

## **Minutes of TGSA Board Meeting, 03/12/15**

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

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

**Chair:** Laura Thursby

**Scribe:** David Hollands

**Attendance:** Laura Thursby, David Bak, David Hollands, Alison Fraser, L. Renee Hendricks, Avinaash Persaud, Natalie Baron, Cory Baldwin, Dorothea Hines, Jessica Correa, Swarsattie Kishun, Theresa Treasure, Sage Fleming, Brent Whitford, John Bessai, Erin Levey, Amany Raslan, Carolyn Reid –**Quorum Met**

### **1. Motion to Call Meeting to Order:** Renee Hendricks

**Second:** Cory Baldwin

**Approve:** 16

**Oppose:** 0

**Abstain:** 1

### **2. Motion to Approve the Agenda:** Cory Baldwin

**Second:** Dorothea Hines

**Approve:** 16

**Oppose:** 0

**Abstain:** 1

### **3. 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:** Brent Whitford

**Second:** David Hollands

**Approve:** 16

**Oppose:** 0

**Abstain:** 1

### **4. Presentations:**

- a. Introduction of Our Newly Elected Board Members
- b. Results of AGM Vote: **Alison Fraser and Avinaash Persaud**
- c. TGSA Office Hours: **Alison Fraser and L. Renee Hendricks**-- As I'm sure all of you know, the executives are very busy people. We are questioning the usefulness of office hours. We find that no one comes to the office hours. We are not mandated to hold them. We would like to get your feedback on holding office

hours by appointment only. We would make sure Trent Wellness Centre, Trill College office, and our own office has student health cards for students to access at all times. What does the board think of us no longer holding regular office hours and instead holding office hours by appointment?

### Minutes

a.-\*introductions\*

b.-\*Alison presents AGM election results and summary of comments\*

-Brent: does anyone know if the responses are representative of the demographic?

-Alison: predominantly first year students.

-Brent: is the split representative of the demographics?

-Alison: no

-Brent: do we ask students to identify their years in all surveys?

-Alison: no

-Brent: the science/arts split is representative?

-Alison: yes, so you better be ready?

-Cory: do we know what percentage of possible voters voted

-Alison: yes, wasn't too bad, it meets quorum, it was about 20%.

-Laura: it's hard to get students to respond

-Carolyn: this is actually a good response

-Theresa: students wanted to make sure that when we move forward with changes, when we ask what's most important, they were asked to rank, concerned that a lot of things were tired for students, so just because a ranking was lower doesn't mean students don't care, would have preferred 1 to 5 ranking

-Laura: that survey was just to get some idea of what students were using our services for

-Aaron: maybe there should be an option for zero?

-Laura: sure, okay.

c.\*Alison presents\*

-Theresa: I think it's a great idea. Chaining yourselves to a desk is inefficient. I think it makes sense.

-Carolyn: maybe make sure to post on the doors

-Laura: yes, we would advertise that

-Renee: we would hold for first two weeks

-Brent: it's currently three days a week. I'd be okay to reducing to once a week, but not cancelling altogether. From the outlook of students, since you're getting a stipend, you are paid to do the job, so I wouldn't know how that looks to the membership, it's good to know that it's open

-Swarsattie: when I was campaigning for elections, there were lots of students complaining about unreliableness, and emails getting notifications of office hours being cancelled, so I think it's a good idea to cancel altogether, but if you do decide to hold in January, you should be accountable, it looks terrible.

-Renee: we also have lives, I was stuck at Canadian Tire last year

-Laura: half of us live out of town, so it gets really hard and expensive

-Swarsattie: that's why I'm saying it's good to cancel, but you should

-Brent: is this running on a previous model?

