

Minutes of TGSA Board Meeting, 10/11/2016

Start: 16:04, **End:** 18:00

Location: GSC345, Gzowski College, Symons Campus, Trent University

Chair: Alexandra Ha

Scribe: David Hollands

Attendance: MacKenzie Armstrong, Swarsattie Kishun, Alison Fraser, Laura Thursby, Erin Laverty, David Hollands, Jessica Hinton, Alicia Hartley, Yeukai Katanda, Alexandra Ha, Zankhna Mody, Sarah Jessup, Yasmin Strautins, Alaine Spiwak (guest), 13 members - **quorum met**

1. Presentation(s) and Discussion(s) without voting

- a. **Alaine Spiwak:** Discussion of Joint Health and Dental Benefits Plan
- b. **Jessica Hinton:** “On Indigenous Peoples and Histories” (click [here](#) to see Presentation slides)
- c. **Swarsattie Kishun:** Presentation on the Charter of student rights and responsibilities and the violence and harassment policy and procedures.

Minutes

-a.**Alaine Spiwak presents**

-Alaine: I wanted to discuss the Health and Dental Plan in a different light this agenda. I would like to address the points made in [Addendum I](#). **reads TCSA statement** We wish to have this document removed from your agenda online. It's important for me to be here today to say that Tracy is doing everything she can in the best way. There are better ways to address concerns. That being said, point 4: the sentiment that the current terms of the MoU were not followed. From day one, we were always ready to work with you all, and we did not hear from your executive on the first memorandum, which really hindered the negotiation process originally. The TGSA came to the TCSA came to us. We really want to keep that spirit of collaboration alive. If this plan is not something that graduate students want to see, you're free to do whatever you'd like, but grad students did vote for this. I don't know at what length you want to discuss this. I can answer any questions now that people have.

-Alison: as per the addendum, I can correct number 1 to state at the end that the meeting with Alex and adjacent parties was not communicated back to the executive. We did not know that. I am willing to change number 1 in that regard. 2: there was a blackout period that Miteb didn't know about.

-Laura: I still am in a blackout.

-Alaine: just so you know, the first listing that goes to RWAM is on August 29th.

-Laura: that's something that should be communicated to us.

-Alison: I registered before then, and I was still denied.

-Laura: I still haven't been reimbursed.

-Alaine: if this is a problem that's happening, Tracy hasn't been informed.

-Laura: I called the TCSA and lodged a formal complaint, and that I was still in a blackout. I was at a conference, and I had to get

-Alison: I was denied a prescription that almost made me go into withdrawal. We have lost control of our plan.

-Alaine: I'm not the person to address these in this detail. These kinds of things happen in these kinds of plans. These things do happen.

-Alison: we ran our own plan before. This is unprecedented.

-Laura: I don't know whose fault this way. I'm not placing blame on the TCSA, but I do agree with Alison in the sense that things were smoother last year. If there is a blackout period before the registration date, we should be told that we need to register before August 29th. It's a huge problem if they're not.

-Alaine: I feel we can explore these things. I feel like this is on the C&C side of things. It can be difficult at times to include all students on their sides.

-Laura: yes, that does happen. When I called the TCSA, they said I wasn't on the list that was sent, and that was in October.

-Alaine: I can let you know that Drew from the C&C said that there was a discrepancy due to RWAM having delays on the second list.

-Erin: I'm registered as a grad student. What do you mean by "late?"

-Alaine: August 29th.

-Erin: Once my coursework is finished, I register as a student. I don't have courses, I just have my thesis.

-Laura: that's also registering.

-Sarah: I had asked for some feedback from students in my program about the plan. A question is where can we express our concerns about the RWAM site. Where can we express concerns about the actual coverage? For example, one student has a family, and it's now more expensive than it was last year. In addition, they have needs that are now not covered. Her example was a test to understand learning challenges, a cost of \$3000.00 and is only covered to \$250.00. Where can we go with these concerns?

-Alaine: It is our understanding that any concerns will be coming through Miteb, your Health commissioner. The TGSA will then bring those concerns to our committee, which was formed about three weeks ago. We hope that constituents report to their association, and then the association forwards. I would suggest bringing all these concerns to Miteb.

-Alison: I would like to say that the MoU does not have clear explanations of feedback. We also have no voting power.

-Alaine: yes, and that was communicated to us at the beginning of negotiations. I don't want to dive back into that. It's important to remember that the TDSA was at the table as well, and understood all components of the MoU. The reason why we could do this merger is the number of undergraduates, which is why adding Durham and graduates made sense. That's how a good price was set for everyone. It doesn't make sense for a smaller group of students to join our plan, and then we have little power over how benefits are administered. It is yours and your students' decision to stay in this merger. And I want to have the formal chain of communication set to facilitate. This can be worked out.

-Alison: this is frankly annoying to hear. I wrote all of that into earlier drafts of MoU, and the TCSA removed those every single time. We had them in writing, and the TCSA took them out. I would argue that the TCSA actually doesn't want any of those things. Everything about chains of communications were removed. You took them out. They don't exist.

-Alaine: I'm only here to express to you that we are here to work things out. I don't see the benefit in not having every student represented as best as possible. I don't want to have this kind of negative conversation about something

-Mac: but it does benefit you monetarily. You just said that.

