

Minutes of TGSA Board Meeting, 14/07/2016

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

Location: Wallis Hall 102, Traill College, Trent University

Chair: Alexandra Ha

Scribe: David Hollands

Attendance: Yeukai Katanda, Sarah Jessup, Swarsattie Kishun, Erin Laverty, Marisol Campos, Michael Eamon, Craig Brunetti, Laura Thursby, Joshua Noiseux, David Hollands, Anastasia Nepotiuk, Miteb Abunayyan, Mackenzie Armstrong, Elizabeth Aslin -**12 board members in attendance, quorum met**

1. Presentation(s) without voting

- a. Introductions from special guests Michael Eamon, Principal of Traill College, and Craig Brunetti, the new Dean of Graduate Studies

Minutes

-a. Michael Eamon and Craig Brunetti introduce themselves

2. Call to Order

3. Motion to Approve the Agenda: David Hollands

Seconded: Joshua Noiseux

Discussion

-Motion to Amend the Agenda to Add Vote for Marisol Campos as Equity Commissioner:

David Hollands

Seconded: Laura Thursby

Approve: 12

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

****motion carries****

-Marisol: I'm going to start my second year in September. My research is in innovation initiatives, my focus is the Trent Research Park. I'm happy to be here and offer myself for this position. I'm excited to do this.

Approve: 12

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

****motion carries****

4. Motion to Approve the Minutes from the June 15th, 2016 Board Meeting: Alexandra Ha

Seconded: David Hollands

Discussion

-no discussion

Approve: 12

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

****motion carries****

5. Presentation(s)

- a. **Michael Eamon and Full Executive:** A discussion of the Traill College Review report, found here:
https://my.trentu.ca/intranet/admin/po/documents/20160627_Traill_Review_Final.pdf
(You will need to be signed in to your MyTrent account to access the report.)
- b. **Michael Eamon and President:** A discussion of the new TGSA/Traill College communications policy, and a discussion toward improving email communications between the TGSA exec and board members, and the TGSA and the graduate student body.
- c. **Michael Eamon and President:** A discussion of a combined Orientation Week between the TGSA and Traill College.
- d. **Michael Eamon and President:** A discussion of educational workshops where grad students can mentor undergraduates. Given that undergraduate students will now be at Traill, perhaps we can capitalize on this change: e.g., organize workshops that both benefit grad and undergraduate students. If yes, any ideas what kind of workshops? And also if yes, how would the TGSA go about doing this, since the responsibility for mentorship programs lies with Traill College.
- e. **VP Finance:** Update on Conference Bursary applications.

Minutes

a.-Michael Eamon: it's great to see everyone! Basically, I was told to wait until August. I had no clue that renovations were on the table until two weeks ago. Things have moved quickly, and have moved in a very positive light. Notwithstanding the speedy renovations, this year Trent is popular. 17% rise in student enrolment. We had over 100 students that we guaranteed residence to over the spaces we actually had. Now every free space in Peterborough is becoming Trent space. The President himself said that we need to convert Traill back. That and the Traill report go lockstep. Chris Tindale also talked about increasing residence spaces. The bump in numbers forced the move to residence space.

-Erin: is the 17% increase in admissions?

-Michael: no, 7-8% admissions? It's just that more people have applied. The standards are the same, but for various reasons, we're on peoples' radars. I think we are unfortunately profiting from the pain of other departments. So, how this fits into Traill... we'll be getting 30 undergrads here, which means their fees and added improvements to Traill to turn it into a traditional college. So we'll have improved services, like food, including Sat brunches and Sunday dinners. Even though it's undergrad money, grad students get some benefits. But I want to apologize because of the short term pain that this has caused for grads here. I know they're inconvenient, but I do think it'll be a long-term gain for the college. As for the review, I've been appointed for three years. I no longer report to Student Affairs. I no report directly to the provost, which should signal that this is an academically focused college. There are a lot of changes coming over the

years, and I think this will benefit grad students immensely. I think that already we have a spirit in the undergrads, they want to come here because they're scholarly inclined. Four of them will be refugees, in fact. I think that Traill is a better environment for international students. We have other students that are mature transfer or exchange students.

-Alexandra: so some of them will be first years?

-Michael: not 100% sure of the transfer students, but the vast majority will be first year. And the refugees may have had their studies interrupted in Syria. Open up for questions?

-Joshua: were you caught off-guard by the positivity of the review? There was a lot of anxiety initially. How surprising is the review to you? And do you feel like there are aspects that are less positive?

