

Minutes of TGSA Board Meeting, 15/06/2016

Start: 16:00, End: 18:00pm

Location: Wallis Hall 102, Traill College, Trent University

Chair: Alexandra Ha

Scribe: Alison Fraser

Attendance: Alison Fraser, Laura Thursby, Anastasia, Katherine, Erin, Elizabeth, Sarah Jessup, Yeukai Katanda, Alexandra Ha, Mackenzie Armstrong, Miteb Abunayyan

Regrets: David Hollands, Swarsattie Kishun

1. Presentation(s) without voting

a. NONE

Minutes

--

2. Call to Order

3. Motion to Approve the Agenda with small amendments in other business:
Alexandra Ha

Seconded: Laura Thursby

Discussion:

Alex listed changes

Approve: All

Oppose: None

Abstain: None

Carries

4. Motion to Approve the Minutes from the May 24th, 2016 Board Meeting:
Alexandra Ha

Seconded: Anastasia Nepotiuk

Discussion

--

Approve: All

Oppose: None

Abstain: None

Carries

5. Presentation(s)

a. President: Michelle Hisson has made a complaint to me about TGSA in regards to the Msc Rep. position. She said she had emailed Avinaash Persaud about fulfilling the position after the election results were announced. Now that this position (as of the last board meeting) has been filled, Hisson is unhappy with this news and would like to express her concerns to this board meeting.

Discussion:

Documents were passed around pertaining to this case.

Ali: This was last year's error. Avinaash is not here to speak for himself. I will propose this motion that both acknowledges and seeks to rectify the error for the future. We are not responsible for department or program representatives. We let these elections piggy back off of our elections in spring and fall because that is how it has been done in the past. The TGSA is not actually responsible for finding or maintaining department representative but we have done so in the past to make sure we had people on our Board.

Motion: Alison: I move this complaint to stand for the record with no repercussion to last year's executive because the complaint was issued late, the bylaws have since been changed, and we will work to start a psychology graduate students know about the TGSA to make sure this error is rectified for the future.

Second: Mac

Discussion:

Mac: we want to encourage a dialogue. We want a dialogue to determine what is happening in the MA and MSc parts of the program.

Anastasia: A graduate society would be good because I want to know what's happening at board meetings. More communication is better.

Laura: Is there a plan as to how to establish these societies?

Mac: we are going to work with the current psychology representatives to establish a conversation with them and bring them together with their larger program to collectively work towards a permanent group moving forward. We need to find out if MA or MSc will be separate or similar groups.

Laura: is it one department. Having two reps on the board can skew the vote on the board. Is it fair to have two reps for one department?

Mac: depending on how different they are, they need to decide that. They need to take control. We will facilitate starting the group. We want Michelle Hisson to participate in this dialogue.

Yeukai: this is a reactive solution. We should develop a system that works for all departments. We want to be fair for everyone across the system.

Mac: the hard part is how to manage the groups, when we won't be managing them. It's up to the prerogative of the group. This allows them to counter issues of who is the representative for the year. Is it being done through the TGSA or by their own department?

Yeukai: Who is them?

Mac: The MA and MSc of psychology.

Yeukai: I'm from ENLS and who is going to make the call to be the representative?

Mac: This is something that would be nice to do with other departments. We are taking on the brunt of the decision making process for choosing representatives. People may not know they have representation.

Yeukai: Whose responsibility is it to let them know that they have a board of directors. There is no system in place. We just need a system.

Mac: Some departments are more aware than others. This is part of the whole conversation that we need to be better at. I was thinking of getting all the representatives together.

Erin: All the people who are interested in the TGSA are here.

Alex: We can propose it to them and see.

Laura: We realized last year that departmental societies is a difficult task. Who do you speak to? Grad chair? Former TGSA rep? We can't assume other students aren't interested. People are always aware that the TGSA exists. The bylaws have the intention to make sure these positions are filled. Last year we didn't have a lot of department representative and missed out on their commentary. Department societies are a lot of work for someone to take on. We advertised the elections, but we can maybe bring to the Constitutional Changes Committee, that if someone is interested in the position we advertise it before we vote in case there's another people that was interested.

Mac: we aren't saying the solution is to create department organization. Our easy fix is to create an facebook group to pass along information. It doesn't need to be formal but we need to have more communication about it. There seems to be a disconnect between those who are running and those who are interested in the positions.