-Pippa: to clarify, our premiums went up. There was a small increase, but not in proportional to cost. The hope was that it would reduce operation costs. It's not actually true that we're benefiting monetarily this year. The hope was that the merger would benefit all of us.

-Alaine: we won't get a full financial picture yet.

-Mac: are those figures projected if we had NOT signed on, in terms of cost per student.

-Zippa: our rates went out more because of the merger, because grads have higher usage rates.

-Mac: that's more than what would have been expected? If you're paying more, what would be the purpose of us even coming on board then? It seems like C&C may have misled you.

-Zippa: a large number of grads were previously undergrads, and it isn't in our interest to see students go without good access to benefits. It wasn't a significantly higher cost to us, but it would have been more had grads not joined.

-Alaine: that's why it was difficult in the summer when we faced challenges working with the TGSA to pull the MoU together. Tracy is working really hard to help all students across campuses. We feel like the statements made against her do not reflect the work she put in.

-Alison: the GSA board of directors does not approve of the MoU as it is currently written.

-Laura: as someone who sat in on the meeting last year. I just wanted to read my notes here.

****reads notes**** Our referendum vote said that we would retain the right to cancel the merger and have an exit strategy, in essence saying we could leave whenever we want, and that was in discussions with Tracy and Drew. I was there, and that's what I have written down.

-Alaine: we talked about this in the summer, and unfortunately we don't have formal minutes about this. I can't speak to that, unfortunately.

-Alexandra: going forward, we need to have minutes for all joint meetings in the future.

-Laura: I don't think this has much to do with the TCSA, but when the Dean was there in a previous meeting, he mentioned that Trent needed to know our fees in May. Our exec last year decided on our fees later, so I'm not sure why that changed this year. I'm not sure why Trent decided that that was the new rule, which was not communicated to me.

-Alaine: thank you for having us here. We'll be setting the first Health and Dental meeting this semester.

****Alaine and Zippa leave****

-Alexandra: any final comments about the discussion?

-Alison: it's coming up again anyway.

b. ****presents On Indigenous Histories and Peoples****

-Jessica: so, this stemmed from a problem where there was a TGSA event that was promoted as a Mexican night, or something to that effect. There is certain discriminatory language toward Indigenous peoples that need to be addressed. I felt from that event that there was some misunderstanding on what such an event represented, not only for indigenous peoples here, but all over the world. I wanted to talk to you about what you know about Indigenous peoples in Ontario or even Peterborough. Were you taught about the Indian Act, Residential Schools, etc?

-Yasmin: in High School, I had specific profs that chose to talk about Residential Schools. As far as I know, it's at the discretion of teachers rather than the curriculum.

-Laura: it wasn't until university that I gained a greater understanding of that. Waiting until university for that is so problematic. I think it's good to have a general discussion of what ideas we're promoting as an inclusive GSA.

-Jessica: I felt the need to protect my husband's identity and culture over the post on your Facebook page regarding the Taco fest. I want him to feel that he can be safe.

-Erin: I don't know what was offensive.

-Jessica: is anyone from the States? It's not really a problem here because we don't border Mexico, but there are horribly offensive stereotypes that impact how you see Mexican people and also Indigenous Peoples. You can't even name how racist it is to associate Indigenous Peoples, Mexicans with greasy tacos. Food is huge in Indigenous communities. The image was associating American Tex Mex with Indigenous foods. You might not think it affects you, but it does. Does anyone know the differences between Indigenous Peoples? **shows PowerPoint slides**

-Jessica: so, it's also important to remember that Canada and Indigenous Peoples have different definitions of what that is. For example, Aboriginal means "not-original." Most Indigenous Peoples prefer that you call them by their titles

-Mac: I actually did have some academics say it's better to use Aboriginals.

-Alison: I also had some people back home say that they prefer Aboriginal, so this is complicated

-Jessica: the Indian Act recognizes that First Nations are Indians, and Indians are the only ones who have status. Status is messed up because regardless of whether a community was matriarchal or not, status was assigned through the father. Different nations are patrilineal, but some aren't. Status doesn't work because of the blood quantum. And if a native woman marries a white man, her status is gone. It doesn't matter how Indigenous you are, if the agent assigns your identity, you either pass that down or you don't get status. Status Indians and non-status Indians is a really confusing categorization, and it's often not accurate at all.

-Alison: in terms of colonialism, labels become bodily. It's a corruption of the Ingenious context.

-Yeukai: who was assigning the status?

-Jessica: the federal government set up the department of Aboriginal affairs, send out agents, and then they would assign status based on how you looked. Bill C-31 was ratified to make sure that women didn't lose their status. But that has led to further problems. **continues to present slideshow**

-Jessica: I don't know if anyone managed to check out the links at the end of my slideshow. It would be really great if you could read the article by Chelsea Vowel. It provides basic information and starts you off from the beginning.

-Mac: I'm frankly surprised that some of the board members had a greater understanding of this from High School. In Grade 7 for me, it was one page in a textbook.