-Michael: yes, I'm surprised at the speed of this. I never thought Traill would be closed. I didn't know what would happen. So the move to turn us to a traditional college I was very happy about. I'm surprised at the tools we've been given to put this all into place. Just to muddy the waters, I was also made the director of TIP. From a positive point of view, I've heard that TIP currently isn't representing grads as well, so this is a plus. I wanted Traill to have a more international sense. There will be challenges, like how to adapt continuing ed. Parking is a huge challenge. Lifelong learners adds to the challenge. Infrastructure stuff. Traill has about four or five authorities, and one of my first jobs is to bring everyone together under this. Our new Traill fellow comes in Feb. I can't book any spaces 'cause the registrar has blocked classes from being booked. That's an example of the multiple levels of authority at Traill. I need to get everyone on the same page, which will be hard.

-Mac: I know you're the messenger, but since so much has come up... The Wallis Hall renos... I find it funny that they're only doing this to bring in more undergrads when residency has always been an issue here. As someone in WH, it seems like a suggestion that grads aren't as important. What will the long-term process be of this?

-Michael: I totally understand that. In the review, it's clear that this will be a mature upper year undergrad and grad college. I see the residences as the president seeing an opportunity to get more money in. The spots are for undergrads, but we already have a quarter of them as mature students. That trend might continue, which is what the Traill review says should happen. But I hear you. Undergrads won't take over. It's only 30 undergrads. We only have room for 100 undergrads. I think 30 undergrads provide the money. If this was only a grad college, every grad student would have to pay \$500 in fees. So how do we do things with the results we have? I know your issues with tuition, so you won't be adding another \$500 on top of that! But that's the money we need. Until grads can pay that level, we need undergrads here. That's just the reality of it. You're not looking happy. While I'm here, I will advocate for grad students. I want to make this place strong enough that this situation will last.

-Mac: I understand the numbers. Some of the undergrads, based on the numbers, will be young students. How do we know they're mature if they're incoming? The message keeps changing.

-Michael: The thing is "mature" is a technical term for an age group of students. I see what you're saying. The issue is we'll have students fresh out of high school. But we will foster them in a good, non-party environment. You'll always get bad apples, and I don't see the undergrad numbers increasing exponentially. The Traill plan for the review is pretty clear. The focus will be fostering upper year students. And since Craig's here, we'll be working together a lot on this. If we'd done this later, we would have developed dynamic spaces for grads. We'll still be working on this to create dynamic spaces. I want to create spaces where any grad student can use space at Traill. Though we would have done the renos first. I know people will be unhappy,

though. But I'm in charge, so I'll be taking the kudos and the heat. I'm an advocate for you. Your needs are never at the back burner.

-Swarsattie: with Traill for incoming undergrads, will this just be a classroom setting or labs?

-Michael: the renos here are single and double rooms. They have to put showers back in, and carpeting and sound proofing.

-Swarsattie: are they having classes here?

-Michael: there already are undergrad classes here. We won't be building new labs at this point. Students entitled through CUPE contract have been relocated to the second and first floors of WH. Traill has been lax on office space. For the next little while, we have to go to the letter of the law. No office if no TAship.

-Swarsattie: so even if they're all together in one room, they can use that space to write?

-Michael: Craig and I are investigating all kinds of spaces here.

-Laura: with the offices being relocated, someone on the 2nd floor... is someone going to be coming into the office? Will we be sharing desks?

-Michael: I don't think so. The new offices down here are 3 desks. The configuration is the same. You won't be sharing chairs.

-Laura: that's good to hear. In the review, it says the uni should double the grad fee and schedule more increases. I feel like most grads will be reluctant to raise the fee to \$200. What would happen if the GSA is not willing to do this?

-Michael: an ancillary fee has to be voted. What will happen is that it becomes hard for me to defend this space as exclusively grad space. It'll be really tough for me to defend you. Currently, even the \$30 is \$6000 more, which is matched by the undergrads. You can see the economies of scale here. The other complicated thing is that undergrads are paying more.

-Laura: but that's something problematic with the Uni in general. We pay more tuition than they do. That should be taken into account.

-Michael: that's a bigger discussion. I won't suggest that some of your tuition is transferred to the college, but the tuition money? I never see it. It doesn't go to the college. We want a grad college, but the collegiate system is expensive. If the undergrads didn't want to pay, the collegiate system collapses. If no one pays, it simply doesn't happen. And I don't want to see that.

