



TGSA Board Meeting Agenda

Date: December 2nd, 2020 (Wednesday)

Start time: **End time:**

Location: Zoom video conference

Chair: Sandra Klemet-N'Guessan

Scribe: Shyong Quan (Elicia) Yap

Attendance:

Regrets:

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

Introduction and updates from board members

2. Call to Order

We respectfully acknowledge that we are on the treaty and traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig Anishinaabeg. We offer our gratitude to the First Peoples for their care for, and teachings about, our earth and our relations. May we honour those teachings.

3. Adopt the Agenda:

Mover:

Second:

Discussion

Approve:

Oppose:

Abstain:

4. Past Meeting Minutes

Adopt the Minutes from the Verbatim and Summarized Minutes from 4th November 2020 Board Meeting

Mover:

Second:

Discussion

Approve:

Oppose:

Abstain:

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

- a) Sandra (President)
 - (i) Updates from meetings and committees
 - (ii) Initiatives brainstorming following Experiences of Racialization at Trent: A Panel Discussion
 - (iii) 2021 TGSA elections
- b) Sebastian (VP internal affairs)
 - (i) Motions for VP Finance nominee
 - (ii) Amendments to the TGSA By-Laws and Policies

Motion:

Candidate for Vice President Finance
Mariana Castelli Rosa - mcastellirosa@trentu.ca

Under By-Law 15.02 d. “Should an Executive Officer’s position, excluding the President, become vacant mid-tenure, the position shall be filled by a Full Member elected by the Board at a Board Meeting or Special Board Meeting;” I move that in the absence of any other nominees for the position of Vice President Finance, the Board appoint Mariana Castelli Rosa as TGSA Vice President Finance.

- c) Nicole (FCGSA Rep)
 - (i) Office Space at Trill College
- d) Jordon (VP Student Affairs)
 - (i) Model Parliament
 - (ii) Festivus
 - (iii) Trent Talks and Life After Trent
- e) Verena (Environmental Commissioner)
 - (i) Trent Lands and Nature Areas Plan - Student Request for Comment Period Extension

6. Updates from CUPE

Alison (CUPE Unit 2 representative)

7. Executive Reports (see Addendum I)

- a) President
- b) VP Internal Affairs
- c) VP Communications

- d) VP Finance
- e) VP Student Affairs
- f) VP Senate Representative

Minutes: Additions to Executive reports

Motion to Approve the Executive Reports

Mover:

Second:

Discussion

Approve:

Oppose:

Abstain:

8. Commissioner and Program Representative Reports (see Addendum II)

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

Minutes: Additions to Commissioner and Program Representative reports

Motion to Approve the Commissioner and Program Representative Reports

Mover:

Second:

Discussion

Approve:

Oppose:

Abstain:

9. Question Period and Departmental Issues

10. Business Arising from the Minutes

11. Motions

12. Other Business

13. Notices of Motions and Announcements

- a. The next board meeting will be held 13th January 2021

- b. The reports and motions for that meeting are due 7th January 2021

14. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Mover:

Second:

Discussion

Approve:

Oppose:

Abstain:

Addendum I Executive Reports

Sandra (President):

This past month I met with the Bata Librarian about promoting graduate students' rooms and carrels so that they are more used. I met with Michael Eamon for our bi-weekly updates on the TGSA and Traill ends. I met with Jane Rennie about the trends that came out of the Racialized Graduate Students Bursary. I met with Craig Brunetti and shared updates on both the TGSA and School of Graduate Studies ends. Lastly I have been meeting with the Anti-racism task force biweekly. The task force's terms of reference and plan for the year are now ready.

On Thursday November 19th we held the Experiences of Racialization: A Panel Discussion event for which I was the moderator. A total of 63 participants were registered to the event, 41 (including TGSA members and the panelists) attended and stayed for most of the event. Participants included faculty members, graduate, and undergraduate students, senior management including the Chair of the Board of Governors and several Vice-Presidents. Following the event, I met with Michael Khan and Tariq Al-Idrissi to debrief on the event. They were very happy with how the event went and I think this has given some good food for thought for the Task Force. I have also shared Jarrod's idea of a workshop on respectful inter-ethnic relations during orientation week with the VP Student Affairs and the TGSA Equity Commissioner, Tanya Aminataei, is interested in working with Jarrod to potentially develop a similar workshop more geared towards graduate students (and perhaps professors?). Lastly, the TGSA board and potentially other student groups will discuss the possibility of bringing some of the ideas that came out of this event to the Board of Governors. The event was recorded.

Sebastian (VP Internal Affairs):

This month I focused on the recruitment of a new Vice President Finance for the TGSA. I have distributed the application of the one applicant to the Board and included a motion for a vote on their candidacy below.