-Alicia: I'm from Newfoundland, so we don't learn Canadian history until High School. Before then, it's all Newfoundland history, so we are taught about Indigenous Peoples, including field trips, guests, etc.

c.**Swarsattie Kishun presents**

2. Call to Order

3. Motion to Approve the Agenda: Alexandra Ha

Seconded: David Hollands

Discussion

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Approve: 13

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

****motion carries****

4. Motion to Approve the Minutes from the October 11th, 2016 Board Meeting: Alexandra Ha

Seconded: Swarsattie Kishun

Discussion

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Approve: 12

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 1

****motion carries****

5. Presentation(s) and Discussion(s) with/without Motions

- a. **VP Internal Affairs:** Discussion of date and time of the TGSA Fall General Assembly Meeting.
- b. **VP Internal Affairs:** Discussion of a referendum vote regarding the TGSA's place in the joint Health and Dental Benefits plan. (see [Addendum I](#) for more information)
- c. **President:** TGSA Advertising and Marketing Ideas: Ideas to get grad students engaged in the various events, activities, and opportunities provided by the TGSA for grad students. Each board member is to come up with at least one idea (e.g., social media platforms such as snapchat, postings on the TGSA Facebook group, ideas beyond social media, etc.) and offer this suggestion during this presentation.

Minutes

-a. Motion from the floor:

Whereas the TGSA has to have a Fall General Meeting (GM),

BIRT the Fall GM be held on November 30, 2016 at 6pm-8pm in a location at Trill College.

Motion: Alison Fraser

Seconded: David Hollands

Approve: 13

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

****motion carries****

-Swarsattie: so, I know we said we were going to have pizza, but we have more money in our budget for other things

-Alison: we should probably save that for emergencies. Our budget isn't tight, but we should save the money whenever we can.

-Swarsattie: okay, that's fine.

b. Alison: so, point number one. Apparently, Tracy did respond. I sent out a written addendum to the addendum for David. That aside, I'm still going to say that there isn't reliable communication happening, like the blackout period.

-Laura: who's problem was that?

-Alison: they're blaming us

-Laura: was that info available to Miteb?

-Alison: he was unaware there would be a blackout. It was not communicated to us. So, we're having persistent problems with this. The TGSA cannot fix these problems because we do not have control over our plan.

-Laura: I don't think that's the TCSA's fault. I think that's Student VIP.

-Alison: either way, we can't fix it.

-Laura: Miteb has the contact info. It's not their job to communicate on our behalf.

-Alison: actually, it is. Finally, the terms and conditions of the final MoU is not good. I think we should discuss whether or not we want to bring a referendum to the next GM.

-Laura: can this be for the next GM? We need to research other options and put into a proposal before we do this. Maybe this isn't appropriate for the November AGM.

-Alison: the timeline is really tight, unfortunately. We are capable of holding special meetings throughout the year.

-Mac: it would be best to do it by February.

-Sarah: in prep for this, is it possible to get more feedback from grads first?

-Alexandra: all the program reps should be in contact with their students?

-Laura: can we do a survey? I can help with that.

-Erin: I was unclear on what Alaine was saying about being disrespected?

-Alison: that's me. They don't like me. They are afraid that I am disrespecting them.

-Erin: there were a lot of different concerns, but the claim about being disrespected should be addressed.

-Alison: Tracy is staff, not a student. She makes good money working as the TCSA's staff

-Mac: it's because this addendum is up on the website. That's what's disrespectful is that this info is publicly available.

-Alison: I did receive an amendment to this. Overall, though, Tracy did not get in touch with me. I'm just calling her out on that. The TCSA cannot communicate at all!

-Laura: if the problem is posting this, we should get Miteb to look over it, maybe?

-Alison: this is my statement. If they gave me the statement in writing, I would have posted it.

-Mac: it comes down to the fact that we're not rolling over and accepting it. They've done things that violate the original agreement. They're upset that we're speaking up about this. They're trying to turn it around to say that this is how the GSA always wanted it.

-Erin: so clearly this is a communication thing. I was just confused about what the issue was originally.

-Laura: I guess my only concern with having this posted at this point is that they can just say we're not part of the plan anymore. My concern is that our job is to represent grads, and if grads decide to stay in this plan, we should be careful about how we proceed, even though this is in violation of recognizing our own autonomy. That is something that I would be concerned about. Making this public could be a fallout.

-Alison: but it's me that they have a problem with. I already amended one point. I'm not taking this down on a friendly level. You'll have to motion me to take it down. For the record, the complaint should be submitted TO ME in writing to be addressed properly. All of what I wrote is true. Should they wish to seek further complaints, they can reach me.

-Yeukai: I'm very confused as to what the issue is. What I think I heard is that Tracy is complaining about statements in our agenda? In the spirit in diplomacy and professionalism, we

need to make it right. There's no harm in having Tracy talk about her concerns. Right now, I don't know if Tracy's complaints are valid. Even if she's a staff member, she could come to our meetings and explain. I think we should follow the route of professional dialogue. There are many ways of doing this the right way. I'm thinking it would be more efficiently resolved with Tracy here. Meanwhile, we don't ignore their requests to take down the addendum.

-Alexandra: I motion to take the posting down for now awaiting discussion from Alaine and Tracy.

