

## **AGENDA OF TGSA BOARD MEETING 29/01/2015**

---

**Start:** 29/01/15 1:00pm – **End:** 29/01/15 3:00pm

**Location:** Senior Common Room, Scott House, Trail College

### **Members participating:**

Rathika Balthasar (President)  
Tayo Aloh (VP Internal Affairs)  
Bex Williams (VP Finance)  
Latchmi Raghunanan (VP Operations)  
Gary Larsen (VP Senator)  
Jamie Lynch (VP Student Affairs)  
Lisa Kennedy (Environmental and Life Sciences Representative-PhD)  
Lauren Banks (Environmental Commissioner)  
Peter Hammersley (Anthropology Representative-M.A)  
Paul Ciuk (Theory, Culture, and Politics Representative-MA)  
Alexander McPherson (History Representative-M.A)  
Maya Gunnarsson (Canadian and Indigenous studies Representative-M.A)  
Theresa Treasure (First Year Science Rep)  
Greg Tracey (Psychology Representative-M.A./M.Sc.);  
Sage Flemming (Environmental and Life Sciences Representative-MSc);  
Karen Everett (Canadian Studies Representative-Ph.D);  
Michelle Klein (International Representative);  
Kaitlyn Sykes (English: Public Texts-M.A.);  
Philip Abbott (Health Coordinator; CUPE rep);  
Alison Fraser (Cultural Studies, PhD)

**Regrets:** Ashley Neale (Equity Commissioner); Kristen Potter (Sustainability Studies Representative-MA); Athira Mohanan (Materials Science Representative-PhD); David Bak (Applications of Modeling in the Natural and Social Sciences-M.A./M.Sc)

**Guest:** Dr. Leo Groarke, President of Trent University

### **\*\*AGENDA\*\***

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Welcome to President Groarke
4. Introductions
5. Discussion with Trent President, Dr. Leo Groarke
  - a. Student Centre
  - b. Trail College
  - c. International student concerns (ie. loans)
  - d. More support for grad students (ie. administration, space, library resources)
  - e. Graduate student funding concerns (ie. tuition, TA-ships)
  - f. Action Items from Discussion
6. Social update: February extra funds approval [Jamie, 5 mins]
7. Conference bursaries approval [Bex, 5 mins]
8. Group support approval [Bex, 5 mins]
9. Committee reports from Reps [Tayo]
10. Ash-tree inventory at Trent, volunteers for an upcoming waste audit [Lauren; 5mins]
11. Update on January multicultural potluck event [Michelle, 5mins]
12. Clubs process - assistance request [Rathika, 5 mins]
13. Meeting Adjourned

**\*\*MEETING MINUTES\*\***

**1. Call to Order**

**2. Approval of Agenda**

- Agenda approved as is.

**3. Welcome to President Groarke**

- Rathika welcomed Leo

**4. Introductions**

**5. Discussion with President Groarke.**

- *Student Centre*
  - RFP (request for proposals) from architects
    - had good response. 25 proposals, including from international architects.
    - reduced to 4 proposals by committee, largely made up of undergrads.
  - wants to see grad students involved; chance to bring people together in unified way.
    - even if only a small office space, space on Symons should be seriously considered, especially to cater to science students.
    - centre still conceptual at this stage; still raising money to expand profile.
  - Q: where will it be located?
    - beside Bata library.
    - initial idea: building where parking lot currently is, with a courtyard between Bata and the new building.
  - stresses that discussion are not just with undergrads, but with faculty and staff.
  - an attempt to get better student space on campus; lecture theatre performance hall, career services, entrepreneurship centre of some sort, offices with lots of eating areas, open to all sorts of people with lots of meeting rooms.
  - comes up again: small office again for grad students.
    - president supports correlation between financial compensation and size of space.
    - suggests thinking about what space we want, then talk to Stephen Miller who is responsible for putting committee together.
    - Access to broader space stressed, regardless of office space provided.
  - Argument for a more compelling reason to invest \$100 per student in this space still not made.
    - a lot of space is for administrative programs such as careers, etc etc
    - space to hold GSA events? Space for office?
    - career services needs to be radically redone.
    - incubator, especially for graduate students.
    - bigger possibility: if science student spending all time on campus, this is space for science students to have meetings etc.