Katherine: When you are running for a position could you run for more than one position?

Alison: No sorry, that's not workable in our constitution.

Katherine: Maybe if there are two reps for a department they could have a half vote. Michelle also says we should change your election dates but that seems like there wouldn't be enough time. If Michelle wants the position I will give it to her.

Alison: Would be amenable to having a conversation with Mac, myself, Katherine, and Erin?

Katherine and Erin: Yes

Action Item: Alison: send email to Michelle, Mac, Erin, and Katherine

Erin: Having students from the first year fill seats would be good.

Laura: I agree but that's what we did and we couldn't fill seats. Starting department societies is good but maybe not feasible for this year. I would like to have something everyone feels included in and create a dialogue with the TGSA and the departments and the students we are supposed to represent.

Erin: we have other department reps that never show up.

Alison: we fixed that in the bylaws

Miteb: is there a way to have the school of graduate studies coordinate this? If we sit on their meetings we can ask if they will do this as a voluntary task.

Alex: The SGS has not being cooperative with us right now. Our list serve was taken away and we are having a hard time communicating with graduate students.

Laura: the people in the SGS office are already over burdened.

Miteb: I was thinking of their monthly meeting of directors.

Action Item: Alex: follow up on sitting on SGS monthly meetings of directors

Yeukai: we should make use of the other offices they have graduate students emails. Use department secretaries. Use board members to send TGSA emails to their secretaries to send out. Emails that are already written. Societies are maybe not coherent enough to work.

Mac: we have representatives that sit on stuff in our own departments. But the TGSA is not trying to have a say in that, we are trying to make sure people know they have an opportunity to sit on our Board. The best way is to work with departments. Keep communication within the departments themselves. Want to avoid problems later on with lack of communication.

Laura: To speak for Avinaash, he did do his due diligence to make sure the position was available. It is not the responsibility of Avinaash or Alison if Michelle didn't respond.

Approve: 8

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 3

Carries.

6. Executive Reports (see attached document):

a. President

Alex: Too add filled in Miteb's place for meeting with Student VIP. They gave us new brochures. Look at them and give us feedback. Also a Med on July 4th, I will speak to them but we need someone to give tour. We will write a script for you.

Miteb: What time?

Alex: Main campus. At 3ish.

Elizabeth: I will get back to you.

b. VP Internal Affairs

Alison: I have a summer job that I need to take to make ends meet. I want this on the record because it will affect my ability to do my TGSA work in a timely manner. I wish I could just do TGSA work but I only get \$1000 for the year.

c. VP Finance

Nothing to add

d. VP Communications

e. VP Student Affairs

f. Senator

Mac: getting representatives is my next goal. Get those open positions filled. We want board members to help. Please send me names. I want to get people to join us.

Laura: In the bylaws, it says we only have to meet once in the summer. Is there more leniency?

Mac: It seems that most reps are elected in the fall.

Alison: If you send regrets you're fine. If you miss the one summer meeting that's only one out of the several you get to miss.

Mac: we need representatives. We want to get department reps in one room, to discuss how to better use these roles.

Motion to accept the reports: Alexandra Ha

Seconded: Laura Thursby

Discussion

Erin: For \$62 it's a significant amount paying for a cost-co membership. Have we calculated how much money save.

Laura: it's a one year membership. Cannot return it. But can use it all year.

Anastasia: CUPE is giving us \$200 for the BBQ. We can use the card of other events.

Laura: whose name is this going into? Having it under one member's name would be controversial. Phil Abbot said he had a cost-co membership. I have a membership. Cost-co is useful but sometimes it's too much bulk and Wal-Mart seemed to be better. If CUPE is covering it then it makes sense. But if it's one for one year, could that money be spent on something else? Maybe cost-co would be interested in donating a membership?

Action Item: Swarsattie: Ask Cost-co to donate membership and ask Phil if we can use his card. Look into Wal-Mart for getting supplies. Compare prices.

Elisabeth: my parents have a card and are nearby so we might be able to use it. Cost-co do have a satisfaction guarantee and we may be able to get a refund. Same with Kirkland products.

Mac: I have a cost-co membership. I just didn't want to be the guy that has to get everything.

Miteb: Cost-co has a business membership it's about \$55. They quality is better at Cost-co than Wal-Mart.