Seconded: Yeukai Katanda

-Erin: perhaps it's a proposed amendment. If she's feeling disrespected, I'm unclear about that. If it's just the one thing that was amended, then the problem is solved. I think we should contact her directly. I propose that we ask her what it is specifically that she finds disrespectful.

-Alexandra: I suspect it's the whole process in general.

-Sarah: I don't feel like I know as much about this as others. To her, I think it's personal because it's her job. And that these are isolated statements without an opportunity to discuss further. By putting these statements in here, she doesn't have an opportunity to explain, and it LOOKS like it is by putting this addendum out. That's what I got from it.

-Mac: in some ways, this whole thing is ridiculous. The reason why the stuff is up there is for us to stay above board. We had an issue with this before with grad studies, and they suggested we take down our meeting minutes. We should be able to discuss our issues without feeling like we need to dance around egg shells. Communication is just an email away. Why is this not happening? Why are we not hearing straight from Tracy?

-Alison: the TCSA will not speak with me. This is now a personal issue, I'm betting. They don't like me. I'm sorry to Tracy if she felt I made her look bad. If she submits that letter to me, I can address her concerns.

-Yeukai: I just wanted to have a friendly encouragement to Alison. You are representing the TGSA. My feeling is that you were doing your job for the GSA, and if you stop taking it personally, it'll be better for the discussion.

-Mac: in some ways, the problem is that THEY are taking it personally. For some reason—

-Yeukai: but let's be the bigger person and live by example.

-Mac: what we're doing is arguing with facts.

-Laura: I guess my thing is I don't really care if we offended Tracy. I care about us losing the health plan. I think these points need to be communicated, but that things need a bit more clarity: where does the responsibility lie? I can perceive some of these comments as slanderous. I know that Miteb has been in contact with Student VIP, so number 3 would fall more in line with them than with the TCSA. I think some of these statements should be clarified, or we should have a discussion to get their side of things as well. I think not posting them today is fine, but that we come out with them at a later date.

-Erin: if we contact Tracy directly, what happens if she asks us to take it down completely?

-Alison: then so be it! That'll be very telling. The response from Tracy will be delivered to the board.

Approve: 9

Oppose: 4

Abstain: 1

****motion carries****

6. Executive Reports (see [Addendum II](#)):

- 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: Anastasia Nepotiuk

Discussion

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Approve: 13

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

****motion carries****

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

- a. **OGSA Commissioner Report:** I would like to have a brief discussion of the goals that we would like the OGSA to assist us with this year (see Commissioner Report for specific ones that I list). I am wondering if I am missing anything very important, and I wanted us to spend a bit of time as a group to prioritize and rank which goals we find most important so we can create a task list for me to bring to the OGSA. (See [Addendum III](#) for report.)
- b. **CASSC (Alison Fraser):** Non-compulsory ancillary fee protocol. Change to remove Food and Residence Fees to Non-compulsory ancillary fee protocol. Would predominately affect those on the food plan or those in undergraduate residences. Attached files.

Motion to accept the reports:

Seconded:

Discussion

a. ****not enough time to proceed with commissioner reports****

-Laura: read what I wrote, see the suggestions, and get back to me asap about that. If you have a certain preference for what I should prioritize, let me know, as well as suggestions. If I don't receive feedback, I'm going to send what I wrote.

Approve:

Oppose:

Abstain:

8. Departmental Issues/Question Period

- a. --

Discussion

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9. Main Motions

9.1 Schedule Special Board Meeting with the TGSA Board and Auditors

Whereas the auditors be invited to the board meeting before the GM to go over financial statements with an estimated finish time of the third week of November,

BIRT that the TGSA board of directors schedule a special board meeting to go over these statements before the GM.

Justification:

The bylaws suggest that the auditors be invited to this meeting. The auditors have also suggested that they come and explain their results to the board before the GM.

Motion: Anastasia Nepotiuk

Seconded: Alison Fraser

Discussion

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Approve: 13

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

****motion carries****

****ALL FOLLOWING MOTIONS, INCLUDING 10.1, DEFERRED TO ONLINE VOTING BY THE BOARD DUE TO LACK OF TIME. SEE [ADDENDUM IV](#) FOR RESULTS OF MOTIONS****

9.2 Fall AGM Budget

Whereas the 2016-2017 budget needs to be ratified at the fall GM,

BIRT that the TGSA board approves this budget to bring to the general membership.

Justification:

The 2016-17 TGSA budget needs to be approved by the board to bring to the general membership.

Motion: Anastasia Nepotiuk

Seconded:

Discussion

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Approve:

Oppose:

Abstain:

9.3 Stop Holding Board Meetings at Symons Campus

Whereas Symons campus is not easily accessible to graduate students, most of whom live off campus,

BIRT future Board Meetings be held at Traill College or an equally accessible location as per the requirements in the TGSA Bylaws and Policies.

Justification:

See TGSA Bylaw 27.06.

Motion: Alison Fraser

Seconded:

Discussion

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Approve:

Oppose:

Abstain:

9.4 Blanket November Event

Whereas we are given funding to hold a November Event, a student proposed a "Blanket Event,"

BIRT the TGSA will host a "Blanket event" on Symons campus, and

BIFRT a budget of \$100.00 will be set to cover the cost of beverages and light snacks.

