

Letter ①

Dear CSA,

The GSA would like to bring to your attention the events which unfolded during the GSA Board of Directors meeting on July 21, 2010.

This meeting was attended by Anastasia Zavarella and Denise Martins, who identified themselves as CSA Representatives. The purpose of this letter is to highlight the conduct of these two individuals.

Matters vital to the operation of the GSA were to be discussed. As is customary in our meetings, speaking privileges were extended only to graduate students, and parties specifically invited to speak or those with speaking rights specified in our by-laws. Early on in the discussion, the CSA representatives loudly voiced their displeasure.

Furthermore, and more concerning, were the sequence of events when the GSA Board of Directors passed a motion to hold discussion *in camera*. At this point, CSA representatives voiced their displeasure with this development; however, these CSA representatives did leave the room as requested. *In camera* discussion followed for 10-15 minutes, until it was identified that Denise Martins had left her backpack in the meeting room. Exposed, was a tape recorder which was actively recording the *in camera* discussions. When this was noticed by one of the GSA Board members, the bag was brought to security outside of the meeting room. Denise Martins was asked to delete the contents of the tape recorder, and to sign a statement which read that the tape recorder was left on accidentally, and that all contents were deleted. At this point it is of our opinion that Anastasia Zavarella assumed a confrontational role in this interaction.

After the meeting, it was discovered that materials of one of the CSA Representatives were left behind. Written in these notes was a reference to an executive member as "Bitchy" and inference that some Board members were incompetent.

The actions of the CSA Representatives outlined above represent an obvious breach of GSA By-laws, the privacy of those GSA Board members present and respectful interaction between the GSA and the CSA. The GSA hopes that future interactions are more positive and constructive than those observed at the July 21, 2010 GSA Board meeting.

In our goal to continue our collaborative relationship with a vision for the benefits of the student population, the GSA invites the CSA Executive to contact the GSA, via Erin Angus eangus@uoguelph.ca to be placed on the Agenda of GSA Board meetings.

GSA Board of Directors