-Laura: yes, the exec ran five days a week

- Brent: right, so make it one day a week, but don't cancel them
- Dorothea: can we have a pool of someone you can contact to do it?
- Laura: the problem is key access
- Dorothea: so brainstorm something?
- Alison: yes, we'll do that now. The keys are a bit of an issue, but we'll keep spit balling ideas
- Cory: what about virtual office hours where you guarantee immediate response to calls. You will have to contend with the image problem of cancelling altogether, and who comes to office hours in advance anyway?
- Laura: and sometimes they'll have VP specific questions that need to be referred anyway.
- Renee: all the people who came to my office hours made alternate arrangements
- Cory: if you post that you will be available for these three hours, I think that'll be good
- Alison: also Google Hangouts
- Aaron: I've seen businesses do that, where they set up live chats with students
- Laura: I can do that from home, yes.
- Jessica: just to go off what Brent was saying, I think it's good to have some office hours, some the perspective of undergrads, I think it'll look bad for the GSA if we completely shut our doors. I agree that it sucks, and it is part of the job description
- Laura: actually, no, it's not
- Jessica: well, then if not, look at the reason someone WOULD come with office hours
- Natalie: I agree that it's important to hold hours for the first two weeks, but I agree that one day a week where the execs rotate. Especially if on a certain date where all the execs would be in Peterborough
- Renee: I volunteered to come up every Tuesday JUST because of Health Care, it's important to students, so I was still going to try to come up, but going forward say that you HAVE to see me on Tuesdays for Health Care questions
- John: I kind of agree, but I'm not sure how important the physical presence in the office is, but the business of answering Health Care questions, the Tues hours for Health Care and a well-published phone number
- Renee: this year I've noticed that Health Care was taking up 15 hours a week
- John: so two people?
- Alison: we're going to address that at the Constitutional Changes Committee. Anyway, I propose we continue office hours by appointment, so we'll have the one office hour per week (two hours), first two weeks in January will be lost of Renee then done for the rest of the month, the rest of us will take over, but then we'll initiate this online chat, we'll advertise it. How does that sound?
- \*board: good\*
- Alison: we'll make posters calling them the online office hours
- Cory: you can frame it as our solution to accessibility concerns
- Renee: and people at Symons getting to Traill
- Alison: so this will be moving forward in the New Year. We'll close the office December 9<sup>th</sup>. In January, we'll release what we've been working on. Sound good?
- \*board: yes\*

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

- a. Equity Commissioner's Report: **Carolyn Reid** (see Addendum I)

- b. Graduate Studies Committee Update: **VP Internal Affairs**-- Controversy of PhD students teaching. There are six places for non-competitive PhD student teaching positions. Would students like a workshop on how to apply for these positions? There is also a new application for Three Minute Thesis, which requires a 3 sentence abstract and a 3 sentence explanation of why your presentation will be applicable/interesting to a non-specialist audience.
- c. CASSC Update: **VP Internal Affairs**-- Motion to retroactively approve the 2014 fee increases for housing, athletics, colleges (see item 7.1). This was not done last year in error. This means that the housing, athletics, and colleges (not Traill College) budgets were raised without approval. Nona Robertson will do some calculations, and the amounts will be presented at the next CASSC. Some small reimbursements may be issued. Also The Centre for the Human Rights, Equity, and Accessibility presented. It may be of interest of us to invite a representative from this office to present at a board meeting. We have ties to the office through our Equity Commissioner. I just want the office to know that.

**Motion to Accept Reports: Alison Fraser**

**Second: Cory Baldwin**

**Approve: 16**

**Oppose: 0**

**Abstain: 1**

Minutes

a.-\*Carolyn reads report\*

b. and c.-\*Alison reads reports\*

-no questions

**6. Items and Main Motions:**

**6.1 Retroactively Approve Fee Increases for Housing, Athletics, and Colleges**

Whereas the 2014 fee increases for housing, athletics, and colleges was not formally approved by the Board last year in error,

BIRT the 2014 fee increases for housing, athletics, and colleges be approved.

*Justification:*

The housing, athletics, and colleges--not Traill College--budgets were raised without approval. This needs to be corrected. Nona Robertson will do some calculations, and the amounts will be presented at the next CASSC meeting. Some small reimbursements may be issued.