Justification:

As VP Student affairs, it is my duty to take any suggestions from students. Our indigenous studies representative believes that this would be a great cultural event and I agree. Because our last event was hosted at Traill college, I propose the Symons campus for this event.

Motion: Swarsattie Kishun

Seconded:

Discussion

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Approve:

Oppose:

Abstain:

10. Other Business

10.1 Liquor License for Traill College Dinner

Whereas the TGSA has in the past paid for the liquor license for Traill college's dinner,

BIRT that the TGSA pay \$100 for the liquor license for Traill College's Dinner on November 25th (Friday) as the College cannot provide its own liquor license (ref. Michael Eamon).

Justification:

Traill College cannot pay for the liquor license on its own and therefore seek out help.

Motion: Alexandra Ha

Seconded:

Discussion

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Approve:

Oppose:

Abstain:

10.2 Presentation

Establishing a Traill College Cabinet, had a discussion with Pippa, Boomer, and Annette about this, who makes up the cabinet, how it can involve grad students, etc.

10.3 Presentation (MacKenzie Armstrong)

A presentation on what the Senator does.

11. Notice of Motions and Announcements

- a. **VP Internal Affairs:** Have a CASSC Mental Health working group and Accessibility working group. If you want to make meaningful change at Trent in these two topics please email me, Alison Fraser, at vpinternalaffairstgsa@trentu.ca. Also, starting a Housing subcommittee for reviewing graduate residences.
- b. **VP Communications:** Have an idea for a video for the TGSA YouTube page? Let me know. vpcommunicationstgsa@trentu.ca

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting: Alexandra Ha
Seconded: Alison Fraser

Discussion

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Approve: 13

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

****motion carries****

Addendum I:
Report on Response to Joint Health and Dental Benefits Plan (VP Internal Affairs)

1. An email regarding a violation of the Memorandum of Understanding was sent to all involved parties, Student VIP, Tracy Milne, and the TCSA. As of this date no response has been received. The MoU violation was a failing to communicate by both VIP and the TCSA that graduate students have a graduate student representation to handle their problems.
2. There was a black-out period for graduate students that we were not aware of and was not communicated to the TGSA. Graduate students had to find out about this black out period by having their claims rejected.
3. There have been persistent problems with the names of some graduate students failing to be submitted by Tracy Milne and the TCSA, who are administrators of the joint health and dental benefits plan. Numerous emails and phone calls about the problem have been made to all parties including Student VIP and C&C Insurance. These students have had to exist without health and dental coverage. The TGSA cannot fix the problem because we do not have any control over our health and dental plan.
4. The terms and conditions of the current memorandum of understanding were not as originally promised in preliminary talks with both Student VIP and the TCSA. We have been forced into a health care plan over which we have no control in direct violation of what was originally promised to TGSA executive and in turn promised to graduate students by the TGSA at the Spring 2016 General Meeting.

Addendum II:
Executive Reports

President:

Canadian Association for Graduate Studies

I went to the conference and met with Deans, administrative staff, and executive members from other student associations across Canada. There were many talks, workshops, and meetings about issues concerning graduate studies and students such as making education more accessible, inclusive, etc. Other topics we discussed were funding issues, supervisor-student relationships, barriers international students face, mental health and wellness, etc. I met with the chair of CFS and talked to the OCGS crew. Email me if you would like Powerpoint slides of the various workshop and the CAGS program schedule.

Logo

I have been contact with graphic designers to design a new logo for TGSA.

VP Internal Affairs: Lots of committees. Still trying to get the Constitutional Changes committee up and running. Still trying to figure out what the extra charges are on the Trill College fee.

VP Finance: I have collected required information for the annual audit performed by McColl Turner. I have invited them to our board meeting as well as our GM. Additionally, I have updated our budget based on graduate student numbers from the grad studies office, and suggested the finance committee meet to finalize these. Also, the final conference bursary amount for Sept. 2016 was \$3961.93.

VP Communications: Have been busy running the Symons Seminar Series. Currently scheduling the date for the TGSA executives to record our introductory videos for the TGSA YouTube page.

VP of Student Affairs: Pippa (the events coordinator for the TCSA) emailed me about a collaborative event where undergrads can attend a gathering with graduate students to receive advice and insights about applying for graduate school. Because we already have the blanket event and our AGM happening this month and Festivus in December I advised her that a collaborative event will be great for January. Additionally, I went to the CASSC meeting on November 2nd, and they introduced a draft schedule for convocation. The Maters' psychology students are separated from the rest of the graduate students for convocation. I brought up my disagreement with this and Joanne mentioned that she is willing to push to have this changed, but her word will only have weight if students and faculty email her discussing their dissatisfaction.

Additionally, some notes that were taken during the meeting is below:

Only thing you would need to do is fill out the application to graduate

Advantage of applying early for graduation: if you are missing something, you can pick it up

If you are a joint major, the application will determine where they put you

Once you are approved: you will receive confirmation from the registrar office

Can do before convocation:

If you would like some photos: Miranda studios contracted, if you do it early you can be in the Trent year book

Choose song to walk off the stage at the end of the ceremony

The day of the convocation:

Arrive at AC in the north door, at 1.5 hrs before you r ceremony

Walk with your student card (to pick up your diplomas at the end of the ceremony)

You will be given a gown and the hood which represents the degree you will be getting

Photo will be taken on the stage and you can determine whether or not you want it afterwards

After convocation there is a reception where family can attend

Senator: --

Addendum III:
Full OGSA Commissioner Report

The October board meeting for the OGSA was cancelled due to not meeting quorum (for the record, I was able to attend). The next meeting has not yet been scheduled.

