

Minutes of TGSA Spring General Meeting, 13/04/17

Start: 6:05pm, End: 8:03pm (official end of meeting)

Location: Bagnani Hall, Traill College, Trent University, Peterborough, ON

Chair: Alexandra Ha

Scribe: David Hollands

Attendance: Alexandra Ha, David Hollands, Laura Thursby, Swarsattie Kishun, Jessica Hinton, Talis Talving-Loza, Miteb Abunayyan, Anastasia Nepotiuk, Marisol Campos Navarette, Gabriel Macade, Kevin Scotland, Katherine Boyle, Nooshin Aghayan, Joshua Noiseux, Isaac Jiang, Phil Abbott, Aminah Hardy, Alicia Hartley, Graeme Bishop, Ibraheem Alimi, Anhiti Patnaik, Katie Rosa, Rishabh Sarswat, Mackenzie Armstrong, Alison Fraser -25 general members present,
quorum met

1. Introductions:

- a. Reading of GSA Equality Statement
- b. **VP Internal Affairs:** How the Meeting Will Proceed (*1 minute*)

2. Call to Order

3. Motion to Approve the Agenda and all additions to Other Business (if any): Alexandra Ha

Seconded: Miteb Abunayyan

Discussion

-no discussion

Approve: 25

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

****motion carries****

4. Motion to Approve the [Minutes from the January 12th, 2017 Fall General Meeting:](#)

Alexandra Ha

Seconded: Miteb Abunayyan

Discussion

-no discussion

Approve: 25

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

****motion carries****

5. Executive Reports [*10 minutes, a 3-minute Q+A period, followed by motion to accept reports*]: (See [Addendum I](#))

- a. President

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

Additions to Reports/Discussions Before Motion to Accept Reports

-Swarsattie: psych students were originally convocating with undergrads, that was the plan. This has changed. We want to say thank you to everyone who sent letters protesting this.

-Mackenzie: ****presents visualization of his duties as Senator**** (see addendum for slides)

-Laura: I wanted to say thank you to all of you for doing these positions. Quick question about Trill College. I heard there were significant changes underway in terms of creating new housing, student spaces, changes to Scott House.

-Mackenzie: the immediate answer is that there are rumours, but we don't have anything beyond those.

-Laura: there were blueprints. I think this should be on the radar going forward. I don't have an office here next year because Trent doesn't care about students. I would like to add a discussion about in Other Business today.

-Alison: sounds good.

Motion: Alexandra Ha

Seconded: Miteb Abunayyan

Discussion

-David: I wanted to suggest a friendly amendment to the President's report in the agenda to remove the paragraph that states: "Other projects developed to drive communication include planning a TGSA filmed documentary with our VP Communications, David Hollands. This documentary is meant to connect the TGSA members with undergraduate and graduate students, providing them all a sense of what the TGSA is about, who we are and what our specific roles entail, our individualized passion, motivation, and futuristic vision for TGSA." I suggest this because as I said in my report, this unfortunately did not happen, so it could unintentionally be seen as misleading.

-Alexandra: that's fine with me.

Approve: 25

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

****motion carries****

6. Commissioner Reports [8 minutes, a 2-minute Q+A period, followed by motion to accept report]: (See [Addendum II](#))

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

Additions to Reports/Discussions Before Motion to Accept Reports

-Alexandra: we have no environmental commissioner, fyi. Zankhna resigned somewhat into the Winter term.

-Miteb: I wish the best of luck to the commissioner next year. It should be way easier! We did manage to resolve a number of past issues. The TCSA and TRACY were helpful and cooperative.

-Laura: I want to promote this position. You can read my full report in the agenda. You get a \$200.00 honorarium at the end of the year. You can make a nomination from the floor for this position. The requirements are that you attend the TGSA monthly board meetings and GMs, and the monthly OGSA board meetings, which can be attended digitally. It's a wonderful experience. I strongly recommend anyone with interest in this kind of advocacy to nominate yourself for the position. You help make a difference for all graduate students in Ontario.

-**Alison Fraser reads Yeukai Katanda's report**

-Laura: Miteb, a quick question about the family cap. Does that mean that someone with three dependents only pays up to two?

-Miteb: correct. The premium is \$425 for the student, and each additional dependent is 50% of that. With the cap, you will only pay for the three.

-Laura: thank you!

-Graham: Laura mentioned there's no grad student alliance commissioner or OGSA commissioner next year. I'm surprised there's no environmental commissioner

-Alexandra: we do. We have two running for that. Alison, can someone become a commissioner without elections.

-Alison: absolutely. We'll check out the bylaws soon.

Motion: Alexandra Ha

Seconded: Ibraheem Alimi

Discussion

-no discussion

Approve: 25

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

****motion carries****

7. Presentations:

- a. **VP Finance:** [Summary of TGSA Finances from 2016-17, and Proposal for TGSA 2017-18 Budget](#) [6 minutes, followed by a 3-minute Q+A period]
- b. **VP Internal Affairs:** Presentation of Proposed Updates to TGSA Constitution and Constitution Referendum Question (see [Addendum III](#) for Full Referendum Question and Proposed Updates) [10 minutes, followed by a 5-minute Q+A period]
- c. **OGSA Commissioner:** Presentation of Referendum Question for Proposed Nominal Fee Raise for the Ontario Graduate Students' Alliance. [3 minutes, followed by a 2-minute discussion period] (see [Addendum IV](#) for Full Referendum Question)

- d. **VP Internal Affairs:** Statement from the TGSA on the Bata Library Closure (see statement [here](#)) [1 minute, followed by a 2-minute Q+A period]
- e. **VP Internal Affairs:** Joint Trent Health and Dental Plan Update. (see [Addendum V](#)) [5 minutes, followed by a 3-minute Q+A period]

Discussion (letter of presentation corresponds to the same letters below)

a. Anastasia: These are the actuals as of April 6th, and then our budget forecasts. So, our student support goes to conference bursaries, group support, Symons, and so on. We had a budget of \$12,000.00 We only spent \$7000.00 of this. We should probably do more advertising next year. We only had two applications for group support. For Symons and 3MT, we contributed \$500.00 to 3MT, and \$1000.00 to Symons. Our emergency bursary is a line item, but no money spent yet. The capital purchases are making sure about updated website security. Our savings, 2.5% has to go there. The annual audit was a little more due to the late finance fee, since stuff wasn't approved until the rescheduled Fall GM. In the Levy Fee account, social stuff, thesis binding, etc., Swarsattie did a wonderful job keeping us underbudget. We have to host two fall general meetings, which explains the slightly higher fee. The next VP Finance should perhaps work on a more conservative budget, as that is doable. The exec and commissioner honoraria are not paid out well, but will be. We are well under budget. And now our budget forecast as of April 30th. I was told that our third installment of student fees come in next week. Still waiting on a few conference bursary cheques, and group support. The Symons cheque has been deposited. The transfer to our savings account is overbudget, but that isn't a bad thing in this case. Our insurance and audit will stay the same. For the levy fee account, everything is fairly the same. Our Spring Fling amount will probably change, and we have paid for the cost of this membership meeting, and the honoraria will be paid out by the end of the term.

-Alison: I would like to ask what the approximate amount is of leftover funds for this year?

-Anastasia: \$14,000.00 or so.

-Alison: I move that **we put a certain amount of the leftover fund into the emergency bursary. I want to add that in addition to the \$400.00. I propose \$3000.00 of surplus money from this year as a one-year addition to the bursary line.**

Seconded: David Hollands

-Katie: what is the emergency bursary?

-Alison: when we look at the bylaws, I can show you that language. We came up with three separate things that you'll see listed. You apply for each in different ways and in different amounts. The health component is possibly anything that isn't necessarily covered in the plan. Basic income is anything that costs in life, like a loss of a vehicle—you could apply for money for a bus pass, for instances. For rent, bills, etc. Groceries included here as well!