-Laura: is there a compromise? \$200 seems like a lot.

-Michael: and even then, it STILL wouldn't be enough money. What I'm offering right now? You would technically need to pay \$400 a year for it.

-Laura: is the SCR staying for faculty and grads?

-Michael: I do want that to be the case. One of the seminar rooms is being taken over, as well as the Trend. So in my mind, they won't be taking over the SCR. I was speaking with Craig to bring the spaces together. And I would like the SCR to be used as a sessional and graduate space.

-Erin: my understanding is that when you're in your first year, you select your residence. Depending on the way that this residency is advertised, it's not guaranteed who's actually coming here. If you are a non-mature student, and you hear that students are heading to the off-campus residence, you'll be more likely to come to Traill. That might have a big influence on the people coming in.

-Michael: that's a great point. All the promotional material reflects this. Also, the reason this issue happened was that we didn't have enough room for high-achieving students. These are the people given advanced residency.

-Erin: and there are 30 spots. These are people who wanted this.

-Michael: right, and part of moving forward is to promote Traill more.

-Erin: so they'll know this is a mature college.

-Michael: we have no first year off-res coming here this year. We are putting in controls. There are other colleges that will provide better fits.

-Erin: and I don't think they'd want to be here either.

-Michael: I do think that in a year of two, people will see this college as the mature college.

-Sarah: it feels like there's one discussion about a competition with funds, and then there's the office space. This is softening up the idea that there will be no more office spaces? The point is I use my office every day, and that's why I continue on at Trent. Is it possible that WH will be all residence at some point?

-Michael: there's no plan right now, but I really don't know. We're at a space premium here at Traill. I want to have a number of different spaces at Traill. I'm a softy. I want better, more flexible office spaces. You should get the office space you need, as should someone in the Sciences. We don't offer that to Science students, so why would they come here? I hope we can be flexible. The draw for PH. D students is the office spaces. I want you to be happy, but you may not be guaranteed office spaces for your entire dissertation. But we need the money to do that.

-Sarah: I guess I was just curious as to whether there were plans to remove offices.

-Michael: no. Definitely not.

-Sarah: it sounds like the 30 students won't be the end of it. Another question: you have to be TAing or just eligible to get an office?

-Michael: section 11 says that.

-Erin: and in summer semesters?

-Michael: hopefully this will fix itself when we get more office space, but right now, anyone we know is TAing in the fall has it for summer and fall. I believe in a community of scholars. We need to meet the reality of the undergrad cohort. We will be getting better facilities, and new funding opportunities.

-Mac: so with increasing fees... we pay the fees we need to the college and have lower tuition rates! But as far as it goes, who was making the decisions on the Traill review? We were only told about two things of a very extensive document.

-Michael: yeah, so basically the process was that this was a presidential review. The initial conversation was between Chris and the President. President wrote a response that you saw. He stressed that they were deciding what parts of the Traill report to implement. We need to have further conversations about this. And I'll be working on this too. We will be looking at the priorities. Eventually, every recommendation in the report will be addressed, and we will see if they can be addressed.

-Mac: I'm curious. It's interesting that certain aspects were implemented really quickly. Even the review said to bring in undergrads slowly, which wasn't done that way. It's picking and choosing.

-Michael: in a perfect world, residence tinkering would have been at the end. But if there is money, you take it and use it. It was an opportunity we couldn't ignore. I see it as a way forward. If you let us implement things as they will, there won't be further surprises. You have to trust me. Wallis Hall was a unique case.

d.-Michael: I want to create a peer mentorship program to get the ball rolling. I want to start getting people together who will be part of the team. Philosophically, a college should be doing

this, and it will show that grads are engaged in helping. Have mature, refined undergraduates after.

b.-Michael: we have implemented a policy that communications go through the college, bringing us in line with what all other colleges are doing. So if the GSA needs to communicate, David gets in touch with me and I send it off. Which guarantees that everyone knows what's going on?

-Laura: is that permanently the way it's going to be? Or could the GSA have its own access at some point? Right now the TCSA can send out stuff related to elections and surveys. I feel that politically, having the emails filtered through admin is problematic.

-Michael: the TGSA needs to look through the undergrad guidelines and have something along those lines. Should you be using the corporate system of the University to do this, or create your own system? To avoid this issue, you populate your own student lists. These are things to investigate. And Orientation Week... it will be crazy. We need to talk very soon about what this will look like. There should be separate events for undergrads and grads, and even an event where everyone mixes together.