In the meantime, the OGSA has hired a new Executive Director (Lucas Dotto) to help oversee some of the operations of the OGSA. I had a Skype meeting with Lucas to discuss some of the issues that the OGSA should be focusing on this year. He also offered his support if we need any resources throughout the year. For instance, if something very important was going to be passed through senate (just as an example, the termination of a certain graduate program, or something extreme like that), then we could certainly either message him for advice, or he would be able to come speak on the senate floor and advocate for our graduate students for these important issues.

He also let us know that the OGSA has been invited to a roundtable on the Ontario tuition fee framework. This is a great opportunity for us to get our foot in the door of a potential new tuition framework which is a multi-billion dollar policy that we can have an impact on. This roundtable will be preceded by 1-on-1 meetings in Toronto that Lucas will take part in. I also extended an invitation for Lucas to attend a future board meeting, if we feel that this could be necessary/helpful.

As part of our discussion, I offered some of the priorities that I think Trent students might be most concerned with... I broke these down between graduate student-wide issues, and specific issues for Trent students, which I explain below:

Trent-Specific Issues

1. **GSA Sustainability:** We need to find better ways to strengthen our GSA and provide support for executives. We also need more assistance transitioning from one executive to another, especially in terms of education about leadership, policy, etcetera. The OGSA can help us by creating a support network and best practices for GSAs.
2. **Graduate Student representation at the university:** Finding ways for graduate students to have better representation at Trent, despite being dwarfed by the significantly larger undergraduate student population. Concerns about losing graduate student spaces, or not having specific graduate student services available (such as with mental health, academic skills, etcetera).
3. **Teaching opportunities for graduate students (especially scholarship holders):** Looking at how universities across Ontario implement rules for graduate students that dictate who can and cannot teach. Looking at why some universities allow scholarship holders (of Trillium and OGS) to teach courses, while Trent has conditions that prevent this from happening. Looking at strategies from other universities to see how graduate teaching has been implemented in the program design.

Graduate Student-Wide Issues

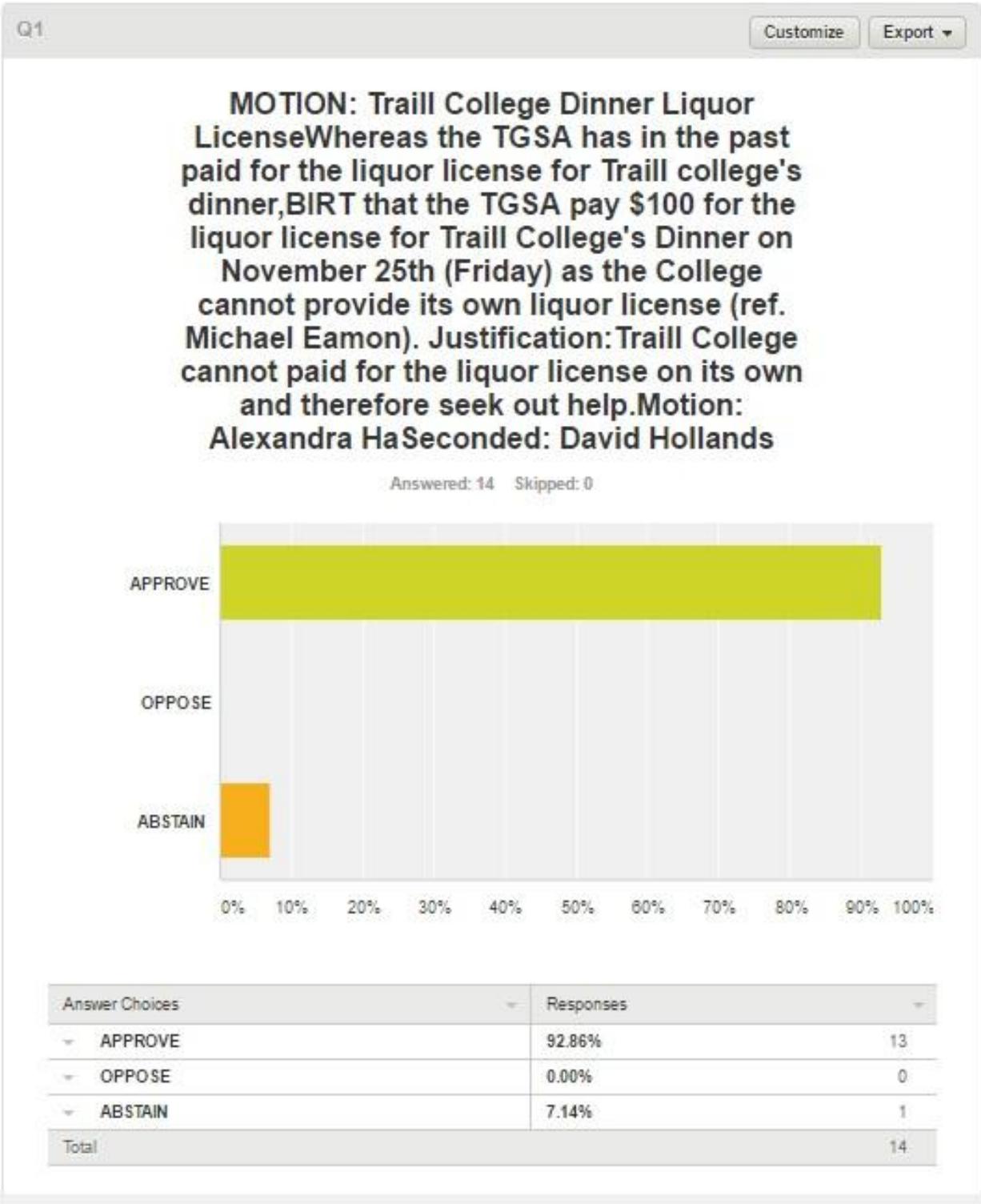
1. **Tuition:** Graduate student tuition rising each year, while graduate funding is mostly stagnant and yearly union wage increases are failing to keep pace. The gap between tuition and wages received for student-workers is narrowing. The situation especially distressing for International students. I suggested that we work on promoting the idea that