-Kevin: I was wondering would the TGSA be the only entity supporting this fund?

-Alison: we have put some mechanisms in place through the to-be ratified bylaws to annually put money into the account. They're not perfect, but they're a start. We'll be looking in the future to seeing how the bursary can have more money. But if Trent has a bursary for something, we ask that you apply for that first. If not approved or not enough, then come to us. We're designed to supplement, not necessarily to fund completely.

-Laura: so, the surplus amount... does the rest get put in savings?

-Anastasia: they could, but we also carry funds forward.

-Laura: I'm thinking that for me student fees pay for these initiatives. I think there should be more money to go in this fund. Can I make **a friendly amendment to make it \$5000.00?**

-Alison: yes.

-Kevin: how much of a buffer does the budget need going forward? Do we actually need savings to get us through this year? The incidentals?

-Anastasia: I'm not sure. The auditors talked about that buffer cushion. We put at least 2.5% in, which are enough for the TGSA to run for a year and a half.

-Ibraheem: What's the difference between conference bursary and group support?

-Anastasia: group support would be a group asking for funding rather than an individual student. I call the question.

Approve: 25

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

****motion carries****

-Alexandra: any more questions?

-Joshua: I have a statement. I want to put forward the idea that taking the money from grad students in levies are with the intentions that they get utilized. This is a situation ideally to be avoided, if our surplus is too high. We don't want to be put in a situation where we are requested to reduce our fees.

-Anastasia: I'll speak to that. This year, a big difference this year was the lack of commitment of \$5000.00 for Symons. It gave us a lot more to work with.

-Kevin: that kinda goes to the question I was asking. For me, personally, it's worrying that there's THAT much money. Even if the emergency fund isn't used in a year, then there's at least something that the funds would go to.

-Laura: Also, maybe in the bylaws going forward, we can work on a range of what surplus seems reasonable just to historicize this. Past TGSA execs were overbudgeting a lot. This year, there's maybe too much compensation, but this is a good thing going forward. The money should be redistributed to where grads need it most.

b.Alison presents constitutional changes****

-Alison: what happens here is that we don't vote on this referendum question now, but it will be deferred to online. All members vote online later.

-Katie: if someone has an issue with one of the bylaws, is the only option to edit a majority no vote?

-Alison: yes, which is why it has to be a referendum. You're right. We encountered this last year when we re-wrote the bylaws. I do understand the concerns. This time, all the changes in the document are in red. If you have any problems with some of the red text, you get in touch with me. Unfortunately, as per the referendum question, it is omnibus.

-Katie: what's the quorum for referenda voting?

-Alison: it's 5% of the voting body or 25 votes.

-Katie: what's the percentage for passing?

-Alison: it's 51%. We have a comments section in online voting if there's feedback on bylaws that aren't supported.

-Marisol: is it possible to make it so that those who say “no” can’t leave the page without leaving a comment?

-Alison: yes. David, please make sure to add that to the referendum question.

-Phil: this is online, right? More than 25 people will vote. As long as 51% people vote, it’s fine.

-Katie: if 51% of people say yes, then it’s too bad for the 49% until next year.

-Alison: yes, but we are required to review the bylaws every year.

c.Alison Fraser presents referendum question on Laura’s behalf****

-Laura: I forgot to say this in my commissioner’s report. The reason for this is that currently in the fees from each school are different. They wanted schools involved, so they took whatever amount. What this does is brings us in line with what all the other schools have wanted to pay. If this fails, we wouldn’t be leaving OGSA, but we would be contributing less. This is to make this more equitable, and would better support the operations of OGSA.

-Ibraheem: you guys plan on increasing the budget to support OGSA?

-Alison: we would have to bring the budget in line.

-Laura: the OGSA budget works differently, because it depends on the number of grad students enrolled. If we have more enrolled than anticipated, then the amount is higher. These levies are done based on student enrollment.

-David: I **motion to amend the referendum question to include the current fee of \$2.00 in the language of the question.**

Seconded: Alison Fraser

Laura: I think that’s a fair amendment.

Approve: 25

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

****motion carries****

-Alexandra: any more questions? Seeing none, let’s move on.

d.Alison reads statement/update****

-Swarsattie: I think the service point is set up in Otonabee right now, I think 209.

-Alison: it’s not listed yet on the library’s site

-Katie: do you know anything about the consultation process for the 50% of books?

-Alison: we’re doing our very best, but it’s a process trying to be PART of the consultation. But we’ll try our hardest.

-Mac: we’re pushy about it. They have only encouraged the faculty to identify the books. They’re under the impression that grad students will want to save all the books. What will happen is we need to push this to make sure it happens. We need all grad resources to us.

-Katie: yes, wouldn’t it be great if we could just ask for the books we want?

-Alison: we have been promised that students will get dibs on those books. Check your emails!

-Joshua: to Katie, did you mean books you want the library to acquire?

-Katie: oh, yeah.

-Joshua: to be clear, this whole renovation has nothing to do with acquiring new materials. It’s all about the research and innovation cluster. Acquisition is not AT ALL a priority!

-Alison: that's a great clarification. We have been firm that if they're going to remove so many books, they need good digital resources.

-Mac: at the last Senate meeting, they said it would be in the new budget that there will be resources going to the library. We don't know what that will be, but we want to push them toward our goals and needs.

-Laura: I know that the TGSA has been pushing for better digital resources. I hope that that's put into the transition documents that that should be a significant priority.

-Sophie: speaking of RASER, do you know where we'll be picking up our RASER books? The service point?

-Alison: yes.

-Sophie: is it the library that will operate the truck?

-Alison: no, they will be busy in the warehouse dealing with the books. They'll probably just hire a driver.

-Alexandra: other questions? All right, moving on.

e. Alison: this year, we are part of the plan. The JTHDBP is between us, undergrads, and Durham undergrads proposed by last year's exec. At the Spring 2016 GM, we held a referendum to join the joint health care plan. Over the summer, there were many challenges. It turns out that some of the things we promised we couldn't deliver at all. We tried to make that as clear as possible. We held a special board meeting on August 29th, and the board at the time did say at that time to stay with the health care plan, so we joined the plan. Here's the best update I can give you: the 2016-17 plan is the joint plan. The blue are changes to the plan. There are increases in the dispensing fee cap. Stimulants have been added at \$500.00 per year. Extended health coverage: we can see a dietitian. Frames, lenses, and contact lenses is up a little. Now, the changes to dental: preventative services are originally at 80% coverage. The change here is that scaling is two-units per 12 months. Root canal therapy and retro-filling has gone down from 80% to 50%. Major restorative work has gone up significantly to 40%. This document was provided by Student VIP.

-Phil: this is coming into effect in September?

-Alison: it's in effect now. When we joined the joint plan, the fees we would be charged was submitted to the finance committee of Trent in April, which we were kept in the dark about. So, we forced to go with this plan, or have a significantly reduced plan. We were part of that plan in April. All students now have the 2016-17 plan, which was nice for Durham, because they got way more dental benefits.

-Phil: changes?

-Alison: those have to go through a process. There's a joint health committee, and discussions about changes happen there. Changes are voted on there. That is then sent to the TCSA board who then approve or disapprove the changes. They have final say. That's how the changes get made.

-Laura: I wanted to contextualize that a bit. After the referendum question wording last year, we were moving forward with this committee barring problems with our membership. I don't know what happened, but someone at Trent took that as we are officially part of the plan, and established the \$425. It was done with no consultation with the TGSA. They then made up some reasoning that this is the procedure, though during my term, we made the decision about the amount in August. I don't know where those numbers came from and why those decisions were made.