-Alexandra: so this week will be for the 30 undergrads?

-Michael: and grads. The activities would be separate at times and combined at others. There will be a sharing of activities.

e.Anastasia: sorry that these are later. I'm still getting my sea legs. We had very few applications, so everyone gets reimbursed. We can now transfer that extra over to the next application deadline to try to prevent proration. I would like to make a **motion to approve the \$1100 for the conference bursaries.**

Seconded: Laura Thursby

-Alexandra: this is to approve the conference bursary refund of \$1100 for this application period, which ended May 15th.

Approve: 12

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

****motion carries****

-Laura: can I just say that the May 15th deadline is ridiculous. So you should add something saying it will be a long processing period, or change the deadlines. It's not realistic.

-Mac: maybe extend to the end of August?

-Laura: that might be difficult because it's currently three equal spreads. The easiest way would be to say give a certain amount of time.

-Alexandra: we'll discuss this as the finance committee ****action item****

6. Executive Reports (see document attached by email):

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

Motion to accept the reports: Alexandra Ha

Seconded: Mackenzie Armstrong

Discussion

a.Alexandra: currently, we're having issues with the TCSA health plan, mostly with language. We don't have as much control over the plans as we're supposed to.

-Laura: what is that language?

-Alexandra: we're in the process of figuring it out.

e.Swarsattie: I met with Anastasia and looked at events for the year. Things look fine. I'll send out the plan by sometime next week.

-Anastasia: and the finance committee will meet to discuss this.

f.-Mac: I'll give the brief. I met with Aaron and Katherine. We'll be doing this with all departments. There will be meetings with all department reps to see if we can do more with them. We have another committee position open now, so I'll be looking for anyone interested.

-Yeukai: will you advertise this?

-Mac: yes, we've sent out info about it. In our Other Business, we'll be talking about this further. It'll be fully advertised.

Approve: 12

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

****motion carries****

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

- a. **OGSA Commissioner:** Around a month ago, I was asked if the OGSA meeting could be held at Trent in July and I suggested that we could hold it this coming weekend (the 16th). I asked for logistical information so I could book the correct type of rooms and order the right amount of food. I never heard back from this email. At this point, all of my weekends are booked up until after Labour day. If I receive a reply to still hold it in the summer, I will suggest that it be during the week as I am much more able to meet at that time. If that is not a possibility, I will be able to do the planning for the meeting and get everything organized/ set up, but I will not be able to attend. I was also wondering if any of the executive required anything from the OGSA at this point? (For instance, bylaw or leadership training?) I would be happy to see what services are available for the executive, so please just let me know and I would be happy to send another email.

Motion to accept the reports: Alexandra Ha

Seconded: Elizabeth Aslin

Discussion

a.Laura: they emailed me back this morning! They want to have the event August 6th. My plans are tentative then. If I can't do the event, I'll get ahold of you. They haven't really given much notice. So I'm going to see if I can change around my plans. But Saturdays in the summer are very hard.

-Alexandra: I can potentially fill in. Let me know. And you mentioned leadership training?

-Laura: last year, the OGSA said they are interested in starting services for GSAs across Ontario, because we aren't seeing additional services for what we pay. I suggested we need to have something for that. So they suggested leadership training. So if there's anything you need that

they could do, I can propose that to them. They would be doing this training. They have an executive director, a president, and others who would be able to help. I can propose your comments to them.

-Alexandra: all right. Summaries from other commissioners? Miteb?

-Miteb: I'll wait for us to meet with Alison. The national student tab was taken out. So when we have the info, we'll update the website. We need to worry about costs, which is not being published. Everything is going fine so far, though.

Approve: 12

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

****motion carries****

8. Departmental Issues/Question Period

- a. **Ph.D. Cultural Studies Rep (tabled from previous meeting):** What is the level of student involvement in their respective program committees? (ie: 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.
- b. **Ph.D. Cultural Studies Rep (tabled from previous meeting):** 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.

Discussion

a. Joshua: the issue centers around the idea of doctoral students teaching courses. In our department, there's no official involvement. There could potentially be a position there as a student rep to facilitate student concerns, like will there be doctoral teachings. I'm asking what the other student programs are like from other departments.

-Craig: I can tackle some of this. From a practical perspective, we had a masters and PhD sit on the committees as voting members. Not everyone's doing it. Our undergrad department in biology has a program review and the external reviewer slammed us because we didn't have an undergrad rep on our hiring committee. To the second point, it was approved that Ph.D. students can teach undergrad courses and that it was encouraged to give grads skills.

