



To all Graduate Students,

The **TGSA Board of Directors** held a special meeting on **Monday, August 29th, 2016** to determine the appropriate course of action in regards to the **Health and Dental Care Plan merger with the TCSA and the TDSA**.

The following information was presented and discussed at this meeting:

Student VIP submitted the **\$425.00** amount for the plan to **Trent Finance** in **April 2016**, so that always would have been the amount graduate students were charged for their health and dental coverage, regardless of whether the **TGSA** merged with the **TCSA** and **TDSA Health and Dental Care Plan** or not.

However, graduate students would be faced with significant cuts to their health care premiums if the **TGSA** did not join the merged **Health and Dental Care Plan**. Joining the plan would mean that the **TGSA** is outvoted by the **TCSA** on the **Joint Health Care Committee** and by the **TCSA Board of Directors**. The **TCSA Board** would have final approval over the **TGSA's** health care decisions, which is a stipulation of the merger that had not been established when graduate students voted in favour of the merger at the **2016 Spring General Assembly** meeting.

After weighing the different sides of the merger at the special meeting, the **TGSA Board** voted in favour of it. The current version of the **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**, which is linked at the bottom of this communication, will be signed with the understanding that the **TGSA** can leave this merger next year should any issues arise for graduate students, and with the understanding that the **TGSA** will be exploring more options for potential health and dental plans that will continue to meet graduate students' needs, but that will be exclusively under graduate students' control. The draft minutes from this meeting are also linked at the bottom of this communication to provide you with a sense of the discussions that led to this decision.

While the signing of the **MOU** may not be perceived as ideal by some, we can assure you that there will be no negative changes to your **Health and Dental Care Plan**, and, again, that the rate of **\$425.00** provided at the time of the referendum at the **2016 Spring General Assembly** meeting still holds as the cost of this year's plan.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to let us know by contacting the **Trent Graduate Students' Association** at gsa@trentu.ca.

Best,
Your TGSA Team

Links

[**MOU**](#)
[**August 29th Special Meeting Minutes**](#)