Motion: Alison Fraser: I motion to take the cost-co membership out of the budget, more fruit and veggies, take out buying twister game, remove water dispenser and buy a pallet water bottles and encourage people to filled water bottles in gym, more money into food and pop, and ice.

Second: Laura Thursby

Discussion:

Laura: does anyone have a twister game?

Anastasia: I do

Motion to Amend: Miteb Abunayyan: Keep Cost-co membership. It's beneficial in the long term and it removes obligation for members to use their membership. Cost is covered by CUPE and it's beneficial.

Second: Alison Fraser

Discussion:

Elisabeth: it is valid. It think if cost-co is willing to donate, use it. Within my family, we tend to by more stuff then we need. How much are we going to use that card throughout the year?

Laura: We already have multiple people with cards. I feel uncomfortable putting it in a student's name. We can spend the \$60 on cookies and fruit and veggies.

Miteb: the TGSA would be using it for events, which is different than a household. We should know how much of something we need and Cost-co is better price we will save \$20 each visit. The membership is beneficial. We want to remove the obligation from people to use their personal membership for the TGSA.

Mac: Does it have to be in this budget? We could put it on the general Levy budget.

Laura: there doesn't seem to be enough food but we did by more and more food. We ended up going to Superstore and using M & M's because they donate meat sometimes.

Yeukai: How many events are we supposed to have?

Laura: One BBQ in the summer for sure but we can have more. And we must throw monthly events in the academic year. We do use BE Catering sometimes for certain events.

Yeukai: since we have people who have volunteered their cost-co card. I don't think we should use spend money on this.

Alison: I call the question

Approved: 0

Oppose: 8

Abstain: 2

Doesn't carry

Action Item: Alex: email Swarsattie about getting distinct budgets approved in the future and the motion.

Approved: All

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

Carries

Motion: Elisabeth Boyle: Instead of Wal-Mart use Real Canadian Super Store and No Frills because they are Canadian where applicable/whatever is cheapest.

Seconded: Laura Thursby

Approved: 11

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

Approve: All

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

Carries

7. Commissioner Reports, Board of Director Reports, Committee Reports, and Other Reports

a. Miteb: Health Benefits Commissioner:

I was not able to attend the health benefits meeting the the TCSA and TGSA, Alex went instead. I have received copies of the pamphlets and I think they are great as it. Pricing and cost don't fit in the flyer but it should be posted (the break-down in on the Grad Studies Website. I will find time to update website.

Laura: OGSA Commissioner

No date has been set for their meeting they want to have in Peterborough

Yeukai: International Students

Me and Erin Visiting Fellow for Traill College Committee. We managed to pick someone and I think it's great.

Motion to accept the reports: Alexandra Ha

Seconded: Mackenzie Armstrong

Discussion

--

Approve: All

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

Carries

8. Departmental Issues/Question Period

a. Ph.D. Cultural Studies Rep: What is the level of student involvement in their respective program committees? (i.e.: are there official student places among the faculty committee in charge of their programs?) Are there university wide standards in place for grad student involvement in program committees or is it a case by case basis? In the Cultural

Studies PhD program there is no seat reserved for students on the program committee, for example. Students are allowed to attend but they have no official position on the committee and this can make it difficult for them to raise their voices.

Motion to table until Joshua is at meeting: Alexandra Ha

Second: Anastasia Nepotiuk

Discussion

Approved: All

Carries

b. Ph.D. Cultural Studies Rep: Can program reps for PhD programs provide some information about the status of PhD student/candidate course instruction in their respective programs? This is a graduate studies wide issue, but there is some confusion within Cultural Studies as to how the opportunity (or lack thereof) for PhD candidates to teach may or may not play out.

Motion to table until Joshua is at meeting: Alexandra Ha

Second: Anastasia Nepotiuk

Discussion

Approved: All

Carries

9. Main Motions

9.1 Set Official Date for July 2016 BBQ (President)

Whereas the TGSA has voted to hold a BBQ at Traill College in July 2016, but did not decide on the date,

BIRT the date of the July 2016 TGSA BBQ at Traill College be set for July 4th, 2016, the M.Ed.

Orientation Day.

