

Agenda of TGSA Board Meeting, 12/11/15

Start: 6:00pm, End: 8:00pm

Location: Wallis Hall 102, Traill College, Peterborough, ON

Chair: Laura Thursby

Scribe: David Hollands

Attendance:

1. Motion to Call Meeting to Order: Laura Thursby

Second: David Hollands

Approve:

Oppose:

Abstain:

2. Motion to Approve the Agenda: Laura Thursby

Second: David Hollands

Approve:

Oppose:

Abstain:

3. Motion to Approve the Minutes from October 15, 2015 Board Meeting, and Addendums to those Minutes: Laura Thursby

Second: David Hollands

Approve:

Oppose:

Abstain:

4. Executive Reports (See Attached):

- a. President
- b. VP Internal Affairs
- c. VP Finance
- d. VP Operations
- e. VP Student Affairs
- f. Senator

Motion to accept reports: Laura Thursby

Seconded: David Hollands

Approve:

Oppose:

Abstain:

5. Commissioner Reports, Board of Director Reports, Committee Reports, Other Reports, and Other Updates

- a. Graduate Studies Committee Announcements

The Dean's search continues. Two graduate students will sit on the search committee.

Trent is working on recruitment materials. How do graduate students choose Trent, and why? There may be a survey.

GTA training session, new course: Giving feedback (on marking).

OCGS met with graduate students; Concerns over funding not covering tuition, exceeding student loan limits at PhD level. How to we increase PhD completion rates, supervisory assistance? Suggested Post-doc fellowship (teaching post-doc) guaranteed for graduates. International students- how can we help? Mental health assistance was also a concern.

Issue has been raised: what funding (RFA, GTA) should be taken back once a student defends?

If you have anything you would like to contribute to these discussions, please email Alison Fraser (alfraser@trentu.ca). I will pass long the information.

b. Housing Advisory Committee

I, Alison Fraser, met with Jen Coulter the Director of Housing at Trent about graduate student housing. We have access to some accommodations in Wallis Hall. Keep emailing me your stories about Wallis Hall at alfraser@trentu.ca.

- Making housing accessible to international students by giving them this first access to the apartments in Wallis Hall
- Making leases set to 9 months instead of 12 months for graduate students who return to the field or home for the summer
- Getting pet friendly housing
- Emergency Housing

c. Other Update:

Re: Item **9.4 Prizes for Trent Trivia** from Oct 15, 2015 Board meeting

-motion from VP Student Affairs was tabled until next Board meeting

-no longer necessary to address, since Be at the Trend donated the prizes

6. Presentations:

- a. CUPE Update from Unit 2 Representative Philip Abbott
- b. Amy Lewis, CPA, CA, and Amanda Mellegers, CPA, CA, from McColl Turner LLP Chartered Accountants present results of the TGSA's annual audit, including audited financial statements and audit letters. (NOTE: documents will be forwarded to the Board shortly after receipt of this agenda, meaning the agenda will have to be amended at the meeting to include the documents)
- c. VP of Finance presents the proposed TGSA budget for 2015-2016, followed by discussion (see attached budget and addendum)

- d. Symons Seminar Series present themselves to the Board, and their budget, followed by discussion (see attached summary of their presentation and budget)
- e. Presentation of the MOU between the TGSA and the Symons Seminar Series (NOTE: the MOU document will be forwarded to the Board shortly after receipt of this agenda, meaning the agenda will have to be amended at the meeting to include the MOU)

7. Items and Main Motions:

7.1 Approve the Voting Method for the First Year Science and First Year Arts Representatives (VP Internal Affairs)

Whereas in accordance with by-laws 7.05 and its subsections, the Board of Directors must approve the voting method for the First Year Science and First Year Arts Representatives,

BIRT the elections for the First Year Science and First Year Arts Representatives be held online through a survey vote, and

BIFRT first year students will be identified by their selection of their program (MA, MSc, MEd, PhD) and year, which will determine if they are eligible to vote.

Justification:

Here are the by-laws that apply to the vote:

7.05 Voting shall be by online secret ballot or the best method as determined by The Board.

7.05.1 All Full Members of the General Assembly may vote, except:

- a. only first year students may vote for the first year representatives.

□

The board needs to approve the electoral method. I am proposing to do an online vote that will open after the AGM and remain open for a week (7 days). Laura Thursby contacted Gary Larson (the former senator) in regards to how voting for the first year representatives were done in the past. He said once we have a list of those interested in the positions (see separate agenda item), we can design a very specific survey so that only those who are from the specific year. First, the survey would ask them whether they are doing a Phd or Masters. From here, they would state their year of study. Only those who have answered the previous questions as "first year" will be directed to vote for the first year representative positions.