Motion:

Candidate for Vice President Finance

Mariana Castelli Rosa - mcastellirosa@trentu.ca

Under By-Law 15.02 d. “Should an Executive Officer’s position, excluding the President, become vacant mid-tenure, the position shall be filled by a Full Member elected by the Board at a Board Meeting or Special Board Meeting;” I move that in the absence of any other nominees for the position of Vice President Finance, the Board appoint Mariana Castelli Rosa as TGSA Vice President Finance.

I have also worked on more amendments to the TGSA By-Laws and Policies which are affixed to this report in the Appendix and can be found at this link:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_1fcEwpT1KIXOLmI8lpmzd1DwvCvBV2ruJ9pScr2LvE/edit

The main concerns are bringing the By-Laws and Policies up to date in regards to previous amendments passed this summer, taking into account suggestions by fellow Board members who suggested changes to their portfolios to better reflect the work they are doing, and finally entrenching the role of Durham Representative in our governing documents to clarify their roles.

Appendix:

Proposed amendments to the Policies and By-Laws of the TGSA

DRAFT

November 2020

Compiled and Drafted by:
Sebastian Johnston-Lindsay, VP Internal Affairs
Shyong Quan Yap, VP Communications
Jordan Williams, VP Student Affairs

As per By-Law 26.03, the topics of the following amendments were reported to the VP Internal Affairs 30 days in advance of the December 2020 Board meeting.

All Amendments will require ratification by the General Membership at the next General Meeting, as per By-Law 26.01 and 11.01, respectively.

Amendment 1.) To remove or amend sections of Policy 2.02.03 Vice President Communications

i.) Remove 2.02.03 b. “To oversee the maintenance of the filing cabinet in the TGSA office and organizing the documents wherein;”

ii.) Remove 2.02.03 d. “To oversee the maintenance of the TGSA Google Drive database as the “owner” and organize the documents wherein;”

iii.) Amend 2.03.03 h. “To send and receive emails from the gsa@trentu.ca email as appropriate;”

To

“To send and receive emails from the vpcommunicationstgsa@trentu.ca email as appropriate;”

Amendment 2.) To amend By-Law 19 Transfer of Executive and Commissioner Positions at 19.01 in order to clarify and bring this section into logical agreement with both 2018 and 2020 Amendments.

i.) 19.01 “The transition of authority for Executives and Commissioners shall occur no more than thirty (30) business days after the conclusion of the General Meeting.”

To

“The transition of authority for Executives and Commissioners shall occur no more than ninety (90) business days after the conclusion of the General Meeting during which the new Board was elected by the membership.”

Amendment 3.) An amendment to entrench and outline the role of the Trent Durham Representative in the TGSA’s *By-Laws and Policies*.

i.) Amend By-Law 16.01 e. “Two (2) Board Members to be elected from the General Membership by their constituent groups and who shall be known as Representatives and shall have the following titles:

- i. Arts Student Representative; and
- ii. Science Student Representative;”

To

“Three (3) Board Members to be elected from the General Membership by their constituent groups and who shall be known as Representatives and shall have the following titles:

- i. Arts Student Representative;
- ii. Science Student Representative; and
- iii. Trent Durham Representative”

ii.) Add Policy 2.03.10 Trent Durham Representative

“The duties of the Trent Durham Representative shall be:

- a. To represent the interest of graduate students studying at Trent’s Durham campus to The Board;
- b. To be familiar with The University’s Academic Integrity Policy for graduate students and to help educate first year students and answer questions about this policy;
- c. To be familiar with The University’s Health and Safety Policy and to help educate first year students and answer questions about this policy;
- d. To meet with Program Representatives to promote the TGSA;
- e. To aide in the formation of a student society for programs or interest groups based at Durham where none exists;
- f. To sit on vacant committees as requested by the VP Senate Representative indefinitely or until the position can be filled;”

iii.) Add the following text at Policy 4.05.01:

“c. Only students enrolled in a graduate program at Trent’s Durham Campus can vote for the Trent Durham Representative. In the absence of a vote held within the programs based at Durham or the student body, the Durham Representative shall be appointed under the guidelines set out in Bylaw 16.01 a. of this document.”

Elicia (VP Communication):

This month, I have been working on:

- Distributing our November newsletter
- Compiling information for the December issue
- Working with the VP Internal Affairs on drafting a call for the vacant VP Finance position and publicized it
- Collaborating with Trent International, Trent Aboard and the School of Graduate Studies on organizing and promoting the International Trivia
- Promoting the Experiencing Racialization at Trent: A Panel Discussion Event through various channels such as TCSA, TDSA, TUFA and CUPE

(VP Finance):-

Jordon (VP Student Affairs):

There is not a great deal to report on as many of our more significant events have passed. We attempted a game night in October to play Jackbox and had roughly ten signups. Unfortunately, only one attendee showed up, and the event was subsequently cancelled. I hope to redo this event in the next term.

The panel discussion went incredibly well, from what I heard. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the event due to a personal matter out of my control. I am happy that our team could work together to get incredible panelists and run a successful event that will hopefully be continued.