- Swarsattie: Alison, do international students get the same benefits?
- Miteb: yes. This is separate from UHIP. This is the same for ANY student.
- Swarsattie: I'm asking because a couple weeks ago, I wanted an eye exam. I called in and was told that we have no money that goes to eye care.
- Alison: that's not right.
- Katie: to clarify how things are changed, can the TGSA veto changes?
- Alison: I'll try to stay as positive as possible: kind of. Miteb?
- Miteb: I have been to those meetings. There are different opinions at the beginning, but I can see that the TCSA is willing to work more closely with us and take our recommendations in equal parts with the other associations. A good sign was the cap on the benefits, which happened after discussions. I do think we're on the right track.
- Alexandra: if you have any further questions, talk to Miteb. We must move on now.
- Miteb: one last comment about the plan. Even with everything that happened, we can see this in a positive light: we do have price reduction. That takes away some of the pressure from grad students, and being part of this big group helps us.
- Alison: The point he's making is that even if we didn't join the plan, we would have to raise fees. In the joint plan, our loss ratios are way closer to the 92% that we want. If we stay in the pool of all Trent students, our loss ratio is way easier to obtain, so we don't have to raise fees every year. In doing this, we can have affordable health care. I know it started out poorly. The communication lines are improving. Based on the numbers, staying in the plan makes it affordable.
- Kevin: what's a loss ratio?
- Alison: what is claimed and paid, and the amount that the insurance company can afford to pay. The number they need to hit to be profitable.
- Alexandra: moving on.

8. Motions

8.1 Open Letter for Make Trent Safe Campaign [2 minutes, a 3-minute discussion period, followed by vote]

Whereas the TGSA is committed to fostering an equitable and harassment free environment at Trent University, and

Whereas an endorsement from the general membership at the Spring General Meeting would demonstrate considerable support for the Make Trent Safe Campaign,

BIRT the Executive Officers of the TGSA be allowed to endorse and sign the Make Trent Safe Campaign's [open letter](#) to be presented to Trent University Administration.

Justification:

The Make Trent Safe campaign began in November 2016 following incidents of discrimination/harassment on campus. Since then organizers have been working toward addressing to the administration's inadequate response to the incidents, working with affected students/student associations to get a sense of their experiences and barriers to accessing support, and coming up with some recommendations to improve safety services.

The organizers are seeking endorsements/signatures on an Open Letter to Trent's Administration that will be published this month responding to the Administration's inadequate response to violence on campus. The endorsement of the TGSA and the graduate students it represents would certainly be a powerful one. We hope you will consider endorsing the letter and the campaign!

In terms of deadline to endorse is **April 15th** in advance of a community gathering on April 22nd where they will present the letter to community. The letter will be officially presented to the administration at the Senate meeting on **May 2nd**.

The letter with more context (and form to "endorse" electronically) is [here](#).

Discussion before

-Anisa on behalf of Madeline: has everyone had a chance to read the letter, or should I give some background?

-Alexandra: yes.

-Anisa: there were a number of discriminatory events that happened on campus in the wake of the recent U.S. election. This is happening across Canada and the U.S. Did you know there was a Make Trent Safe rally? It was organized by a student that wanted to show publicly that the admin's response was flimsy. The response framed the issue as academic debate and free speech, whereas this was about people who entered spaces with explicit goals to discriminate and harm. The reason we want to bring this letter to Senate is that this does affect students' academic experiences, and it's important to have this on the record. We want to bring the letter to Senate. It's divided into four segments: the first critiques the president's response, the second discusses the dismissal of student experiences, the third regards the reporting of such incidents and that it's currently not effective, and the fourth deals with our recommendations going forward. The TCSA exec is endorsing the letter. To be clear, the anti-oppression training mentioned in the letter is not designed to be oppressive in itself. This is not an issue of being politically correct, or policing language, or closing the spaces for dialogue. This is about broadening our understanding of difference and diversity.

Motion: Madeline Macnab/Alison Fraser

Seconded: Swarsattie Kishun

Discussion

-Marisol: I was wondering what was the participation of the Centre for Human Rights?

-I tried contacting them on a number of occasions and there have been few responses. We tried going to PANCHREAD meeting, but were told we couldn't attend.

-Marisol: are you pressing that issue in the letter? The center was originally designed for these kinds of matter. Communications should be improved.

Approve: 23

Oppose: 1

Abstain: 1

****carries****

****A number of members need to leave, which would result in the loss of quorum.****

-Alison: for all intents and purposes, I motion **to adjourn the meeting now**.

Seconded: Swarsattie Kishun

-Alison: so just to let everyone know what happened, once we lose quorum, we can no longer make official decisions. And we also can't officially adjourn, which is why we're adjourning now.

Approve: 25

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

****motion carries****

9. Elections for 2017-18 TGSA Executive Officers, Commissioners, and Program Representatives *[20 minutes, including 1-minute presentation per candidate]*

(click [here](#) for full list of candidates)

Discussion

-Alison: even though we are not technically meeting now, let's do nominations here. It'll go in the records, but then you send us an official email and it goes in the record. Send the emails IMMEDIATELY and we'll get you on the vote.

-Katie: David, I'll be sending you my nomination for OGSA Commissioner.

-Kevin: can the program reps also hold a commissioner position?

-Alison: there's nothing preventing that in the bylaws, but we strongly suggest no.

-Joshua: but I can bring up that if the program rep REALLY wants the exec role, they step down from the nomination of program rep.

-Kevin: then I change my nomination to Health Benefits Commissioner.

-Alison: accepting commitments for VP Internal Affairs? No. Okay, VP Student Affairs? And for any incoming students, we'll need first year reps

-Gabriel: I have one candidate for Canadian and Indigenous Studies (M.A.)

-Alison: all right, keep eyes and ears open and recruit people. Especially for the exec positions. I'll have to do them myself if no one nominates themselves.

10. Suggested Summer Social Events for the 2017-18 TGSA Executive (VP Student Affairs) *[3 minutes, followed by a 2-minute discussion period]*

Discussion

-Swarsattie: in our bylaws, we need to have a BBQ in the summer. I suggested events in the report I have posted in the agenda. So, for last year orientation, we had events where we partnered with Traill and the undergrad student association, which was really helpful. We saved a lot of money that way. Many events that the undergrads were throwing didn't require much money spent, and interest was also shared with graduate students and undergrads. Also, Traill is

great with combining social events. We had Health living and Yoga and so on. Those are the three off the top of my head. For the pub night, it can be unofficial. And I unofficially say that. It was had here at the Trend and was nicely attended.

11. Announcements

11.1 Convocation Accessibility (VP Internal Affairs) [2 minutes, followed by a 2-minute discussion period]

Alison Fraser:

"Due to Bata Library renovations happening from 2017-2018, the Bata Platform on which the convocation stage is step up will be inaccessible to convocating students. If you have any questions or concerns please email **Joanne Sokolowski (Manager, Convocation & Alumni Relations)** at joannesokolow@trentu.ca.

Joanne is working hard to make convocation accessible, but as of writing no plans have been put into action. If you or anyone you know is graduating and requires accommodations, Joanne would like to hear from you. This will only affect graduating students, not friends and family members in the audience."

12. Other Business [10 minutes]

12.1 Laura: Trail College Discussion

-Laura: all I'd like is that info about this be put into the transition documents for next year's executive.

13. Additional Questions Period [10 minutes]

Discussion

-Laura: on behalf of the student body, thank you for all your help.

-Katie: I was wondering, the program rep role... there were quite a few things that weren't well-communicated. I know that there are a lot of challenges. Is there some way to solidify a communication strategy between us and them?

-Alison: yeah, at board meetings, we tell program reps to send details out constantly!