- reluctance for grad student buy-in, in part due to exclusion relationship especially with administration.
  - positives with having Admin and GSA in close proximity to each other.
  - note that only Leo is asking what we want in the student centre.
    - no one from student center committee or TCSA has come forward to us again to rediscuss this.
    - maybe TGSA needs to take the lead?
  - argument raised by TGSA that space does exist, despite Leo's statement that it does not, within college systems.
    - Leo counters that especially during exams, no space exists.
    - makes the point that TCSA office is small with not enough space.
    - GSA members refer the president to the current GSA office space
  - we want private spaces where we can meet with students, for example, without disturbing colleagues.
  - Paul suggests that program reps do research among depts to work out how they can use space, what they want.
    - makes the point that grad students are not only customers of university; we also provide services.
    - suggests investing as much as we can, with help/ funding from elsewhere, because we just don't have the means to invest regardless of need or not.
  - President's response: university is contributing land and 5 million to building. if we want a significant presence in the building, then we have to contribute significantly. project will go ahead without us or not.
  - Traill-based members comment that it is of no use to them; accessibility etc.
  - President urges that forward thinking approach is required; not how it benefits me or now, but how it can improve Trent/ students 10-15 years forward.
- *Traill College*
    - What is vision for Traill College in 10-15 years?
      - president hopes to have significant presence downtown. what that means for Traill waits to be seen.
      - been having discussions with City Hall and stakeholders downtown. What emerges is confusing and complex. Still wants something significant downtown. How? Don't know.
      - as far as city hall and most people in PTBO are concerned, Trent has no presence downtown; as far as people are concerned, Traill is not downtown, and is not a significant contributor to downtown.
    - other complications with Traill college:
      - president's office receives lots of complaints about Traill college, including women complaining about security at night; the way Traill space is set up, under-utilization

- There is a strong contingent among the colleges that think this space should have undergrads
  - would bring life here,
  - that grad college was a mistake.
- offices underutilized; should convert offices back into residence space.
- Traill college is a 'clique-y' place; there exists a certain group of persons who are comfortable here, and if don't fit into that group, then you are left out.
- TCSA trying to do something downtown.
- alternative views to comments
  - important to not take word/perspectives of only a certain group of persons
  - challenged assertion that office spaces are not used;
  - don't see security space here;
  - residence here not sure if part of Trent or separate entity,
  - Traill great place, used a lot.
    - community comes here
    - we promote to downtown.
    - serves grad student needs.
    - everyone who has a space here are here to work;
    - perception of how graduate college works; it is a working institution;
    - people are using space, so it's quiet.
    - no one comes by; people don't know where things are on Traill.
- Leo wants to bring life, activities to Traill. Associates this with undergrad presence.
- Grad students value quiet space here on Traill. This contradicts with the university's desire for undergrad vibrancy at Traill.
  
- MOTION TO STOP CURRENT DISCUSSION ON TRAILL COLLEGE IN FAVOUR OF MOVING ON WITH AGENDA ITEMS; SET UP A WORKING GROUP/COMMITTEE TO CONTINUE ADDRESSING TRAILL COLLEGE ISSUES [Alston].
  - Seconded: Alex (noted that motion seconded just so that we could move forward)
  - Against: 13. abstain 3
- Counter motion: CONTINUE DISCUSSION, MAKING USE OF TIME WITH TRENT PRESIDENT LEO GROAKE; TABLE OTHER AGENDA ITEMS TO LATER MEETING [Latchmi].
  - In favour: all
  
  - What constitutes life at Traill?
    - don't have a vision for Traill.
    - interested in doing something downtown.

- point made that if activities at Saddler house feel and speaks to downtown core, then why does not Traill too, when we are closer to downtown?
- opinion expressed that university should provide student space, and that in the past, student space has been taken away in favour of admin spaces.