I have started planning for other Life After Trent events with the Alumni office and Trent Talks. We can talk more about potential topics. The former should be a move away from the academy and talk about career paths for both Arts and Sciences grad students. For Trent Talks, we would be conducting our series to discuss topics with a student focus. Topics would have to be approved by the Trent Talks team and cannot negatively view the University for obvious reasons.

Model Parliament. Given the current situation with COVID and the fact that only the TGSA and TCSA are working on the event, I believe we should not go through with the event this year. TUPS, the political studies club, does not exist this year as none of the members came back to Trent. The TDSA backed out for an unknown reason. As a group, we have produced quotes for an Ottawa run event, and I still intend on compiling contacts and these quotes to present to the University's college principals. I have also contacted Political Studies to discuss getting first and second-year political studies involved in the future project. If there is no interest from them and other groups, then it is safe to assume that no one wants this event, and I will not be doing any further work on it.

Festivus. Much like MP, we are unable to host Festivus in a physical environment. Given the number of cases in Ontario and the fact that the TGSA should not put itself in scrutiny and criticism for hosting physical events, I propose Festivus be an online event. For the event, we can play games, have an ugly holiday sweater contest, have just a fun social, etc., with some gift card prizes.

Over the holiday break, I will be looking at potential future events with the commissioners and beyond. Expect some information on this in late December.

Janina (VP Senate):

November has been mostly quiet on the senate side of things. During our senate exec and senate meeting, we approved quite comprehensive, yet uncontroversial changes to a variety of both undergraduate and graduate programs. The changes proposed by the graduate studies committee mostly comprised program specific changes in courses and/ or course structuring. A detailed review of the course changes can be found in the senate minutes. The other change relevant to graduate students is a rephrasing of the “leave of absence” in the graduate student calendar. In a nutshell, the new version of the leave of absence specifies and eases eligibility criteria. The senate also reviewed the 2019-2020 summary of sabbatical reports from faculty members and the unexpected changes or challenges posed by Covid 19. President Leo presented another emergency plan for a potential COVID lockdown scenario in the winter term, but mentioned that he considers the events unlikely.

In light of the last senate’s discussion on “student and faculty feedback on remote learning”, Cathy Bruce, Claire Monet and a few student senators, myself included, asked for a follow up. Cathy distributed different support guides for both students and faculty. On top of that,

an extensive student survey conducted by Student affairs and forwarded to the centre for teaching and learning has culminated in a list of “recommendations” for faculty members. The CTL will send out this list of recommendations in a timely manner, so faculty members can adapt their syllabi accordingly ahead of the start of the next winter term. I sent out a request to the CTL asking whether or not these recommendations touch upon the topic of mandatory camera usage in seminars.

Lastly, in a combined effort, we organized our first and hopefully not last symposium on “racialization at Trent”. Yeiiah to Sandra and Tanya and everyone who helped! It was such a success and I am so, so glad we did right by the panelists! Speaking again from a VP senate perspective, I heard panelist and Trent professor Momin Rahman’s suggestion that a potential site of struggle for students could be to make demands to the board of governors. Though I am still reflecting on the possibilities and implications of his suggestion, I recognize the potential for action on an institutional level within it.

Addendum II

Commissioner and Program Representative Reports

Verena (Environmental Commissioner):

Here is my report:

I have attended several meetings of committees, representing the TGSA. Here are a few points that I think would be interesting to the group:

Foodservice Advisory Committee, Sustainability and Fair Trade Working Group

How is Food Services responding to COVID? It is likely that food services will see a loss of multiple million dollar this year. Total sales are reduced about 70%. Their operations were changed to respond to the reduced traffic. Nevertheless, all four dining halls were kept open. Three small cafes and Tim Hortons are closed as there is insufficient traffic to keep them open.

Environmental Advisory Board

The EAB did not meet in 2019-20 because of a lack of administrative support. We discussed unfinished and planned business, and brainstormed on how to move forward. We will likely increase meeting frequency and invite several new people to join.

Trent Nature Areas Stewardship Committee

The committee discussed supporting a student group to educate, collect data, research, and work on the Trent nature areas. Another topic was possible updates of the signage and way finding in the TNA Wildlife Sanctuary trails. We also discussed the committee's input to the Trent Lands Plan, mentioning the benefits of a collective set of points for comment on the plan.

Maryam (International Student Representative Commissioner): -

Tanya (Equity Commissioner):

Logan (Psychology Program Representative):

Trent Graduate Student Association (TGSA)

1. Students were sent an email updating them on what is going on, the upcoming racialization event, the bursary, an introductory blurb, and the TGSA's/CUPE's work in regards to the webcams needing to be on or off (no response)
2. A meeting with the Trent Psychology faculty is taking place tomorrow at 2 that I will be attending along with a first-year psychology graduate meeting sometime in mid December
3. Attended a presentation on contextual pain experiences in mice and humans
4. Attended a presentation on the Racialization Experience at Trent University