-Joshua: I agree. There should be an important action item for the incoming exec. Have a strongly worded directive to encourage the program reps to actually represent.

-Laura: I agree too. So, there is some recourse. If the program rep isn't doing their job, they can be impeached. SO perhaps it needs to be stressed in communications.

-Ibraheem: you get a lot from face-to-face conversation, which I think should be considered moving forward.

Addendum I:
Executive Reports

President:

My goals for Trent Graduate Students' Association (TGSA) were three-folds: (1) Fostering more fluid and open communication, better representation for grad students at Trent University, and stronger advocacy for various issues grad students face; (2) Creating opportunities for graduate student aimed at developing their academic, profession, and research skills, and (3) Providing support for grad students' mental/physical health, inclusion, and well-being.

Aside from the basic [duties](#) as president (e.g., overseeing the overall function of TGSA such as making sure tasks for completed properly and in a timely manner, chairing meetings and sitting on various university committees, and giving presentations such as during orientation week, etc.), I have, in the past 12 months, attempted to achieve my three main goals.

1. Fostering communication, strong representation of grad students at Trent, better advocacy for various issues

I have strengthened the social media presence for TGSA, including renovating our [website](#), recruiting for designers that will re-brand our association such as re-creating our logo, and establishing popular social media platforms (i.e., [Instagram](#)). I have initiated discussion with the [Board of Directors](#) regarding more ideas beyond social media to facilitate a more fluid communication within the TGSA itself, as well as between the TGSA and its grad students, faculty and administration at the University, and local, provincial and national organizations. With a smoother communication system, I aimed to better market the events, activities, and opportunities offered by the TGSA so that graduate students can become better informed with important matters concerning their grad studies and become more engaged within the Trent and Peterborough community.

Other projects developed to drive communication include planning a TGSA filmed documentary with our VP Communications, David Hollands. This documentary is meant to connect the TGSA members with undergraduate and graduate students, providing them all a sense of what the TGSA is about, who we are and what our specific roles entail, our individualized passion, motivation, and futuristic vision for TGSA.

Frequent updates with university administration and student associations were held throughout my term. For instance, I met regularly with Nona Robinson, Associate Vice President Students, the president of TCSA, and prime ministers of cabinets, to ensure we are all kept up to date with latest details in our respective student body and the university. I met with Dean of Grad Studies, Craig Brunetti several times in the year to keep us both up to date on graduate studies' issues.

Other representation of, and advocacy for, graduate students include attending and contributing to the [Canadian Association for Graduate Studies](#) conference in Toronto. Here, we've discussed [various topics](#) including public scholars initiative, research funding, supervisor-student issues, graduate school admissions, etc. I've also presented at the [Board of Governors Luncheon](#) and stressed the importance of graduate student spaces (e.g., [in the library](#)).

I met with Richelle Hall, the University secretariat, and presidents of Trent Central Student Association (TCSA) and Trent Durham Student Association (TDSA) to discuss student seats on the Board of Governors, aiming to equalize student representation across the constituents. In addition, I attended an [Ontario Graduate Students' Alliance](#) meeting with our OGSA commissioner, Laura Thursby, and represented grad students in review of the [co-op, career services, and experiential learning](#) at Trent in a meeting with external reviewers with your VP Internal Affairs, Alison Fraser and VP Student Affairs, Swarsattie Kishun. Students also expressed concerns about the inability to opt out of their gym membership. As such, I have advocated for gym membership opt out for graduate students with the director of the Athletic Centre.

More recently, I attended a dinner with community leaders and university administration and [Ontario's Universities](#). With the TCSA, [TUNA - Trent University Native Association](#), and [TISA - Trent International Students' Association](#), I also met with the Honourable Maryam Monsef, Minister of Status of Women, to present lobby documents on from [Canadian Federation of Students Ontario](#) and discussed various topics including the Members' Advisory on Taking Action to End Violence Against Young Women and Girls in Canada, investments for Indigenous Students, and investments for Graduate Students, and permanent resident status for recently-graduated international students, etc. Here, I specifically expressed how graduate students' needs are very different from undergraduate students and I advocated for better and more graduate research funding.

2. Academic, professional, and research development

The TGSA continued to help fund the [3 Minute Thesis](#) and the [Symons Seminar Series](#) -- inspiring event/seminars for graduate students to develop presentation skills and showcase their research. I met with the Career Center to specifically discuss how to provide graduate students with [resources](#) to refine their academic and professional skills. I also helped advertise these resources, as well as Academic Skills events (e.g., [reading week graduate writing workshop](#)) to grad students.

I attended the [local Business Expo](#) with VP Senate, Mackenzie Armstrong, where we explored options within the Peterborough community that could help graduate students with their professional growth. Aligned with this purpose, I have introduced an opportunity for grad students to join the [Peterborough Chamber](#), hoping to connect grad students with major local organizations so that they can gain internship/employment positions and professional training. The idea was to not only promote the University and its graduate students, but also the Peterborough community, as using the graduate student body as a talent pool for the community contributes to economic growth.

This year, one of the biggest and most exciting plans was to create a mentorship program for graduate and undergraduate students in conjunction with Trill College. In conjunction with the Trill Cabinet, our goal is to provide both graduate and undergraduate students ample of academic and professional development opportunities in an interactive community. I truly believe in the importance of this program because it would optimize the experiences at Trill College and capitalize on the novel joint undergraduate and graduate students' presence in the college. I hope the foundation for this program can be further developed by the next incoming executives.

Moreover, research is the ultimate focus in graduate studies. As such, one of my biggest aspirations as a student leader is to promote and support more graduate research (and funding –

see above on meeting with Maryam Monsef). To contribute to this goal, I have initiated a *Journal of Trent Graduate Research*. This is the first proposal for a research journal in the university that focuses solely on graduate research and developing grad students' research skills (e.g., editing, reviewing, publishing). I presented this idea to the TGSA Board of Directors and formed a working group for this project (included in this group was some of our TGSA Board of Directors -- M.A. Anthropology Representative: Alicia Hartley, M.A. Applied Modeling and Quantitative Methods, Samantha Snetsinger, and M.Sc Environmental and Life Sciences Representative, Ibraheem Alimi; as well as a non-TGSA member, Anna Kisala – a Post-Doc student in the Sciences). I've also recently led TGSA to collaborate with a Post-doc (Robin Kramer) at Trent's Psychology program to organize a [MatLab](#) workshop.

3. Mental and physical health, inclusion/diversity, and well-being

I understand the stress, isolation, inequality and discrimination that graduate students may feel during their studies. Under my leadership, various projects and events targeted at mental health, well-being, and equity for graduate students have been created. For example, I have developed a [well-being event](#) in conjunction with [Dis-Orientation week](#) and a fellow student- organization ([Truly B Me](#)) leader, Alexa Small.

I invited an [open dialogue about Indigenous culture](#) at our Board meeting (given by Jessica Hinton, our Ph.D. Indigenous Studies representative), and had a cultural event (an [Kairos Blanket Exercise](#)) organized under the auspices of TGSA. In addition, I have worked with Marisol Campos, our equity commissioner to ensure that Board members are provided with training on Social Justice, Human Rights, Equity, and Accessibility issues.

Finally, I organized a [positive space training](#) for my executives with Daniel Shaw so that we, as student leaders, can ensure our events, activities, and meetings are safe, inclusive, positive, and non-discriminatory. We aimed to set as examples for other grad students at Trent and to disseminate this important knowledge.

This year, one of the biggest milestones as an organization was the merging with TCSA and TDSA on the health and dental plan in hopes of providing all students with the best health and dental plan/coverage possible. I had continuous meetings with TCSA, TDSA, [Student VIP](#), and our Health Benefits Commissioner, Miteb Abunayyan, throughout the year to ensure fluid communication and optimal function of the joint health care plan. I've ensured an event for international students regarding the health plan (collaboration with Samantha from student VIP and TGSA International student representative commissioner, Yeukai Katanda.), and have directed the completion of the health survey (created by Miteb Abunayyan) including ensuring and managing the issues concerning the distribution of the survey to the general membership.