*Action items:*

- *Leo to get committee, TCSA in contact with GSA to get talks going again re student centre.*
- *GSA to think about what we want. committee/ working group to move forward re Alison's motion. what do graduate students want for space, especially re Trent downtown?*
  
- Wants to put discussion of Traill college off to next year.
  - Lack of communication about what is happening at Traill.
  - Have open discussion with actual stakeholders,
  - no he say/ she say heresay *re* Traill's utilization.
  - Leo doesn't want this discussion; thinks that his contacts will force people into uncomfortable positions.
- What kind of financial analysis.
  - long term future planning/ assessment for Traill? nothing done; GSA points out that university needs to address this.
  - Leo points out that our college fees are too small compared to Lady Eaton; frozen college fees. that's why Traill is underfunded.
  - question raised about future of graduate studies and relevance to university. long winded discussion, but no real answer.
  - any progress on renegotiating BIU formula? discussion ongoing, not clear where we will end up.
  
- *International student concerns (loans etc.)*
  - Recent change in Trent's admin *re* processing non-OSAP loans.
    - costly to bring in international students; but Trent does not accept international student loans, especially American.
    - eg. Jamie has a \$20K loan, but Trent won't accept it. New policy. Jamie to send Leo email with details.
  - complaint about not being able to make payments to Trent outside of PTBO. Again, send email to Leo raising concern.
  - New immigration policy allows international students to work 20hrs/wk on/off campus. but Trent only allows 10hrs.
    - Leo encourages us to approach admin as GSA, not individual.
  - Leo wants us to speak to finance executive about our finance concerns. Rathika: to start discussion going

- *More support for grad students (administration and space – library etc)*
  - reason for not processing loan (Jamie's case); not enough people in grad office to process. eg of not being supported by Trent admin.
  - another eg. have to pay for lock out of our own funds. we feel that we have to pay for trent's infrastructure for our quiet space.
  - access to racer concerns.
  - grad students want free transcripts for external scholarship applications.
  - other concerns;
  - internationalization at trent. leo will review this next year. gsa raised marketing concerns; need to extend to include for graduate studies.
  - good things about trent:
    - amazing research being done at trail, with one on one resources.
    - small intimate feeling at trent; even this opportunity to converse with president sited as unique to trent.
  - leo impressed by interdisciplinarity at Trent.
  - digital marketing; encourages grad students to get involved in this as well.
  
- *Graduate student funding (Tuition, TAships etc.)*
- *Action Items from Discussion*

**6. Social update: February budget approval [Jamie, 5 mins]**

- Grad karaoke night at the tonic.
  - no booking fee,
  - have to buy drinks \$200.
  - have to provide food according to risk assessment.
- Motion: to increase budget from \$200 to \$300.
  - Seconded : phil.
  - In favour: all

**7. Conference bursaries approval [Bex, 5 mins]**

- 26 applications;
- MOTION TO APPROVE \$4783.75 FOR JAN 2015
  - seconded Phil
  - Abstain Alex, Lauren
  - All else in favour.

**8. Group support approval [Bex, 5 mins]**

- intramural volleyball. \$140.00
  - MOTION TO APPROVE 140 TOWARDS VOLLEYBALL SUPPORT FOR GRAD TEAM WITH 5 GRAD STUDENTS;

- seconded phil
- in favour: all

- application from frost center for 200
  - MOTION TO APPROVE \$200 IN SUPPORT OF
    - abstain: 3 Karen, Maya, Rathika
    - all else in favour.

**9. Other:**

- TGSA executives made decision not to donate \$1000 for library swipe card.
  - we will donate if it's a smaller amount, eg \$500,
- MOTION TO GRANT EXECUTIVE DECISION FOR \$500 (RATHIKA)
  - Seconded: latchmi
  - CUPE not contributing because thinks university should be paying for.
  - all in favour: 13.

**10. Committee reports from Reps [Tayo]**

- deferred to next meeting

**11. Ash-tree inventory at Trent, volunteers for an upcoming waste audit [Lauren; 5mins]**

- grad volunteers wanted for Saturday: nature areas committee
  - 1400 acres in one day. send invite out to all students.
- waste audit: looking for grad volunteer. send something for email.

**12. Update on January multicultural potluck event [Michelle, 5mins]**

- deferred to next meeting

**13. Clubs process - assistance request [Rathika, 5 mins]**

- deferred to online discussion

**14. Cupe update:**

- strike vote:
  - in bargaining since Nov, but no progress. tuition going to rise over next few years. sticking to no increase in fee wages; going to be more expensive to be grad student. employer arguing that we are not at trent for gta.
  - strike vote does not mean that we are going on a strike, but just means we have more bargaining power.

**15. Meeting Adjourned: 3.05pm.**