**Motion:** Laura Thursby

**Second:**

**Approve:**

**Oppose:**

**Abstain:**

Minutes

**-Motion to Amend the Agenda to Get Rid of This Motion:** Alison Fraser

**Second:** Cory Baldwin

**Approve:** 16

**Oppose:** 0

**Abstain:** 1

## **7. Retroactively Re-Approve Motions from November 12, 2015 Board meeting Due to Lost Meeting Minutes**

### **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:** 16

**Oppose:** 0

**Abstain:** 1

### **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:** 16

**Oppose:** 0

**Abstain:** 1

### **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:** 16

**Oppose:** 0

**Abstain:** 1

### **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:** 16

**Oppose:** 0

**Abstain:** 1

### **8. Departmental Issues/Question Period**

- a. **President:** Dr. Troy Bordun, a former Cultural Studies PhD student at Trent, has been conducting research regarding the way that Trent allows (or does not allow) upper-year PhD students access to course instructor positions to build their teaching portfolios, and he has been contributing commentary on this issue to *The Arthur*. He has also been lobbying Trent administration to pay more attention to this issue. Many universities have teaching instructorship positions built into their program structure, but PhD students at Trent are not guaranteed an opportunity to design and instruct their own courses. This can be quite problematic for PhD graduates, as they leave Trent unable to compete with other PhDs who have more teaching experience. In order for Troy's research and advocacy to not go to waste, he has suggested that the GSA

encourage board members to become more actively involved in this issue. He has proposed that PhD program representatives on the Board should routinely check in with their departments and ask both current students and chairs if there are any graduate students currently instructing a course. As a board member, we would appreciate if you could lobby your department chairs to let them know that students would like to see more instructor positions being made available to upper year PhD students. PhD program reps can encourage students in their upper years of their PhDs to hassle the chairs to teach courses or propose courses at Trent. We can check in briefly at the board meetings when we get to the “Departmental Issues” section each month to monitor progress on this issue.

- b. VP Student Affairs:** For our January event, I was thinking about doing a Game Night at the Trend. Did we want to provide food? How much should the budget be? I was thinking \$200 if we want to provide food, but no drink tickets. I was thinking about doing it the second week of January, so maybe on the 12 (Tuesday) or the 13 (Wednesday) if there is nothing else going on at the Trend. People can bring their favourite board or card games and come hang out for 2 hours and play.

### Minutes

-a.\*Laura reads her departmental issue\*

-Renee: would this just be applicable to departments with Ph.D. programs?

-Laura: yes

-John: I’m happy to do whatever he’s asking, and if there’s any progress, I’ll record it. I didn’t know that this was the case.

-Laura: right, so we thought the GSA would be a good place to house this convo and keep it going

-Brent: can we address number 5 in the exec reports?

-Alison: yes, there are apparently six places for Ph.D. students, but it wasn’t clear what this was. I feel like this is a nondescript was to sate us

-Avinaash: that’s exactly what it is, and I think they’re also trying to get their policies in order

-Renee: was this the email sent out for Masters students to apply? I have a fundamental problem. I think those positions should be for Ph.D. and adjuncts

-Alison: I think it was just send one email to the entire list

-Brent: then I would say about the workshop, a resounding yes!

-action item, Alison: tell grads comity rep to let her about this

b.-\*Renee reads her question\*

-Renee: in our exec meeting, we were thinking of bumping the cost down to \$150.

-Renee: anybody have a preference of date?

-Alison: I can’t make Wednesdays

-John: just wanted to say that 1) it seems to be a tradition that Fridays are dead here, so one idea is that on Fri afternoon past 4pm is to have a drink, called a Faculty Club. I wondered if one idea is to think about something like this once a month starting three weeks in, starting an actual tradition for students to come and talk and drink about being colleagues, and faculty would be welcome to participate as well. Then I heard is that Thursdays is when the Trend is open, so it was just a thought.

