a new UNB VP Academic; working with VP Societies and Events for ideas on the GRC going forward.
- VP External (Ismael): Mainly working on the new H&D proposals and they will be presented at this meeting.
- VP Academic (Christian): Looking at the UNB committees which need grad student representation; will be sending out calls accordingly.

### 6. Committee Reports

- WCB: BBQ bookings are starting; bar is doing well transitioning into the summer; Krista is back; looking at trivia events for the summer; watch facebook and newsletter.
- Finance: nothing to report differently than executive report.
- GRC: Suggestions welcome on how to improve GRC in any way; looking at possible Fredericton-Saint John joint event for the summer.

### 7. New Business

- Executive Honoraria: In camera session; Council approved the following maximum amounts: President \$2000.00, VP Finance \$1500.00, VPs Academic, Administration, External and Societies & Events \$500.00 each as per the Bylaws. Moved by Mechanical Eng and Seconded by Forestry.
- Elections: VP Administration – one candidate Bipin Kumar (incumbent) elected. VP Societies and Events – one candidate Brittany Dixon (incumbent) elected.
- UGSW Support: The motion is that the GSA explore different options for furthering its support of the UGSW; Nigam Khanal speaking for the UGSW. UGSW is asking the GSA increased support in its efforts to gain a better deal

for a new collective bargaining agreement; Motion moved by GSA President and seconded by Electrical Eng.

- Electrical Eng: UGSW fighting for more of an increase in wages at a time when tuition and cost of living is always rising;
- Forestry: not enough students supported the strike vote, wasn't a clear consensus because of the lack of numbers. GSA has to represent students who are on both sides.
- SJ: GSA should try to remain neutral to better represent the entire grad student population.
- Interdisciplinary: UNB doesn't see GSA as neutral, can be seen as on the other side.
- UGSW: does not have to mean GSA is supportive of a strike, but just strengthening future relationship.
- MECH Eng: simply don't know the number of students who went out to vote. 72% in favor is a useless number when we don't know the amount of participants.
- GSA Pres: messages are never going to please all students, that would be difficult;
- GSA VP Admin: faculty groups are supportive of the UGSW and the need for grad students to be paid more fairly.
- Psychology: if students not showing up to vote, you are basically forfeiting your vote. Perhaps asking for support within each department/society could solve the issue.
- GGE: international students dealing with significant increases in tuition, the pay from TAs becomes even more important.
- MECH Eng: 10 hours a week rule is not adequate.
- SJ: voting requirements were very confusing which leads to less participants.
- UGSW: a lot of that has to do with the old labor laws in NB.
- UGSW: final support discussion before vote.
- Motion carried.

#### Health and Dental

- VP External: Spent the last 3-4 months hearing from different health plan providers; Executive is recommending signing the new contract with the current provider C&C Student VIP; different plans presented and reasoning behind Executive's recommendation.
- Vote called for by Forestry, seconded by Biology.
- Motion passes accepting the Executive's recommendation of resigning with C&C Student VIP.

#### Motion to adjourn

Moved MECH Eng, seconded by Biology.