-Laura: article 5.10 of the CUPE agreement! Look it up.

-Craig: it went through faculty board this past year. It's still 10 hours per week. We're now looking at it as your average over the whole year. Hours can be moved to teaching. It's up to individual departments.

-Joshua: that's the way this question came to be formatted. HOW it is implemented in the departments.

-Craig: right, there's no issue with the university itself.

-Mac: in our department, we only have an MA degree. When this comes up, we discussed advertising, and the committee pulls in more grad students to discuss it.

-Laura: just about the ten-hour thing. In our collective agreement, it says 10 hours a week up to 120 per term, so the average thing seems more complicated.

-Craig: the 10 hours per week is an OGS criteria mandated from the province. Grad students is taking a relaxed view on what that is. If it's in the agreement, it should be looked at.

-Laura: just to say, we work way more than 10 hours per week. It's a bit problematic currently.

-Craig: we like to encourage our PH.D. students to get the opportunity. We'll be signing off on it.

-Sarah: in Canadian Studies, we have a student association, we also have a masters and PhD on the board. This year, with a new director we had a PhD and ma position not filled. And other times for hiring, we have other committees. And the other thing is similar to Laura's, but you've answered it. So the 10 hours OGS is more flexible? It is. Okay.

-Craig: yeah, we're looking at this for the whole year. There are summer hours that can be moved. That's how we're interpreting it.

-Laura: I'm in the same program as Josh, and I was wondering if you have suggestions about approaching our department about becoming active voting members on program committees.

-Joshua: to add to that... is it as simple as talking to the director?

-Craig: sure. They may just not have thought of it. We've had students who get on committees and then disappear, so they can sometimes be forgotten. Maybe have a chat, and if you're not getting anywhere, you can chat with me. I think this is very beneficial. You don't know the problems if you're not talking to the students.

-Joshua: maybe it's a case that this has lapsed.

9. Main Motions

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10. Other Business

10.1 Motion: Budget for August Event

Whereas we are given funding to hold an August Event, I propose a "Taco Fest" on August 12, 2016.

BIRT the TGSA will host a "Taco Fest" at Traill Campus, and

BIFRT a budget of \$200.00 will be set to cover the cost for beverages, tacos, and other food required for the event.

Justification

After having our last two events on Symons Campus, it is only fair to have this one at Traill. Our last BBQ was a success, indicating to us that food is something all graduate students like, hence a Taco fest is expected to get graduate students to come and enjoy some Tacos.

Additionally, after speaking to Jennifer Richardson who advised that the graduate Fall 2016 orientation will be around September 6-9, August 12 seemed like a good date.

Motion: Swarsattie Kishun

Seconded: Laura Thursby

Discussion

-Laura: tacos are awesome!

-Sarah: veggie options?

-Swarsattie: is there a veggie taco?

-Sarah: for sure, there's veggie based stuff that is like meat

-Swarsattie: we'll try our best to have a number of options.

-Elizabeth: I'm celiac, so how is that covered?

-Swarsattie: can you send me an email about that? I don't really know much gluten free stuff. So we'll try to have as many options as possible.

-Laura: for vegan tacos, sweet potatoes and peppers are a great option!

Approve: 12

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

****motion carries****

10.2 Discussion of Vision 20/20 (VP Senate)

Minutes

-Mac: so this is the cover letter and the full booklet that IT has presented. I'll just give the brief expert. ****reads terms of reference**** They're looking for input. If you know anyone who wants to look into technological strategies for the future, pass their name on to me! I'll get in touch with the committee after.

10.3 Motion to Add Marisol Campos to the Board as Equity Committee Commissioner

Motion to Add Marisol Campos as the TGSA Board as Equity Commissioner: Alexandra Ha

Seconded: Laura Thursby

Minutes

-Elizabeth: I know I missed her talk at the beginning, but I'm in her program, and she is incredibly engaged. I can't say anything bad about her. She has my support.

-Mac: on record, I'm very happy that she went for this position. She seemed like the kind of person who would be great for the job.

Approve: 12

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

****motion carries****

11. Notice of Motions and Announcements

a. NONE

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting: Alexandra Ha

Seconded: Yeukai Katanda

Discussion

-Alexandra: thanks so much for coming to the meeting, Craig!

Approve: 12

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

****motion carries****