- Alison: some of my best work is done sitting at a pub with colleagues, so to me that's a great idea!
- Renee: I leave Peterborough Friday afternoons.
- Alison: maybe I should spearhead this event, but money would be an issue
- Renee: we can't commit extra funding
- Natalie: does it need extra funding?
- Alison: not necessarily
- Natalie: it could just be a student gathering at the Trend
- Alison, to John: could you help me with this?
- John: yes, and all I'm getting at is that the Trend would be very negative about this, they seem to know the culture of the place for it to be dead on campus on Friday
- Aaron: I think there is value in this, because the repetition and consistency of the event would be good to get people to come out for it.
- Cory: just say the word traditional enough
- Renee: this may be a student led initiative rather than a GSA led event
- Alison: makes sense. Any board members want to start this? I could ask around Cultural Studies
- Brent: I'll go have a drink
- Alison: Beers for Queers tonight!
- Renee: so a date preference? Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> if the Trend can guarantee this?
- Natalie: I think during the week is better because of Hump Day, probably a better day for this
- Brent: so what kind of games? Monopoly and Risk last hours! If people buy one beer, then sit for four hours...
- Dorothea: I wouldn't worry. I know plenty of people who are passionate about board games
- Renee: that's why we want a budget of \$150, so that the Trend is at least taking in some revenue. Event would be Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> with a budget of \$150. Can I motion?

**Motion to Set January Event on Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015 with Budget of \$150.00:** Renee Hendricks

**Second:** Dorothea Hines

**Approve:** 16

**Oppose:** 0

**Abstain:** 1

## 9. Other Business

### 9.1 Housing Update (VP Internal Affairs)

#### Minutes

-Alison: I was emailing the Board of Directors about the departments at Wallis Hall, I've had two meetings, on the Housing Committee, we only talk about undergrad concerns and we may lose our seat, but I'm fighting against that. Repetitive to changing the leases at Wallis Hall to make them shorter, not necessary to be there in the summer, being allowed to have a pet, and an emergency housing initiative. Housing is very much against changing the structure of leases for Wallis Hall, claiming financial reasons, I fought them on this, brought up the Tenancy Act, I countered their arguments, it really just comes down to their bottom, so it looks like we've hit a snag on that. They are considering allowing non-furry pets like fish or lizards into the building.

They're talking to Legal about that now. We talking about why the Wi-Fi sucked, and again it came down to money, couldn't afford to get Eduroam into the building. May be willing to revisit this in January, but the convo we have to have first is how do we make Wallis Hall sustainable? Do we allow upper year undergrad or faculty to reside at Wallis hall? Apparently, some Grad group met with them and said they only want Grad students at Wallis.

-John: I'm a little confused, because I applied to live there and couldn't get in, and that there are non-students living there. What is actually going on? And the Wi-Fi issue is ridiculous. I'm sorry, but people don't live without the Internet.

-Alison: it was something about the brick and concrete in the building

-Renee: just subsidize the Wi-Fi

-Cory: I got into Wallis 'because I applied immediately at the end of the Spring semester. The Internet issue is ridiculous. They're not going to be willing to change the lease structure without a lot of outside pressure. I think International Students should have priority for those spaces too.

-Alison: I brought that up as well, haven't received any feedback on that

-Brent: leases are for a year, so they're getting people to sign leases, so what's the sustainability issue? If the apartments are willing up, what's the issue?

-Alison: all of Traill is losing money, including Wallis.

-Brent: what does that have to do with the lease structure?

-Alison: money

-Natalie: they'd rather Traill just not access

-John: do these people work for Trent?

-Alison: yes, in the department of housing, not directly under the President, so I'll have to find out who oversees their budget

-John: sounds like there's a management problem there. Maybe we can invite someone from them to present to us?

-action item, Alison: contact depart of housing to get someone to present on this

-Cory: students on the main campus get their Wi-Fi!

-Avinaash: is this a ploy for them to increase rent?

-Renee: what's rent?

-Cory: \$800 and \$1200

-Brent: if the issue is sustainability, then changing the lease structure isn't really a good idea unless you charge more for rent, though apparently rent's already more expensive

-Cory: I think odds are better that they're sitting on the fees until it becomes sustainable enough to not have a rental space, wait until the situation is SO bad that they can go to the university and ask why Wallis Hall has to exist?

-Alison: this is a reason why I don't want

-John: let's do a motion

-Alison: I put forward a motion that I fight to keep my spot on the Housing Committee, we recognize it as a vital position

Second: Renee Hendricks

## **9.2 Presentation, OGSA Membership Fee (VP Finance and Sage Fleming)**

-David B.: what exactly does OGSA do for us? Reached out to Sage, and she has kindly offered to speak to what benefits and services the OGSA provides for us.