Conclusion:

I am very honored to have been able to show my passion and motivation in leading the TGSA team and accomplishing various goals as president. Throughout my term, I aimed to provide the best support possible for grad students by encouraging stronger communication, graduate representation, and advocacy for important issues. I wanted TGSA to better assist students in areas related to academic, professional, and research development. Finally, I believe in the importance of mental and physical Health, inclusion, and well-being amongst grad students, and have spearheaded various projects and events that will foster a healthier and more positive

environment for grad students. There is much pride when I look back to see how far our organization has come this year, which would not have been possible without the strong, supportive, and collaborative group of TGSA executive members and Board of Directors. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your 2016-17 president.

VP Internal Affairs:

Summary of 2016-2017:

Made sure we are being charged accurate college fees.

Reviewed the TGSA bylaws and policies.

Worked on representing graduate student during the planning of the Bata Library closure.

Represented graduate students on a number of committees including the Colleges and Student Services Committee (CASSC).

Will continue to work on building better communication strategies between the TCSA and the TGSA regarding the Joint Trent Health and Dental Benefits Plan.

Will continue to work on representing graduate students during the year-long closure of Bata Library.

VP Finance:

- Processed and administered conference bursary/conference and group support reimbursements
- Chaired Finance Committee
- Sat on Academic Planning and Budgeting Committee
- Performed reconciliations of accounts on a monthly basis
- Recorded all financial transactions, managed payments and ensured finances on track
- Worked with McColl Turner accountants to perform and audit of 2015/2016 TGSA finances
- Presented summary budget to be ratified at Fall GM

VP Communications:

Since the summer, I've served as the VP Communications for the TGSA, the Operations Coordinator for the Symons Seminar Series, and the Recording Secretary for our local CUPE3908. I decided to run for the position of Operations Coordinator of the Symons Seminar Series to ensure that the beginnings of the transition of Symons from under the auspices of the TGSA to Traill College would go as smoothly as possible. The general outline of this transition can be found currently in the Memorandum of Understanding between the TGSA and Symons which is currently hosted on the TGSA's website at trentgsa.ca. I have taken steps to further facilitate communication between the TGSA and the you, the membership--our website was updated by yours truly and your President, Alexandra Ha, and a new TGSA Facebook page was created to exist alongside the current TGSA Facebook group page to make our association appear more professional. Our Twitter page continues to be used actively, and Alexandra has

consistently added content to our Instagram page, which started this year. Unfortunately, I must admit that it was impossible to build up content for our TGSA YouTube page as I had planned and hoped due to our schedules, though the YouTube page remains available should the next executive for 2017-18 decide to make use of. At present, the page houses an unlisted copy of the Traill College version of my Traill College documentary, and before my tenure is up, the full version of the documentary will be made public. Finally, I have worked with Trent IT to improve our email communications to graduate students to fix the issues that arose following the TGSA's loss of the graduate list serve last year. Currently, the TGSA communicates by email to the membership via a two-tier system. The TGSA has a Blackboard account through which notifications of events, our monthly newsletter, etc. will be distributed, and we also have our own graduate list serve which is used exclusively for notices regarding your Health and Dental Coverage, TGSA surveys, and elections and referenda--in other words, emails that are crucial for all graduate students to receive no matter what.

VP of Student Affairs:

A plan for monthly social events was proposed to the board of directors and was taken to the finance committee to rectify the amounts we planned on spending on each event throughout the year. Throughout the year, a number of social events were planned and successfully hosted.

These includes:

1. Game Day (June)
2. Summer BBQ (July)
3. Tex-Mex Fest (August)
4. Orientation Week (September)
 - a. TGSA Yoga & Healthy Yoga with Nic Koo
 - b. Scavenger Hunt
 - c. Arts & Crafts with Recyclables
 - d. Pub Night
 - e. BBQ
 - f. Informal Pub Crawl
5. Eat & Study (October)
6. KAIROS Blanket Exercise (November)
7. November GM
8. Festivus (December)
9. January GM
10. Movie Screening (January)
11. Pool Night (February)
12. Human Rights & Accessibility Info Session (March)
13. International Potluck (March)
14. Spring Fling (April)
15. Spring GM (April)

Additionally, a brief presentation about the Charter of Student Rights and Responsibilities and the Violence and Harassment Policy and Procedures was given to the board of directors at

the November board meeting. Moreover, I attended a positive space training as well as an equity training session to become familiar with expected practices and procedures.

I Met with Joan (Director of the FROST center) and Mathew Hayes (Student association member) on March 8th 2017. The FROST center organizes and hosts suds and speakers where distinguished speakers attend the university and talk to students in an informal setting about topics of interests. Flyers for the GM and the spring fling was given to Mathew for distribution. They are having similar issues like us:

1. They are completely against the renovations of the library--Mathew met with the examiner yesterday to talk about the dissatisfaction of the students regarding the topic. Being a Canadian studies student he values the library a lot and the renovations will greatly affect him and other students in the program. He has 100 books in his office-ones he cannot do his thesis without and would otherwise have been discarded. They have written a letter to Robert to express their concerns about the library but never heard back from him.
2. Space: The students are worried about office space in the near future. They are against the "one large room" idea for graduate student offices.

Things that will interest them:

- A. Rather than a social event they would prefer a guest speaker or a workshop about how to publish.

Throughout my term I sat on the following committees:

- I. Health and Wellness CASSC Subcommittee

Some things that were addressed throughout the term:

Counselling:

Urgency takes precedence because of limited amount of counselors available

Walk in Clinic:

There are specific days scheduled for walk-ins.

If students want to see a nurse or doctor, he/she must call or go to the clinic to make an appointment.

Center for Academic Testing:

Space committee approved them getting more space.

All final exams: Will be given time and a half in class (discussion is pending)

Health services Renovation:

Reserved budget to conduct renovations (6 wks renovation time). This will provide two additional exam rooms; nursing and treatment room; improved utility space; improved ventilation systems; electrical system, etc.

Staff:

Currently there is a nurse practitioner volunteer half a day for a week

A physician (trans-care: great addition to services provided)

Peer health Promotion:

Leave the pack behind: student led initiative--Health education (smoking: quit smoking; funded by Brock University (<https://www.leavethepackbehind.org>))

Resources:

IMWell: students resource where students can go see a counselor in the community in a few hours (<http://imwhealth.com>)

More feet on the ground: training in the area of psychology: educate students about some basic psychological disorders (<https://trentu.morefeetontheground.ca>)

II. Housing Advisory CASSC subcommittee

Guidebook/Marketing Materials

Orientation guide for residents: outlines the rules which may not be relevant for the grad guidebook.

TGSA PAGE! What content will we have—can be emailed to Robyn Gundy: Less than 10 pages

-Benefits

-Services

III. Convocation CASSC Task subcommittee

The psychology students were initially scheduled to convocation with the undergraduates, but with some push back from graduate students and faculty this was changed. Psychology graduate students are now graduating with the other graduate students.

