

TGSA Executive Reports:
September 29th, 2016

President:

Meeting with Nona Robinson and Presidents of Cabinets

I had a productive meeting with the presidents of the various cabinets sharing updates about our respective organizations. Retention is clearly a large issue the University is facing. The cabinets seem to be very active in terms of their social events. I updated the members on our most recent board meeting about joining Chambers.

Meeting with Alaine

I am meeting with Alaine with TCSA tomorrow (Wednesday Sept. 28th). Prior to our meeting she suggested to come to our board meeting to present about the health plan and be there to answer any questions. I assume in our meeting she will inform me of the reasons behind this request.

Health Benefits Committee

I have ensured that Miteb form this committee and he has kept me updated on the workings of the committee which I appreciate.

VP Internal Affairs: Missed first CASSC meeting. Still waiting to hear from Nona about the latest edition about the TGSA Trent Support Agreement.

VP Finance: I am currently going through conference bursaries: it looks like we will be under budget again. We have a few that were handed in within five days of the deadline that will receive the 5% penalty. Additionally, there is one extra bursary from last round that did not get picked up from the mailbox on Symons campus that I will be awarding. I will present this at the board meeting but I wanted the exec to know.

VP Communications: I traveled to the University of Windsor on September 27th, 2016 to interview Dr. Chris Tindale, who conducted the Traill College review. I feel that I have all the additional interviews I need to finish the documentary. It will be posted sometime within the next two weeks.

VP of Student Affairs: --

Senator: Due to my increased busyness in schedule, I've done little to deal with the follow-through with touching base with Wallis Hall residents concerning the changes this fall with the construction and addition of the undergrads. Looking forward, this is something that will be easier once the housing subcommittee commences.

Volunteers for committees have slowed down to a trickle and therefore more effort will be undertaken to ask for volunteers. Along with this includes finding more individuals to sit on the finance committee, and while I have not specifically focused on this committee, it has been included in the overall call for committee volunteers. I will be putting out more calls for volunteers in the coming weeks and approaching grads who I think may be willing to sit on a committee or two.

I will be distributing my summary of the Senate Orientation notes and areas of concern along with this report as a follow up to last Executive meeting. Furthermore, I've now attended one Grad Studies Curriculum and Regulations meeting, along with the Graduate Studies Committee these past few weeks. Due to Curriculum and Regulations being the first point of the Grad Studies decision-making process, and items passed by this committee still requiring a GSC approval, much of my focus in my reports will include content from both, but be treated as a summary of GSC meetings. Below are some of the topics discussed with a brief description:

- Electronic Reference Requests for Graduate Studies will be implemented this year, possible future project mentioned of electronic progress reports.
- Grad Studies website to be updated to new style (see School of Education for example)
- Government funding model changes were discussed, but likely Grad Studies will not be affected by the changes the same way undergrad programs will likely be affected.
- 3MT update at Market Hall on March 21st. Provincial Competition hosted by Waterloo sometime in April. Concerns raised over 3MT discriminating against arts students with image-related theses as two slides may not be enough. Ability or inability to share information in limited time for some projects that require building a background for audience. Perceptions of some research having importance over others.
- Queens Ph.D bootcamp for writing phase, July 9 – 14, (actually better described as a retreat) was being praised as a good idea.
- Some schools having dissertations checked using something similar to Safe Assign. U of T and Western have already done this. This sounds highly problematic to me, and I raised my concerns about this! There's also the issue of falsifying data or numbers, but this becomes an issue of whether this is about data falsification or plagiarism.
- Responses to strategic research fund applications were released Sept 22, 2016. \$23,000 left in the fund, \$29,000 requested, likely \$12,000 to be released for this term, and the rest next term. GS to seek new infusion of

funding for next year. Yes, relatively minor to us, but still good to keep an eye on research funding levels and availability while working with our respective departments.

- Graduate and Professional Schools Expo Oct 5th, 11 – 2 pm at Trent Gymnasium
- Tenure track, and appointment changes (regular to adjunct faculty), Post-doctoral to adjunct and research faculty, all positions were passed by both committees.
- History and Canadian Studies Cross-Listing of Ph.D course was passed by both committees
- OCGS changing terms from “collaborative program” to “collaborative specialization”. Collaborative specializations required an expedited approval process, including a site visit, though now it will require a smaller amount of paper work, and no site visit, streamlining the process. Before required more than one graduate course, but now requires only one graduate course to create.

Sustainability of Thesis Printing (Double-sided Printing), apparently cost is higher for double-sided printing due to need for thicker paper.