

Summarized Minutes of TGSA Board Meeting, 04/04/2017

Start: 12:00, **End:** 14:00

Location: Bagnani Hall, Traill College, Trent University

Chair: Alexandra Ha

Scribe: David Hollands

Attendance: Philip Abbott, Miteb Abunayyan, Joshua Noiseux, Elizabeth Aslin, Marisol Campos Navarette, Isaac Jiang, Samantha Snetsinger, Kathleen Forward, Erin Lavery, Ibraheem Alimi, Alexandra Ha, David Hollands, Anastasia Nepotiuk, Swarsattie Kishun, Mackenzie Armstrong, Alison Fraser -16 members, **quorum met**

Regrets: Sarah Jessup, Jessica Hinton, Katherine Boyle, Henricus Kessels

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

- a. -none

Minutes

-none

2. Call to Order

3. Motion to Approve the Agenda: Alexandra Ha

Seconded: David Hollands

Approve: 16

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

****motion carries****

4. Past Meeting Minutes

4.1 Motion to Approve the Verbatim Minutes from the March 13th, 2017 Board Meeting:

Alexandra Ha

Seconded: Miteb Abunayyan

Approve: 16

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

****motion carries****

4.2 Motion to Approve the Summarized Minutes from the March 13th, 2017 Board

Meeting: Alexandra Ha

Seconded: Anastasia Nepotiuk

Approve: 16

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

****motion carries****

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

- a. **VP Internal Affairs:** Proposed Changes to the Current TGSA Bylaws (New Wordings Forthcoming)

Minutes

a. Alison motion that the TGSA Board **accept version 3 of these bylaws, as well as the updated bursary forms.**

Seconded: David Hollands

-Discussion continues regarding the TGSA emergency fund. It is suggested that a smaller timeframe than six months should potentially be adopted for submission of receipts. It is put forward that an adjustable one-month timeframe should be set.

Alison **motions that we alter the language in the emergency bursary to change the timeframe from a 6 month submission of receipts to a one-month submission of receipts, barring special arrangements made by the claimant with the executive.**

Seconded: David Hollands

Approve: 16

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

****motion carries****

Vote on original motion:

Approve: 16

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

****motion carries****

Alison motions **that when this goes to referendum at the Spring GM, the board fully supports ratification of these bylaws, taking a “YES” stance on it.**

Seconded: David Hollands

Approve: 16

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

****motion carries****

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

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

Motion to Accept the Executive Reports: Alexandra Ha

Seconded: Joshua Noiseux

Approve: 16

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

****motion carries****

7. Commissioner Reports, Board of Director Reports, Committee Reports, and Other Reports (see [Addendum II](#))

- a. Equity Commissioner Report
- b. Environmental Commissioner Report
- c. Health Benefits Commissioner Report
- d. OGSA Commissioner Report
- e. International Student Representative Commissioner

Minutes: Additions to Commissioner Reports

a. Marisol: I organized an information session. I will do it properly and submit

c. Miteb: I attended the TJHDBP meeting, and in that meeting, there were a few updates. The first was that there was a review of the current MoU with the TCSA. The MoU was sent to the TGSA for review and input. Just a few things suggested: for the dates required, they suggested that March 31st they would send out any changes in fees, and the last day in April would be for us to send feedback on whether we'll continue or leave the plan. The second update was that there will be a cap on the cost for dependents. It will be a max of two dependents. Any additional dependents will be included in fees already paid, which is better than the previous year's rate. The TCSA said they'll try their best to maintain that cap. We have 29 dependents. That's it.

d. David (reading Laura Thursby's report): Meeting with the OGSA executive director to be updated on OGSA activities and to discuss wording of the referendum question; update that the Federal Government announced \$90 million in additional funding for the Post Secondary Student Support Program today. This was something the OGSA has advocated for over the last two years.

Motion to Accept the Commissioner Reports: Alexandra Ha

Seconded: Joshua Noiseux

Approve: 16

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

****motion carries****

8. Departmental Issues/Question Period

- a. (see verbatim minutes for discussion of promoting TGSA executive and board positions)

9. Main Motions

9.1 TGSA Health and Benefits Survey

Whereas the full TGSA Board previously did not offer feedback to the language of the TGSA's currently circulating Health and Benefits Survey as requested in an email sent to the board from

the VP Communications on March 23rd, 2017, thereby not objecting to the language of the Health and Benefits Survey, and

Whereas the Health and Benefits Survey was distributed to the graduate student body by the TGSA on March 28th, 2017, and

Whereas the TCSA, having seen the survey, suggested that the phrase "**Some graduate students have expressed concerns over the fact that the TCSA has final say and control over the Joint Health and Dental Plan. This has already resulted in the cutting of some dental coverage by half without adequate TGSA consultation**" is grounds for the survey to be brought out of circulation, rewritten, and redistributed,

BIRT the TGSA discontinue the current health plan survey, and

BIFRT the current results of the survey would therefore become null and void and all information in the survey be discarded, and

BIFRT the TGSA draft a formal letter of apology to the TCSA, to be approved by the TGSA Board of Directors, be distributed by email and on TGSA social media platforms (website, Facebook, etc.), and

BIRFT the TGSA quickly put forward a new motion for an updated Health and Benefits Survey with adjusted language of the survey to be re-circulated and concluded before the TGSA Spring General meeting on April 13th, 2017.

Justification:

The TGSA was informed by the TCSA that the phrase highlighted above in black presents inaccurate information.

Discussion

Joshua **motions to change the wording to make it clearer, send an apology email to Alaine, send a letter to the membership informing of the change, but not take down the survey, and keep the data.**

Seconded: David Hollands

Alison makes a friendly amendment to the motion: the email will say we [the TGSA] apologize that the original language of the email was offensive to you. We have changed the language of the survey to be more specific and reflect the situation correctly. A draft email will be sent to the board.

Approve: 16

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

****motion carries****

****Original motion not voted on****

9.2 Conference and Group Support Amount

Whereas the TGSA has a budget of \$1000.00 for conference a group support applications, BIRT that VP Finance pay out \$500.00 for total reimbursements.

Justification:

I have received two applications for this bursary, both of which I believe are justified.

Motion: Anastasia Nepotiuk

Seconded: David Hollands

Approve: 16

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

****motion carries****

9.3 Defer Spring General Meeting Referendum Voting and Election Voting to Online Voting

Whereas the TGSA should be as inclusive and democratic as possible in letting the graduate student body, or general membership, vote on referendum questions and for candidates for TGSA executive and board member positions for the 2017-2018 year (May 1, 2017 to April 30, 2018),

BIRT voting on referendum questions and voting for candidates for TGSA executive and board member positions for the 2017-2018 year (May 1, 2017 to April 30, 2018) be deferred to online voting, and

BIFRT the online voting period be for no more than seven business days, in accordance with policy 4.05.02 of the TGSA constitution, and

BIFRT the first possible date for the start of the voting period is April 14th, 2017 and the last possible date for the end of the voting period is April 30th, 2017.

Justification:

Given that a significant number of graduate students at Trent University do not live in Peterborough and may not be able to commute to attend the general meeting, the TGSA should be as inclusive and democratic as possible in letting the graduate student body, or general membership, vote on referendum questions and on future candidates for TGSA positions.

Motion: Alison Fraser/David Hollands

Seconded: Swarsattie Kishun

Approve: 16

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

****motion carries****

9.4 Advertise MatLab Workshop Event for Graduate Students

Whereas the TGSA aims to support graduate students by offering opportunities to build research skills,

BIRT the TGSA help advertise for the MatLab workshop by posting on social media and having posters around campus, and

BIFRT a small budget up to \$10.00 be made to help print posters (with TGSA's logo on it).

Justification:

Mat Lab training may be very useful for some graduate students and their research. This could also be something useful for people to put on CV.

Motion: Alexandra Ha

Seconded: Marisol Campos Navarette

Approve: 16

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

****motion carries****

9.5 Fund Snacks for MatLab Workshop Events for Graduate Students

Whereas the TGSA aims to support graduate students by offering opportunities to build research skills,

BIRT the TGSA help advertise for the MatLab workshop by posting on social media and having posters around campus, and

BIFRT a budget up to \$50.00 be approved to help with food/drink purchases.

Justification:

Mat Lab training may be very useful for some graduate students and their research. This could also be something useful for people to put on CV. Having snacks, drinks, food there could be helpful to get people to come out.

Motion: Alexandra Ha

Seconded: Alison Fraser

Approve: 1

Oppose: 14

Abstain: 1

****motion fails****

10. Other Business

10.1 OGSA Fee Referendum Question Wording

Whereas the TGSA Board has already voted to support a nominal fee raise for the OGSA to be brought to spring referendum,

BIRT the TGSA Board support the wording of the referendum question as follows:

Preamble:

The Ontario Graduate Student Alliance (OGSA) is Ontario's only graduate student focused lobbying affiliation. The vision of the OGSA is to advocate and support graduate students residing in Ontario to have access to an enriching, affordable, and quality graduate student experience. The Trent Graduate Students' Association (TGSA) has worked closely with the OGSA since 2013, when the organization was originally formed. The OGSA has since gained a respected platform at Queen's Park (the Legislative Assembly of Ontario) and has established itself as the Ontario Government's primary source for information regarding graduate student priorities and concerns. The organization has made strides in the last three years, such as securing the inclusion of graduate student eligibility for the Ontario Tuition Grant (applications opening Spring 2017), as well as the submission of four advocacy proposals to the Ontario Government on the topics of student funding.

Question:

"Do you support a nominal increase to the TGSA's membership fee in the Ontario Graduate Student Alliance of \$0.37 per student, to be assessed in the Fall semester each year, to bring the TGSA in line with other member schools, and to better support the TGSA's internal and external advocacy and lobbying efforts?"

Motion: David Hollands

Seconded: Alison Fraser

Approve: 16

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

****motion carries****

10.2 Journal Presentation

Discussion

A discussion is had regarding moving forward with the Journal of Graduate Student Research, and the TGSA Journal Committee. It is decided that the TGSA will not be moving forward with the journal as it was proposed during the 2016-17 Academic year.

David motions that following the tenure of the current executive committee, after April 30th, 2017, the Journal Committee be dissolved, and BIRT the committee upload their research to the TGSA Google Drive folder before, on, or immediately after April 30th, 2017, and BIFRT the TGSA give permission for Alexandra Ha to make use of the information collected, separate from the TGSA, in pursuit of her own journal.

Seconded: Alison Fraser

Approve: 15

Oppose: 1

Abstain: 0

****motion carries****

11. Notice of Motions and Announcements

- a. **Alison Fraser:** I have a committee update form CASSC. And I have an announcement form CASSC Convocation Committee. The convocation ceremony is having a problem with accessibility due to the Bata Library closure. Please email Joanne Sokolow joannesokolow@trentu.ca if you require accommodations or have any questions. This will not affect guests coming to the convocation, only those convocating during the Bata Library renovations.

12. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting: Alexandra Ha

Seconded: Miteb Abunayyan

Approve: 16

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

****motion carries****

Addendum I:
Executive Reports

President:

- **Met with External Reviewers: Review of Co-op, career services, and experiential learning**
- **Meeting with Maryam Monsef to Lobby for grad students' research/funding needs with (with TCSA)**

I had the great pleasure to represent the Trent Graduate Students' Association, and to work side by side with [Trent Central Student Association \(TCSA\)](#), [TUNA - Trent University Native Association](#), and [TISA - Trent International Students' Association](#), as we met with the Honourable Maryam Monsef, Minister of Status of Women in Canada.

We presented the 2017 [Canadian Federation of Students - Fédération canadienne des étudiant.e.s](#) Lobby Document with the 2017 Federal Budget Members' Advisory as an addendum.

In our meeting, we discussed:

- the Members' Advisory on Taking Action to End Violence Against Young Women and Girls in Canada
- investments for graduate students, including graduate research funding
- investments for Indigenous Students
- permanent resident status for recently-graduated international students.
- a national campaign that centres around the needs of survivors of sexual assault, breaks down the binary to include other gender identities, educates and de-stigmatizes the language around sexual assault, is inclusive of and sensitive to the needs of graduate students whose relationship with faculty are quite different from those of undergraduate students.

- **Graduate Research Journal**

- Had several meetings with the journal working group
- Met with Librarian and JUST (undergraduate journal at Trent)
- Working on proposal

- **Health Plan benefits meeting with student VIP (Mid-Year review)**

- **I facilitated the health plan survey to be sent out and am managing the nominations process**

Connected with a post-doc student in Psychology for potential collaboration of a statistical workshop event

VP Internal Affairs: --

VP Finance: Due to the nature of our delayed GM, there was an additional finance charge applied to the audit invoice from McColl Turner, making the final amount paid \$4,375.61. Having paid out conference bursaries, I am now taking in new applications, and will have computed the 2016-2017 actuals (up until the Spring GM). I also will have completed paperwork for the final bank reconciliation up until April 4.

VP Communications: Currently promoting the TGSA Spring General Meeting on the trentgsa.ca website and social media pages. The TGSA also now has its two-tier communications system. Emails through Blackboard will be for the TGSA newsletter, promotion of events, etc., while emails through the graduate list serve will be for surveys, referendum voting, and health and dental care updates.

VP of Student Affairs: --

Senator: --

Addendum II:
Commissioner Reports

Equity Commissioner: --

Environmental Commissioner: --

Health Benefits Commissioner: --

OGSA Commissioner: --

International Student Representative Commissioner: --