Senator: (see [Addendum VI](#))

Addendum II:
Commissioner Reports

Equity Commissioner:

- Work in collaboration with the CHREA and other experts in the designing and organization of information session addressing:
 - AODA, Human Rights Code, Discrimination and Harassment Policy, Accessibility Policy, Sexual Violence Policy.
- Participation in the Presidential Advisory Council on Human Rights, Equity and Accessibility, and in the Accessibility Subcommittee of this Council (PACHREA):
 - Attending meetings with Trent University President addressing concerns about institution-wide awareness of equity and accessibility and related knowledge.
 - Designing and organization of the Equity and Diversity Event during Winter 2017.
 - Attending the Accessibility Subcommittee meetings of PACHREA. During this term, the Committee members discussed issues surrounding interpretation of legal AODA requirements to the “letter of the law” versus the intent of the law, strategies to address challenges in the structure of this Subcommittee, and the Multi-year Accessibility Plan.
 - Last meeting April 18, 2017.
- Collaboration with the TGSA Board Members to ensure that our Bylaws and Policies and events are accessible and equitable. Support in promoting such events to the General Membership via the VP Communications and social media.
- Serving in the Trent University Special Appeals Senate Committee (SAC), and the Mental Health Colleges and Student Services Working Group of the Colleges and Student Services (CASSC).
- Ensuring the TGSA abides by these acts and policies, but also that the information related to these topics is relevant and updated per the times we are living.

Environmental Commissioner: (position vacant)

Health Benefits Commissioner:

This year was unique in many ways. Apart from being new to this role, the health and benefits plan of graduate students was included in a wider plan that serves all Trent students regardless of their studies or student association. The Trent Students Health and Dental Plan is a joint plan that covers all students whether undergrads, grads, part-time or full time. The plan is administered by TCSA on behalf of TGSA and TDSA. TGSA still have control over graduate students coverage and work closely with StudentVIP and TCSA for the day to day operations.

As the Health and Benefits Commissioner, I also represent TGSA on the TSHDBP committee that is a joint committee between the different student associations that help in the future development of the Health plan to better serve all SA's and their respected members.

Apart from the changes in coverage and premiums associated with the joint plan, TGSA was closely working with other stakeholders to improve the quality of coverage provided to graduate students. A key outcome was the introduction of a premium cap for graduate students with dependents. Starting Sep. 2017 any graduate student who would like to add dependents will not be required to pay more than the premium equal to the amount for a student, spouse and one dependent. This is a major benefit that will help reduce the financial strains faced by graduate students with dependents especially that TGSA has the largest ration of students with family dependents compared to TCSA and TDSA. Another area where the Trent Health and Dental plan will improve is by providing extra coverage not currently provided by the existing plan. The details of all additions and improvements will be sent once received from StudentVIP.

I would like to end my report by acknowledging the help and support I received from the TGSA's board, its members, the TSHDBP committee and all those who helped me in serving you.

OGSA Commissioner:

OGSA is a coalition of graduate student associations across Ontario, including Waterloo, Guelph, Trent, Laurier, McMaster, Athabasca, and UOIT. It is an organization that strives to work collaboratively, informed by the voices of graduate students residing in Ontario (and in particular, its member schools), to advocate for policy and system change that will support the continued improvement of the graduate student experience in the Province of Ontario. OGSA has created four Advocacy Proposals in the past year, which have been uploaded and are available on their website: <http://www.ontariogsa.com/index.php/advocacy/>. These include the Refundable Technology Tax Credit Proposal, the OGSA Submission to Funding Reform Consultation Proposal, the OGSA Pre-Budget Submission to SCFEA 2016 Proposal, and the OGSA Budget Submission 2016 Minister of Finance Canada Proposal.

As OGSA Commissioner, I have regularly attended both the monthly OGSA board meetings and monthly TGSA board meetings, and have had interim meetings with the OGSA Executive Director. I have also worked with the OGSA Policy Committee to help determine what policy initiatives OGSA should work on. One of these initiatives has been to lobby for a reconsideration of the 10-hour rule for graduate students (and scholarship holders). OGSA approached the Ontario Council on Graduate Studies (OCGS), who is now working on revisions and a resolution to the problems with the 10-hour rule. Moreover, the Federal Government announced \$90 million in additional funding for the Post Secondary Student Support Program, which was something OGSA has been advocating for over the last two years. OGSA also has successfully lobbied to secure increased Tri-agency funding in the federal budget.

I have also worked with OGSA and the TGSA board to brainstorm a way for OGSA to be more equitably funded. Currently, students at each member school contribute a vastly different amount to OGSA, so we brainstormed an amount that would be feasible for students from each member school to contribute. I have proposed a referendum question to support this nominal fee increase from \$2.00 to \$2.37 (to be voted on after this meeting). OGSA primarily uses this financial

support to pay an Executive Director to oversee the organization's operations, as well as to help cover transportation costs for the President and other members who are traveling to Queen's Park to lobby to members of parliament.

International Student Representative Commissioner: The International Students Representative Commissioner (ISRC) represented international students at the TGSA Board Meetings and Special Board Meetings, which she regularly attended. During her tenure, she was always readily available and promptly responded to international students who contacted her. She acted as a liaison between the TGSA and TIP (Trent Internal Program). Currently, she is organizing a comprehensive information session for international grad students' health support options with a representative from StudentVIP. Proposed issues on the agenda include discussions of the difference between the Joint Health and Dental Plan and UHIP, important plan information, additional plans for family and dependents, health plan options following graduation and the I.M.Well program. The ISRC also represented international students on the Graduate Housing Advisory Committee, a sub-committee of CASSC (Colleges and Student Services). The sub-committee is currently doing preliminary discussions on some components of a proposed Housing Master Plan and revisions to the Trent Housing Guidebook. In addition, the ISRC helped organize the international potluck that was held in March. Lastly, although these committees have not officially met yet, the ISRC is a member of the TGSA Health Benefits and Social Justice Committees.

Addendum III:
Full Proposed Changes to TGSA Constitution and Referendum Question

This year, the Constitutional Changes Committee performed an annual review of the TGSA Bylaws and Policies.

Here is a list of the most notable changes:

Removed the \$200 honoraria from the First Year Arts Representative and the First Year Science Representative. Removed the Commissioner title from the First Year Arts Representative and the First Year Science Representative to reflect the lack of honoraria and make their positions more in line with Program Representatives. Done because the term for these positions is very short making it very hard for them to do as much work as the other commissioners.

Added language to release individual bursary amounts for all bursaries stricken of all private and personal information for the public record at the end of the academic year.

Fixed some language issues with the Health and Dental plan such as taking out Student VIP in case we ever change providers. Student VIP was replaced with delegates of the health and dental plan.

Added Bylaw 5.01k to provide a health and dental plan for graduate students.

Fixed Grad Listserv since it no longer exists. Changed the Grad Listserv definition to reflect the current state of the list that we received from IT and its uses. Also, added in a definition for the Grad Blackboard Listserv, which we also now possess, and its uses. And fixed the bylaws and policies to reflect these new communication outlets. Each Listserv has been designated for specific contexts, ie, Grad Listserv is for vital communication only while the Grad Blackboard Listserv is for non-vital communications.

Added in the that bylaws and policies and procedures of the TGSA shall comply with the Personal Health Information Protection Act of Ontario. Also, added in that executive, the health benefits commissioners, the equity commissioner, and everyone on the Board with access to sensitive and personal information and personal information regarding the health and dental plan are subject to these acts. Further personal, private, and sensitive information shall not be released unless made completely anonymous. And added a punitive measure separate from Bylaw 21: Discipline and Impeachment to deal with breaches in confidentiality or privacy.

Wrote Emergency Bursary including its operation by the VP Finance and receiving budgetary funds each year.

Policy 6.05.06 says we have to add 2.5% of our dues every year into a capital reserve (savings account), which is a good idea. Instead of adding money into this account

forever, which seems inefficient, I have capped the amount in the savings account at \$40,000. This amount would allow the TGSA to run the student services budget for just about 2 years (with some massive cuts) if in some extreme case where no student fees were collected. Then if any money is spent out of our capital reserve it must be replaced up to \$40,000.