Motion: Alison Fraser

Second: David Hollands

Approve:

Oppose:

Abstain:

7.2 Movie Night Following AGM (VP Student Affairs)

Whereas the Fall General Assembly Meeting (or Annual General Meeting) cannot and does not count as a required TGSA social event,

BIRT the TGSA hold a "Movie Night" directly following the General Assembly Meeting in partnership with the Trent Film Society to fulfill this month's requirement for a social event.

Justification:

There would be no additional cost to the \$250.00 budget for the General Assembly Meeting. This course of action would fulfill the requirement for a social event in the month of November 2015. The screening is the lovely Hollywood classic *Singin' in the Rain* (1952), which will provide members a great way to unwind after the General Assembly Meeting. The TGSA has already contacted the members of the Trent Film Society, and they have already agreed to partner with us. The screening will also be held at 8:30pm at Market Square, which is close to Traill College.

Motion: Renee Hendricks

Second: David Hollands

Approve:

Oppose:

Abstain:

7.3 College Dinner Liquor License (President/VP Student Affairs)

Whereas

(1) Traill college is an important space for Trent Graduate Students, and

(2) given that the TGSA has sponsored Traill's College Dinner in the past by paying the fee for the liquor license,

BIRT that the TGSA purchases the liquor license for the event for \$75.00.

Motion: Laura Thursby

Second: David Hollands

Approve:

Oppose:

Abstain:

7.4 Festivus Budget (VP Student Affairs)

Whereas we need to put on a fun winter event for Graduate students,

BIRT the TGSA budgets \$850.00 for the cost of drink tickets and a DJ for Festivus.

Justification:

The figure of \$850.00 is based on last year's TGSA budget for Spring Fling, keeping in mind, though, that we will be using a different venue. Also, this amount excludes catering, as that option is probably not viable due to budgetary concerns. I, Renee Hendricks, have contact CUPE representative Philip Abbott to solicit money set aside by CUPE in the amount of \$200.00, which is not included in the \$850.00 amount we are voting on. Laura Thursby has also solicited another donation request. The venue is Shots, and Festivus will be held December 5th, 2015 from 7:00pm to 10:00pm.

Please note that the \$200.00 from CUPE will likely have to be spent on snacks, so the budget for Festivus may have to be amended either at this meeting, or in a future online motion, to approximately \$1000.00.

7.5 Blackout Periods for Health and Dental Care Plan Next Academic Year (VP Student Affairs)

Whereas the process of uploading enrollment lists to Student VIP should be streamlined,

BIRT the TGSA institute a blackout on claims next academic until the opt-out period is over.

Justification:

If the TGSA institutes a blackout on claims next year, it will only have to send one list to VIP instead of two or three. Students will still have health coverage, but claims would not be processed until the opt-out period is over. This does not mean students would be denied coverage, but they would not receive refunds until after the blackout period is over.

This lessens the work load for the TGSA, VIP, and the Office of Graduate Studies, and will mean that lists can be uploaded faster so students will not be receiving mixed messages from Trent and VIP--i.e. registered, but not enrolled in health care plan due to multiple lists that are being presented from OGS to VIP.

Motion: Renee Hendricks

Second: David Hollands

Approve:

Oppose:

Abstain:

8. Other Business

a. --

9. Notice of Motions and Announcements

- a. **VP Internal Affairs:** TGSA available committee positions (see attachment). If you or anyone you know is interested in sitting on a committee, please email Alison Fraser, the VP Internal Affairs, at alfraser@trentu.ca.
- b. **VP Internal Affairs:** Update on my September motion to make an emergency grocery fund. It is not possible at this time. As you can see, since our proposed budget is available on the TGSA website (trentgsa.ca), we are running a very small deficit. There is no extra money to allot to starting an emergency bursary at this time. If you have ideas, suggestions, questions, or complaints please feel free to get in touch with me at alfraser@trentu.ca.
- c. **President:** Reminder that the AGM is next Wednesday, November 18th from 6-8. Board members are expected to attend, or send a delegate. Also, please make sure to let your departments know and encourage all students to attend. The executive team have had their meeting just before this November board meeting, and have discussed the order of presentations for the AGM, which we can briefly go over at this meeting to ensure that we have not left anything out.
- d. **VP Student Affairs:** Try to get prizes donated the Festivus contests Ugly Sweater Contest, Feats of Mental Strength, and Airing of Grievances. The event
- e. **VP Operations:** Date of next Board meeting: TBD at meeting
- f. **VP Operations:** Due date for reports and motions of that meeting: TBD at meeting

10. Adjournment

- a. **Signing of Symons Seminar Series MOU following meeting**

Motion to Adjourn: Laura Thursby

Second: David Hollands

Approve:

Oppose:

Abstain: