



## **GSA Executive Meeting Minutes**

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2009, 4.30 p.m. in Wentworth GCR**

**Chaired by Dan Carr (President)**

1. Daniel Carr reported on the recent GSA survey, which received 304 responses. The Executive approved his request to hire an analyst to take the project forward, on the agreement that it would be budgeted as a presidential project.
2. Richard Mitchell reported on his response to proposals at the Standing Committee on Assessment to give students submitting assignments late a mark of zero. He presented a counter-proposal to send to the meeting, arguing for less severe, staggered penalties more in line with those in place at similar institutions. The Executive approved his proposal.
3. Daniel Carr and Rich Rhodes reported on developments in the campaign for a Graduate Common Room space in Halifax College, with meetings due to continue and further research deemed necessary before submitting a completed proposal.
4. Daniel Carr reported that following an email sent out to all GSA members, there was a strong interest in acquiring Goodricke D block as budget graduate accommodation, and that he would continue to campaign on this issue.
5. Tom Flynn reported on the Association's finances. Although generally strong, he highlighted a number of concerns and areas in which spending was expected to exceed the budgeted amount this year. In particular, the large overspends on staffing costs (due to long-term sickness) and printing and distributing publicity were brought to the Executive's attention. Following extensive discussion it was agreed that new ways of distributing publicity should be sought, ceasing to use expensive postering teams. In particular it was suggested that officers should take more responsibility for postering areas near their departments or residences.
6. The Executive approved a timetable for the Association's upcoming General Meeting to be held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, and agreed to the provision of food and a free drink to those in attendance. The Executive also agreed to hire a live band to perform after the General Meeting.



7. Richard Mitchell outlined problems with the Association's non-compliance with health and safety legislation, and the Executive agreed that a new Health and Safety policy should be drawn up with urgency. This work is to be led by a committee chaired by Rich Rhodes and including Richard Mitchell, Jay Walker and Katherine Mildon.
8. The Executive agreed, in order to have greater flexibility as regards upcoming election dates, to remove item 20 of Ordinance 2 of the Constitution, which stipulates when sabbatical elections shall take place.
9. The Executive agreed to create a sports strategy in time for the new academic year
10. The Executive agreed to create a Welcome Week Working Group, to be chaired by Rich Rhodes. The composition of this group shall be determined by the Chair.
11. The Executive agreed to enter closed session, with only trustees present.