Policy 6.05.07 is a new. It provides a safety net for the TGSA in case we are sued or need a legal defence.

Policy 6.05.08 instead of adding all surplus funds into the capital reserve, I would like to add them to the emergency bursary up to an amount of \$5,000. Then they can be added back to the capital reserve.

Added stronger language around Executives receiving important anti-oppression training.

Added language to change the seals of the TGSA

Added language to allow for online voting for both the board and executives

Symons Seminar Series have been removed from the Bylaws and Policies where appropriate since they are a part of Traill College now.

Added language to the Program Representatives to make it clear that their elections are not TGSA elections even if they happen at the same time.

Fixed language around the date of Bylaw and Policy ratification.

Updated LGBTTQ to LGBTTQ+.

Added in line about checking mail in both TGSA mailboxes.

Added in language about Board approval and General Membership approval of the auditor's report (at the auditor's request).

Added in language around releasing as part of the public record how much money is given out in bursaries by the TGSA while still remaining in line with FIPA and PIPA (at auditor's request).

Added in a conflict of interest policy.

Added in clear language about the duties of the Executive and their responsibility to act in accordance with the Board.

Added in clear language around online voting for the Board and Executive.

The new Bylaws and Policies are available to view [here](#). The changes are highlighted with red text.

The new emergency bursary form is available to view [here](#).

The new Conference and Group Support Bursary form is available to view [here](#).

The Board of Directors has taken a "yes" position on accepting the new Bylaws and Policies.

Referendum Question:

Do you accept these new Bylaws and Policies?

Yes

No

Abstain

Addendum IV:
Ontario Graduate Students' Alliance Nominal Fee Raise Referendum Question

Referendum Question 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.

Referendum 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?

Yes

No

Abstain

Addendum V:
Joint Trent Health and Dental Plan Update

TGSA Spring General Meeting Health and Dental Plan Update
April 13, 2017

This year (2016), the TGSA became part of the Joint Trent Health and Dental Benefits Plan (JTHDBP) with the TCSA (Trent Central Student Association for the undergrads) and the TDSA (Trent Durham Student Association for undergrads at the Durham satellite campus).

This was proposed by Student VIP, the TGSA’s current health care broker, at the end of 2016 to the previous executive of the TGSA.

A referendum was held after the 2016 Spring General Meeting and passed allowing the TGSA to become part of this joint plan.

The current executive did face some challenges over the summer of 2016 in becoming part of the plan. In the communications sent out to graduate students at the beginning of the Fall 2016 term, we tried to communicate that the promises made in the language of the approved referendum question were not all feasible to deliver. To address this, there was a special board meeting held on August 29, 2016. The decision made at this meeting was to become a part of the JTHDBP, and the executive enacted this decision.

The following is the most comprehensive update the executive can put together at this time. We hope it will clarify what has been happening with your health and dental coverage.

Here is a break-down between the 2015-2016 TGSA only plan and the 2016-2017 joint plan:

2015-2016 Policy Year Policy #490020	2016-2017 Policy Year Policy #490018
Drug Coverage	
<i>Direct2U</i>	100% Generic / 80% Brand
<i>All Other Pharmacies</i>	80% Generic / 60% Brand
Dispensing Fee Cap	\$7.00
Standard Preventative Vaccines	\$300/benefit year
Diabetic Supplies	
Contraceptives (Oral, IUD, Injectable)	
Biologic Agents	\$1,000/benefit year
Hepatitis C Medications	\$1,500/lifetime
CNS Stimulants	\$500/benefit year
<i>Not Included</i>	
Fertility Drugs/Treatment	
Smoking Cessation Aids/Remedies	
Anti-Obesity Drugs/Products	
Erectile Dysfunction Drugs	

Gardasil Vaccine

Extended Health Coverage

Practitioner Coverage 80% Coverage

Chiropractor/Registered Massage Therapist*	\$40/visit, \$300/benefit year/combined practitioners	Added Dietician \$40/visit, \$300/benefit year/combined practitioners
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Naturopath/Acupuncture/**Dietician**

Chiropodist/Podiatrist

Physiotherapist/Athletic Therapist

Psychologist/Social Worker (MSW)/Speech Therapist**

**Prescription required for first claim submission*

*** No per visit maximum in effect*

Other EHC Coverage 100% Coverage

Medical Equipment & Supplies*

Hearing Aids	\$500/5 years	\$500/5 years
Prosthetics	\$25,000/lifetime	\$25,000/lifetime
Orthotic Appliances/Orthopedic Shoes**	\$300/benefit year combined	\$300/benefit year combined

Ambulance Coverage

HIV Prophylaxis	\$6,000/lifetime	\$6,000/lifetime
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**Physician's prescription required*

***Prescribed by physician, orthopedic surgeon or podiatrist*

Vision Coverage

80% Coverage

Frames, Lenses & Contact Lenses	\$80/24 months	\$100/24 months
Eye Examinations	\$80/24 months	\$80/24 months

Dental Coverage

Current dental fee guide	\$1,000/benefit year/insured	\$1,000/benefit year/insured
Examinations Complete (1 every 5 years) Limited/Recall (1 every 12 months) Specific/Emergency (1 each every 36 months)	80%	80%

To clarify, there was some confusion over this document initially. The TGSA executive thought in becoming part of the JTHDBP that our 2015-2016 benefits would carry over into the 2017-2016 plan. As such, in joining the JTHDBP all students—undergrads and grads—received the 2016-2017 plan. This resulted in some changes for graduate students and changes for Durham students. The JTHDBP was designed to give all Trent students the same benefits.

The 2015-2016 TGSA plan was very rich in things like dental coverage. However, due to our relatively small graduate student population it was unsustainable. We were looking at fee increases to maintain this plan. This is part of the reason why Student VIP suggested the idea of a joint, Trent wide benefits plan.

CLAIM SUMMARY

Reporting from September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016

PERIOD	HEALTH			DENTAL		
	Paid Claims	*Budget Premium	Loss Ratio	Paid Claims	*Budget Premium	Loss Ratio
Sep 1/15 - Sep 30/15	\$2,759.31	\$7,107.91	39%	\$4,623.28	\$6,300.88	73%
Oct 1/15 - Oct 31/15	\$4,110.25	\$7,107.91	58%	\$8,241.04	\$6,300.88	131%
Nov 1/15 - Nov 30/15	\$11,398.85	\$7,107.91	160%	\$11,916.08	\$6,300.88	189%
Dec 1/15 - Dec 31/15	\$5,696.29	\$7,107.91	80%	\$7,431.19	\$6,300.88	118%
Jan 1/16 - Jan 31/16	\$8,194.97	\$7,354.84	111%	\$4,399.15	\$6,519.77	67%
Feb 1/16 - Feb 28/16	\$6,930.55	\$7,354.84	94%	\$5,642.36	\$6,519.77	87%
Mar 1/16 - Mar 31/16	\$9,001.17	\$7,354.84	122%	\$8,069.09	\$6,519.77	124%
Apr 1/16 - Apr 30/16	\$7,060.91	\$7,354.84	96%	\$5,825.28	\$6,519.77	89%
May 1/16 - May 31/16	\$11,262.04	\$7,354.84	153%	\$7,023.10	\$6,519.77	108%
Jun 1/16 - Jun 30/16	\$5,479.57	\$7,354.84	75%	\$6,061.69	\$6,519.77	93%
Jul 1/16 - Jul 31/16	\$5,631.37	\$7,354.84	77%	\$5,398.03	\$6,519.77	83%
Aug 1/16 - Aug 31/16	\$7,164.23	\$7,354.84	97%	\$7,547.75	\$6,519.77	116%
YEAR TO DATE TOTAL	\$84,689.51	\$87,270.35	97%	\$82,178.04	\$77,361.71	106%

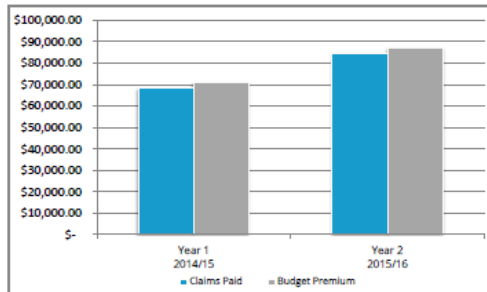
Health	Single	Insured	Family	Insured
Fall	\$211.65	351	\$423.30	26
Winter	\$141.10	12	\$282.20	1

Dental	Single	Insured	Family	Insured
Fall	\$187.62	351	\$375.23	26
Winter	\$125.08	12	\$250.15	1

You want a loss Ratio of 92%. Any higher is unsustainable. As you can see both our health and dental were very unsustainable. At about 300 graduate students on the TGSA Health and Dental Plan, there was no way we could make this sustainable without increases fees.