-Sage: \*gives presentation\* (no Powerpoint, see Addendum II)

- Brent: how is the OGSA disseminated from the OGSA to our exec to our members? Second, was anyone actually aware that the OGSA was having a meeting in January?
- Alison: I had no clue.
- Brent: I'm not accusing anyone of anything.
- Sage: Mike said he sent you the AGM minutes.
- Laura: Avinaash has them.
- Brent: there should be GSA reps at the OGSA. Are you a Trent director, Sage? Did members vote for you?
- Renee: we don't elect OGSA?
- Alison: that was my question: how did this work?
- Sage: Rathika informed me, and then I was voted in
- Alison: we should think about make an official board position for OGSA, make it an elected position along with the Reps.
- Natalie: maybe that should go to Constitutional Changes Committee?
- Alison: yeah.
- action item, Alison: bring this to Constitutional Changes Committee?
- Jessica: is there any room to put that on the exec team?
- Laura: not much room in the budget to add that to the exec team.
- Jessica: I think that should be a higher position, more leveraged, so if we can stretch the budget, we probably should do this, stress how important this position is so students would vote for the budget
- Brent: technically, we as a union we are part of OGSA, so the problem isn't ours, I'm concerned that one of our former presidents had a hand in writing the policy, so the onus is on the OGSA, we need to decide if we want to want to pay fees to the OGSA
- Alison: how much are our fees to OGSA?
- David B.: \$1640.00 invoice, but found out from Rathika that each student levied two dollars, \$0.66 gets to us
- Sage: the student body voted on this
- Natalie: and we've already voted on the budget
- Brent: it's imperative that we fix this communication issue
- Cory: I think one of the ways to fix this is to make your position more formal with a requirement to report back, we can affect that
- Brent: I was speaking more to the point of them being an exec member
- Renee: are we talking bout an exec member on the TGSA?
- Brent: no, that was just a suggestion
- Cory: so should we have a motion to investigate having the OGSA have some kind of position on the TGSA Board?

**Motion to Investigate Having the OGSA Have A Position on the TGSA Board:** Cory

Baldwin

**Second:** Brent Whitford

**Approve:** 16

**Oppose:** 0

**Abstain:** 1

-Brent: we should vote for who we are sending as our rep for the OGSA

-Laura: I can go as President.

-Alison: but we have Sage as the rep, so she should come to the next board meeting to give her input for the OGSA AGM

-John: all we need is a motion to claim this representative, we should still support our rep formally, but I realize that there's something a little deeper here that should be discussed, it's clear to me that something's being decided on our behalf, ultimately, some of us are elected by the student, I think Brent is making a technically good point.

-Avinaash: from what I read, some of the stuff they're fighting for are motions from us? Some of the policies they're fighting for came from us

-Brent: I don't want to drag this out, but awareness of the campaign isn't there, we should figure out the structural problem

-Theresa: we agree, and we decided that the rep can be on the TGSA for better representation, so that students do have a voice

-Cory: yeah.

-Alison: it was awkward for us as the new exec to find out what the OGSA was

-Cory: there are no succession documents

-Alison: lolz, we had fun over the summer

-Brent: but if it's an OGSA campaign, they should be disseminating the posters and flyers

-Sage: last year it was suggested that I come, but the board said they have it handled

-Alison: we need to establish more communications, there's a meeting in January, so you'll get us the info about that

-Cory: so motion to officially proclaim Sage as our rep?

**Motion to Recognize Sage Fleming as the TGSA's OGSA Representative:** Cory Baldwin

**Second:** Brent Whitford

**Approve:** 16

**Oppose:** 0

**Abstain:** 1

-Laura: any other new business to address?

-Brent: I have Symons series posters, put them up!

## 10. Notice of Motions and Announcements

- a. **VP Internal Affairs:** on Dec 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 3:00pm Trent Alumnus Nancy Austin is coming to Trent to give a talk.
- b. **President:** Reminder that Festivus is on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at SHOTS, beginning at 7:00pm. Graduate students will be given a free drink ticket upon presentation of their Student ID before 9:00pm. Please encourage students in your program to attend!
- c. **VP Operations:** I want to interview you for the Traill College documentary! If you would like to participate, please send me an email at [davidhollands@trentu.ca](mailto:davidhollands@trentu.ca) to schedule the interview.