tuition and wages should be considered together (as should be the case for student-workers). (When tuition and wages are considered together, as they should be in the case of student-workers at Trent, this means that over a 5-year period the gap between tuition paid by students and wages received has narrowed from \$1946.23 in 2010 to just \$895.84 in 2015, a relative loss of \$1050. With many student-workers living at or just above the poverty line, and with increasing amounts of student debt and increasing inflation and the cost of living in Peterborough and across Canada, the narrowing of the tuition-wage gap is a serious problem that needs to be addressed).

2. **Post-Residency Fees:** Recognizing that students are paying often excessive amounts in tuition, and for PhD students who are done their course work after the first year or two of their degrees), pay for a library card, and often infrequent meetings with faculty advisors. Reduce the amount that students pay after coursework is finished.
3. **Differentiation:** Concerns about differentiation and what this could look like. I am not really sure what is being planned in regards to differentiation, but this seems to be the trend for a lot of graduate student programs across Ontario. Some of the plans for differentiation that I have heard are being proposed are a bit concerning- i.e. different schools will only offer certain programming based on what the school does well. Also, different kinds of PhDs could be offered (someone doing a project-based PhD and someone doing a traditional research-based PhD are doing very different things, and need to be recognized differently). I don't know very much about this issue, but I am hoping that we will discuss it in a future OGSA meeting so that I can update Trent graduate students about what is going on here.
4. **Job Prospects for after the Masters or PhD:** Creating better job opportunities/ bridges between graduate programs and entering the workforce.

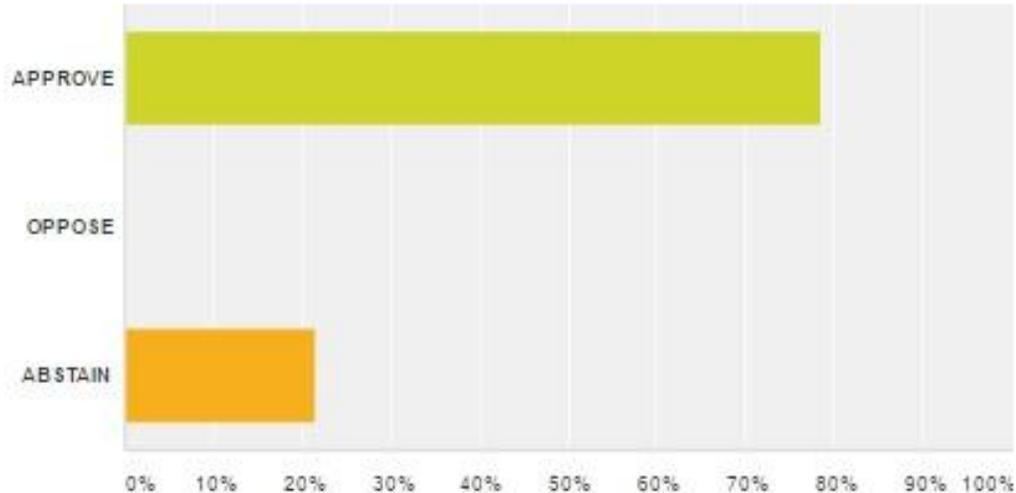
Mental health: Recognizing unique needs of graduate students for mental health and bringing greater awareness to the mental-health issues faced specifically by graduate students. Highlighting the importance of advocating for services that are tailored to graduate-specific challenges.