To illustrate this point further:

TOTAL HEALTH CLAIMS vs. TOTAL HEALTH PREMIUM

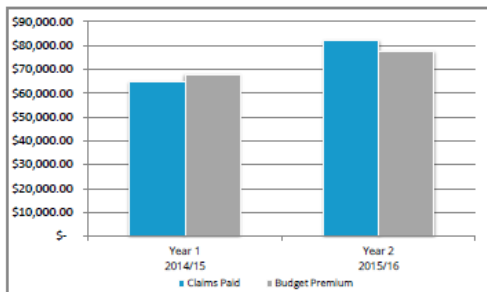


Loss Ratio

Year 1	96%
Year 2	97%

Target Loss Ratio: 90%

TOTAL DENTAL CLAIMS vs. TOTAL DENTAL PREMIUM



Loss Ratio

Year 1	96%
Year 2	106%

Target Loss Ratio: 90%

For Illustration Purposes Only

All these graphics are from the Student VIP 2015-2016 Year End Report. If you would like to see the full report please email the TGSA (gsa@trentu.ca) and we can provide you with a copy.

In order to have a sustainable plan, we needed more students. More students paying into the insurance plan keeps the loss ratio at the acceptable 92%.

The JTHDBP joins together all Trent students. We all pay the same amount \$425.00 for the same benefits (listed in the first chart). This allows for the fees to remain consistent form year to year for stable benefits.

Here is the mid-year summary of the JTHDBP:

CLAIM SUMMARY

Reporting from September 1, 2016 to January 31, 2017

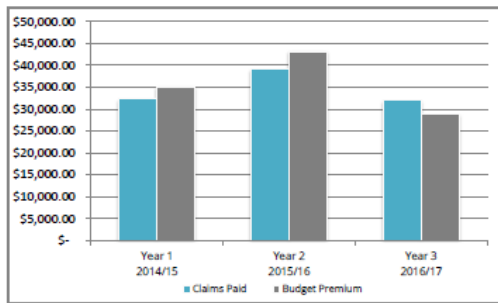
PERIOD	HEALTH			DENTAL		
	Paid Claims	*Budget Premium	Loss Ratio	Paid Claims	*Budget Premium	Loss Ratio
Sep 1/16 - Sep 30/16	\$3,496.84	\$5,716.71	61%	\$2,874.36	\$7,055.83	41%
Oct 1/16 - Oct 31/16	\$7,385.16	\$5,716.71	129%	\$4,906.74	\$7,055.83	70%
Nov 1/16 - Nov 30/16	\$6,957.18	\$5,716.71	122%	\$11,177.65	\$7,055.83	168%
Dec 1/16 - Dec 31/16	\$8,703.79	\$5,716.71	162%	\$7,295.80	\$7,055.83	103%
Jan 1/17 - Jan 31/17	\$5,417.79	\$5,951.19	91%	\$7,034.93	\$7,346.00	96%
YEAR TO DATE TOTAL	\$32,169.67	\$35,786.49	90%	\$36,610.74	\$31,723.31	116%

Health	Single		Family 1		Family 2+		Family 3+	
Fall	\$165.05	351	\$338.00	11	\$425.00	4	\$525.00	10
Winter	\$165.05	15	\$338.00	1	\$425.00	0	\$525.00	0

Dental	Single		Family 1		Family 2+		Family 3+	
Fall	\$204.47	351	\$415.00	11	\$524.00	4	\$624.00	10
Winter	\$204.47	15	\$415.00	1	\$524.00	0	\$624.00	0

And

TGSA HEALTH CLAIMS vs. TGSA HEALTH PREMIUM

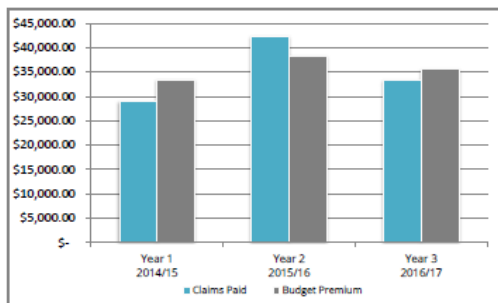


Loss Ratio

Year 1	92%
Year 2	90%
Year 3	111%

92% Target Loss Ratio
(previously 90%)

TGSA DENTAL CLAIMS vs. TGSA DENTAL PREMIUM



Loss Ratio

Year 1	84%
Year 2	115%
Year 3	94%

92% Target Loss Ratio
(previously 90%)

On the JTHDBP, the loss ratio of the health and dental plan is becoming sustainable for less fees. Finally, there are some new updates to the plan that were just approved by the JTHDBP Committee, which consists of 1 TGSA representative, 1 TDSA representative, and 3 TCSA representative. These updates were further approved by the TCSA and will be put into action.

1. The increase for psychology from \$300 \$500 per year – for September 2017
2. The dependent cap in place for September 2017 - capped at 2
3. The TCSA will be increasing the fee for our students by CPI this year (1.4%) and it should be assumed that the other SA's will be asked to do the same (not this coming year) in order to keep up with inflation - as discussed in committee. The TGSA will send out an update as soon as we are asked to do this. This decision will be made by the Board of Directors unless they feel like it should be made by all grad students in which case the executive will address that as necessary.

Addendum VI:
Senator's Report, Presentation Slides

VP Senator

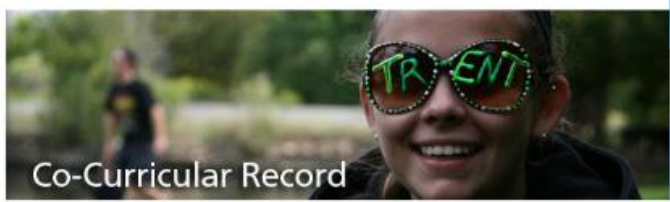
What I do...



Represent Graduate Students On Senate and Senate Executive

VP Senator

What I do...



Co-Curricular Record



Attend unfilled committee positions as well as those required of my position

VP Senator

What I do...



Fill and recruit open Program Rep positions on the TGSA Board

VP Senator

What I've accomplished...



Bata Library Renovation Response

- Organization of Bata Library Response from the TGSA, along with affected communities at Trent (Faculty through TUFA, CUPE, Undergrads through TCSA), and generally making it an “issue” at Senate.

VP Senator

What I've been involved with...



Convocation

- Involvement in relaying graduate response to Convocation Committee regarding our objection to having Psychology Graduates convocate with the undergrads... the Psychology Graduates made a convincing case this past year that changed the Administration's mind.

VP Senator

What I've accomplished...



Promotion of Indigenization at Trent

- Pushed for Senate and the Board of Governors to begin acknowledging the use of traditional territorial lands of the Anishinaabe at the beginning of all meetings, which was done for the first time on April 4th.