## 11. Adjournment

**Motion to Adjourn:** David Hollands

**Second:** David Bak

**Approve:** 16

**Oppose:** 0

**Abstain:** 1

**Addendum I-**  
**Carolyn Reid's Equity Commissioner's Report (Nov 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015)**

On November 11, 2015 I represented the GSA at the PACHREA Accessibility Subcommittee meeting. The SharePoint site is almost fully functional and will store all relevant documents, including meeting agendas, minutes, the Multi-Year Plan and promotional materials, for easy access by the subcommittee members. The final version of the Multi-Year Plan was reviewed including upcoming compliance requirements. Focus was placed on the Accessible Formats Response Procedure for Trent. A proposed policy and procedure template was reviewed as the procedure is currently not standardized. It is possible that in the future software solutions could provide standardization of procedure for document conversion and this will be explored.

On November, 2015 I attended the PACHREA Equity Subcommittee meeting which was the first meeting since May of 2015. The preliminary results for the Trent University Equity and Diversity Survey 2015 (which was designed by the Equity Subcommittee) were presented and reviewed. The respondents comprised 18% of the total Trent population which is viewed as a good response (15-20% is normal for this type of survey). A larger proportion of women than men responded, in comparison to the Trent population known ratio. The results are not yet ready for publication and release but provide new and valuable information demographically on the state of equity and diversity at Trent.

**Addendum II-**  
**Summary of Sage Fleming's OGSA Presentation**

The Ontario Graduate Students' Alliance (OGSA) is a collaboration voiced by Ontario Universities to advocate for policy and system change – where improvement is needed. The OGSA was founded in December 2012 at the University of Waterloo during a meeting hosted by the Waterloo GSA to discuss issues facing graduate students in the Province of Ontario.

The OGSA was incorporated as a non-for-profit corporation with Industry Canada in March 2013. The OGSA received donations from Waterloo GSA (\$15000), Wilfrid Laurier GSA (\$6000), and Athabasca GSA (\$10000) to get the organization off the ground. The founding members were GSAs from the University of Waterloo, Wilfrid Laurier University, Athabasca University, the University of Guelph, Trent University, the University of Ontario Institute of Technology, and Lakehead University. McMaster University GSA joined shortly after the founding meeting.

Kaiti Nixon (a former Trent GSA president) served as the first secretary of the OGSA, and contributed to both our first submission to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) 'Differentiation', and was a co-author of the OGSA policy paper 'Refundable Technology Tax Credit'.

The OUSA (Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance), which represents undergraduates in Ontario, and the Government of Ontario has told our colleagues that they are happy to see the OGSA filling a huge void in Ontario in terms of articulating issues facing graduate students in Ontario.

In 2013, OGSA president, Mike Makahnouk, met with a policy director in the MTCU at Queen's Park and pressed hard that key performance indicators be expanded to graduate students. The OUGS (Ontario University Graduate Survey) has historically focused solely on undergraduate responses. The survey collects data on employment and income data of graduates after 6 months and 2 years after graduation. This has now been expanded to collect information for graduate students.

The MTCU recognizes that they lack data on grad experiences, support, and success and are now looking to the OGSA as a credible and needed source of information. The OGSA has had short-term successes, and are now a recognized at many Ontario Ministries. On October 22nd, the Government House Leader Yasir Naqvi acknowledged the OGSA in the legislature at Queen's Park.

Currently, the OGSA is supporting MP Yvan Baker's private members bill to expand the current mandate of the Higher Education Quality Council to collect information on grads to help future students make more informed choices. Also, we are working on a members survey to collect data to include in a document to be presented at the next AGM.

The OGSA will be hosting a Strategy Session on January 16<sup>th</sup> at Waterloo University which will be used to plan short/long term goals and plan for succession. Our website, established this year, can be accessed at [www.ontariogsa.com](http://www.ontariogsa.com)