Addendum IV-
Results of Online Deferred Motions



MOTION: Blanket November Event Whereas we are given funding to hold a November Event, a student proposed a "Blanket Event," BIRT the TGSA will host a "Blanket event" on Symons campus, and BIFRT a budget of \$100.00 will be set to cover the cost of beverages and light snacks. Justification: As VP Student affairs, it is my duty to take any suggestions from students. Our indigenous studies representative believes that this would be a great cultural event and I agree. Because our last event was hosted at Traill college, I propose the Symons campus for this event. Motion: Swarsattie Kishun Seconded: David Hollands

Answered: 14 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
APPROVE	78.57% 11
OPPOSE	0.00% 0
ABSTAIN	21.43% 3

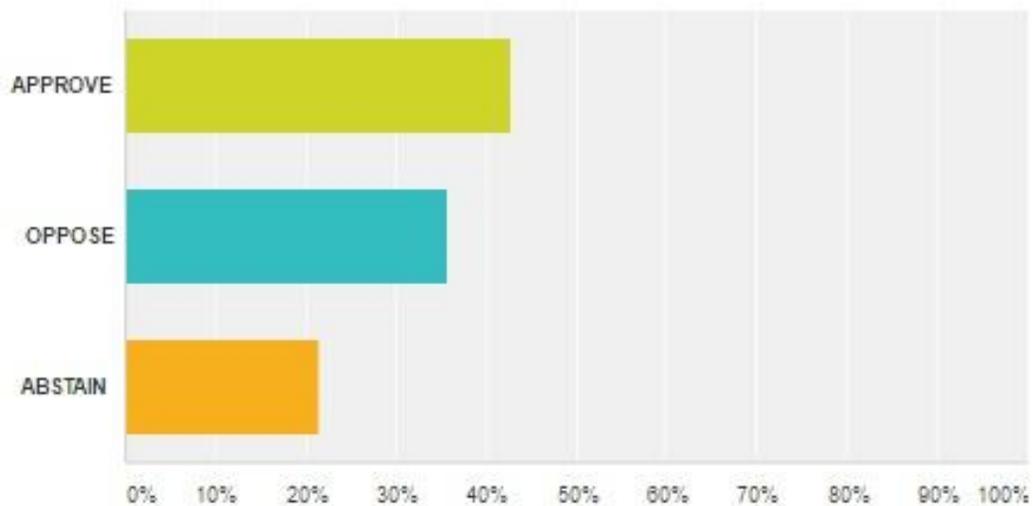
Q3

Customize

Export ▾

MOTION: Stop Holding Board Meetings at Symons Campus
Whereas Symons campus is not easily accessible to graduate students, most of whom live off campus, BIRT future Board Meetings be held at Trail College or an equally accessible location as per the requirements in the TGSA Bylaws and Policies.
Justification: See TGSA Bylaw 27.06.
Motion: Alison Fraser
Seconded: David Hollands

Answered: 14 Skipped: 0



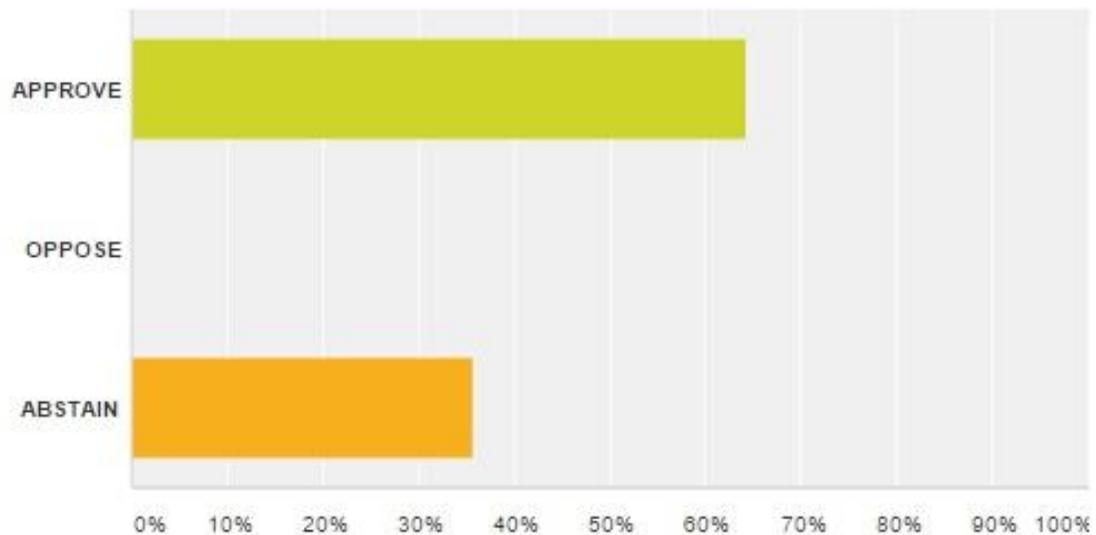
Answer Choices	Responses	
APPROVE	42.86%	6
OPPOSE	35.71%	5
ABSTAIN	21.43%	3
Total		14

Q4

Customize Export

MOTION: Fall AGM Budget Whereas the 2016-2017 budget needs to be ratified at the fall GM, BIRT that the TGSA board approves this budget to bring to the general membership. **Justification:** The 2016-17 TGSA budget needs to be approved by the board to bring to the general membership. **Motion:** Anastasia Nepotiuk **Seconded:** David Hollands

Answered: 14 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
APPROVE	64.29% 9
OPPOSE	0.00% 0
ABSTAIN	35.71% 5