

TI(P) Camp Forum
Meeting minutes
(6th February 2017, 1-2pm)

- Land acknowledgment
- Anna reported on the TI(P) camp survey results and motivation behind this event.
- Michael Eamon briefly explained reasoning behind the decision to change the camp location:
 - In the past year, 3 main external reviews were done, one being on retention, other on internationalization and last on Traill College.
 - TI(P) camp was one of the suggested changes in the review of international program.
 - TI(P) camp's location has been changing during the past 27 years (it was held on-campus and other camp location before).
 - International student first experience in Canada should be in University environment (Trent).
- GOALS: To reproduce TI(P) camp experience in university environment and offer best quality for invested by students money.
- Students raised a concern about the emotional connection to TI(P) camp; However, they concluded that for newcomers it would not be disappointing, as they would not know what the camp was like in previous years.
- Another concern raised by students was how to avoid the overlap between TI(P) camp and Orientation Week activities.
- Michael and Kathleen said the efforts would be invested to avoid it. They also raised a point of international students being prepared for the Orientation week better thanks to the TI camp taking place on campus (reducing the cultural shock).
- Incoming TI camp co-chairs stressed the importance of communicating with the O-Week leaders and having a more holistic approach.
- Students asked administration how they were planning on keeping everyone together to interact with one another when downtown is so close and there are many distractions for students which may impact the seminar attendance.
- The answer was that Gzowski College will be used as the center of camp activities with info sessions and dining activities always taking place in that location. Common events will be organized there to keep the spirit of togetherness.
- This will be important as all students who are otherwise spread all over the campus (approximately 50 students per college) will have a common place to interact with one another.
- Sunny suggested inviting a special catering company just for the duration of the camp to make transition to the Canadian cuisine smoother.
- Anna asked for suggestions of activities that should be organized to keep the spirit of the camp and make it the best possible.
- Some of the suggestions included: scavenger hunt on campus, biking, exploring Trent trails and Drumlin, bonfire, more sport activities and making sure that spaces available at Trent are used well (rock climbing wall, aquatic zones such as a doc near the AC and Champlain swimming area).

- Julie suggested organizing “Sports of the World” event (mini Olympics).
- Sunny suggested sport field to be used as a space for organizing events and gatherings.
- Francini suggested introducing a daily routine for the duration of the camp to keep the good spirit and keep everyone updated on the events for each day.
- Students and administration agreed that it would be a good idea to include clubs and groups, especially regional groups, into the camp events.
- Anna and Ivana introduced an idea of starting regional groups’ talent trainings to be extended to the Cultural show in TI camp and even further to Orientation week. Julie, Michael and Kathleen agreed that this would be a great way of reinforcing international presence on campus.
- Julie pointed out that volunteers for the events would be needed and it would be great to get in touch with all who are interested for setting the training dates.
- Michael pointed out that fall orientation experience might be helpful in planning the winter Orientation and improving its quality.
- Students also wondered if there were any changes made to the price of the camp.
- The efforts are being put into trying to keep the fee and negotiations with housing are in progress.
- Money that students used to pay to go to the camp and that was going to the private campsite, will now be going to Trent.

Attendance:

Michael Eamon, Julie Jenkins, Kathleen Cobb

Anna Leonova, Ivana Sekularac, Francini Brice, Ngina Kibathi, Anuj Arora, Sunny Tsing Seng Lim