Justification

I think it will be good to have a BBQ day on the orientation day because a) many students (majority attendees probably from M.Ed. program) can likely attend and b) last year, it seemed to work well with having the BBQ set on the orientation day, and c) we can promote our organization in conjunction with the M.Ed. department – strengthening our relationships with departments is always a good idea in my opinion.

Motion: Alexandra Ha

Seconded: Laura Thursby

Discussion

Laura: if the MEd event is at main campus, it would be better to have it in the Champlain Quad.

Action Item: Alex: Look into booking Champlain Quad.

Motion: to Table until further information about quad is available and then do email vote: Alexandra Ha

Second: Elizabeth Boyle

Discussion

--

Approve: All

Oppose:

Abstain:

Carries

10. Other Business

a. David's Summary of Meeting with Graduate Studies

Letter will be attached for minutes.

Letter is circulated for people to read.

Alison: We are looking into Anti-spam legislation to see if it applies to us, which we think it doesn't and we are looking into Trent email policies to see if we broke any. We will update the board with results.

Alison reads out :Motion: Ali: I move to not take Trent's suggestion about positing meeting minutes online, i.e., we continue what we do.

Laura: I don't understand why they are requesting us to not post minutes online, but it's part of the democratic process and we vote on the minutes each meeting they get corrected if necessary. The list serve is a question of ownership and the university is a for profit and they have to follow anti-spam legislation.

Erin: why does the list exist at all if Trent has to follow anti-spam legislation?
Elaine's comments are confusing, unprofessional comments aside, what's the problem?

Alex: I was at the meeting, but remarks that our negative to certain people.

Mac: That's why it should be seen as a threat.

Laura: that's a problem for graduate students, when we have problems with the administration we have to talk about it

Mac: it's an issues of censorship. They are saying we can't express our opinion especially if it goes against what the university says. We have to post our meeting minutes to be accountable. The fact that they are telling us what to do is a laugh because there are other universities that live video record their meetings. Therefore, if we do our say something, it's on the person. We can't turn around and retract our statements.

Katherine Boyle: Motion to go In Camera

Second: Laura Thursby

Discussion

--

Approved: All

Carries

Motion to leave In Camera: Alexandra Ha

Second: Miteb Abunayyan

Discussion

Approved: All

Alex: Michael Eamon will forward our emails, cease and desist our orientation manual, and not post our meeting minutes online.

Yeukai: GSG doesn't do a great job of explaining how their academic systems work.

Laura: was there any indication that GSG is making a new document, when grad students don't feel like they are getting enough information.

Yeukai: I really think we shouldn't stop the handbook. We can't assume GSG is going to send out all the information new students need. And if our handbook includes relevant links then it's not contradictory.

Miteb: I understand the importance of having a guide done by students. Is it possible to TGSA handbook to be named with “unofficial” in the title.

Laura: I wrote a disclaimer. Push SGS to get their document and try to make it a collaboration. We are experiencing that graduate students aren't getting clear information and we want to work with you to make sure that happens.

Erin: So they don't want anything about registration. But if they have that information what about just a link to registration?

Alison: That's what we did.

Erin: I'm just confused.

Mac: We will update the Board as we get more information.

Sarah Jessup leaves.

Alex: the signatures for people attended general meetings could be a problem.

Laura: Printed name would be fine.

Alex: It could be concerning.

Laura: Elaine's term is ending. Can we invite the new Dean of Graduate studies to our board meeting?

Alex: Yes

Erin: I think there is a communication gap. We should seek more clarification.

Miteb: make the language more formal in the minutes for the future.

Laura: Extend an invitation to the dean and have Michael come and speak to the email list. Then the Board can talk to them.

Action Item: Alex: Extend invitation to Dean of Graduate Studies and Michael Eamon for next Board meeting.

Alison: Motion: I motion to continue to follow due process by posting the meeting minutes and agenda's online in order to remain transparent.

Second: Erin Laverty

Action Item: Alison: Make sure David know to post amended agendas and meeting minutes should they be amended to replace originals online.

Discussion

--

Approved: All

Carries

11. Notice of Motions and Announcements

a. Alex: Workshop by Career Counseling

Alex: Career services have reached out and if any graduate students are interested in attending workshops, like interviews techniques. Let me know so they can organize things for graduate students.

Email Alex or post ideas to TGSA facebook.

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting: Alison Fraser

Seconded: Laura Thursby

Discussion

--

Approve: All

Oppose:

Abstain:

Carries