



TGSA Board Meeting Agenda

Date: July 7th, 2020 (Tuesday)

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

4.1 Adopt the Minutes from the Verbatim Minutes from 2nd June 2020 Board Meeting

Mover:

Second:

Discussion

Approve:

Oppose:

Abstain:

4.2 Adopt the Minutes from the Summarized Minutes from 2nd June 2020 Board Meeting

Mover:

Second:

Discussion

Approve:

Oppose:

Abstain:

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

- a) Sandra (President)
 - (i) Updates regarding benefits plan
- b) Sebastian (VP internal affairs)
 - (i) Changing of the First Year Representative positions to simply "Arts Representative" and "Science Representative"

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

i.) To change the titles of both the First Year Arts Representative and the First Year Science Representative to Arts Representative and Science Representative, respectfully anywhere they appear in the Policies and By-Laws of the TGSA following the passage of this amendment, either as a whole or in part, and allow for these positions to be held by one (1) student in each position from any year within their respective graduate program, provided they are a full member of the TGSA at the time of their candidacy. Likewise, following Policy 2.03.07 and Policy 2.03.08 that the duties of these Representatives shall also be amended to reflect both positions representing Arts and Science graduate students in any year of their program. Nothing in any section of this amendment or the following section shall restrict a first-year student from running for either position.

ii.) Amend By-Law 18.01.01 - "Only the First Year Arts Student Representative and the First Year Science Student Representative shall be elected at the Fall General Meeting"

iii.) Amend Policy 1.01.01 a. - "The First Year Arts Student Representative and the First Year Science Student Representative will not yet be elected and are excused from providing reports."

iv.) Amend Policy 1.01.07 - "The VP Internal Affairs will introduce the nominated candidates running for the First Year Science Representative and First Year Arts

Representative. If time allows, each candidate may give a short two (2) minute speech. The VP Internal Affairs will time the speeches. Voting will occur after in accordance with Bylaw 18."

v.) Amend Policy 2.02.02 j. - "To oversee the elections of the First Year Arts Representative and First Year Science Representative at the Fall General Meeting;"

vi.) Remove Policy 4.02.2 - "Candidates for the First Year Arts Representative and First Year Science Representative positions must be in their first year of graduate studies either full-time or part-time at the time of their appointment"

vii.) Amend Policy 4.05.01 a. from - "Only first year students may vote for both the First Year Arts Representative and First Year Science Representative;" to "Only Arts students may vote for the Arts Representative; only Science students may vote for the Science Representative;"

Supporting Document: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RPW-WnplMfO9y7uUfK_AWSEnDzzgL9K93kLSmXl_2Vw/edit#

- (ii) Role of executive members sitting for re-election in the drafting and carrying out elections in Policy 4 of the By-Laws and Policies Document.
- c) Anique (VP Finance)
 - (i) First look at proposed budget, members send information of how much their respective duties will cost
 - (ii) COVID Bursary II
- d) Jordon (VP Student Affairs)
 - (i) Meeting with Michael Eamon and events
 - (ii) Alumni meeting
- e) Madhu (AMOD program representative)
 - (i) Addition of technical certifications in the Big data analytics course

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 Reports (see Addendum II)

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

Minutes: Additions to Commissioner reports

Motion to Approve the Commissioner 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 4th August 2020
- b. The reports and motions for that meeting are due 30th July 2020

14. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Mover:
Second:

Discussion

Approve:
Oppose:
Abstain:

Addendum I
Executive Reports

Sandra (President):

June has been relatively quiet. The new benefits plan proposed by TCSA has been voted in though TGSA (represented by myself) voted it out. I voted against it as I thought an alternative adjustment to the plan (what categories of procedures experiencing a decrease in coverage) could have been made.

I have attended the Student Leaders meeting as usual in which details of the Fall plan were outlined, including for Athletics and Food services. I have met almost weekly with the TCSA and TDSA presidents to discuss updates in our respective associations or unexpected events (e.g. a student's email in which they introduced themselves as representing the "Trent Student voice" without giving a name and outlined their concerns and frustrations regarding Trent's way of dealing with the new Fall plan. We exchanged and met with them). I am also organizing an update meeting with Craig Brunetti the week of the Board meeting.

The fundraising campaign, 3MT prize announcement, and convocation videos got released successfully. I discussed the budget and the allocation of the \$20,000 to the COVID-19 bursary between the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 boards with VP Finance. We also discussed collectively whether continuing our biweekly events was warranted the low to null attendance non-TGSA board members. I also read the Bylaws and the suggested changes made by VP Finance and VP Internal Affairs.

Sebastian (VP Internal Affairs):

The main things I have devoted the past month to have been the review of emergency bursary applications alongside the President and the VP Finance. We have also been working to amend the wording of the Emergency Bursary itself so that it covers any extra costs incurred for any procedure that is covered by the plan.

Given the extraordinary circumstances brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a significant increase in applications for the Emergency Bursary for this round. Anique Chatzis (VP Finance) and I reviewed the TGSA by-laws to make sure that any increased spending properly adhered to the TGSA's governing documents.

I was also involved in the drafting of the official statement of the TGSA in solidarity with the ongoing Black Lives Matter movement and other social organizations against systemic racism and police brutality both in Canada and internationally alongside BIPOC members of the Trent community.

I have also continued to review and edit the TGSA By-Laws and Policies with input from my fellow Executive Members. The main points have been:

1. Changing the two previous positions of First-Year Arts Representative and First-Year Science Representative to simply Arts Representative and Science Representative. This change is in line with previous Board discussions regarding the implementation of discipline-specific representative positions given the lack of program-specific representatives over previous years. This change was proposed

and drafted in the By-Laws after discussion with the Board but needs approval. Additionally, it was decided that Representative positions should be entitled to a \$50 honorarium to coincide with the *de facto* operations of the TGSA in previous years.

2. Looked into ways to include previously ratified By-Laws amendments regarding elections and transition periods given that these amendments were framed around an out-dated version of the TGSA By-Laws and Policies.
3. Began looking into the role of standing Executive Members, specifically the VP-Internal Affairs, during elections if they are standing either for re-election or election to another position within the TGSA.

I continue to welcome input from Board members regarding any suggestions or improvements they might have regarding the By-Laws and Policies.

Elicia (VP Communication):

This month, I have been working on:

- (a) Our new TGSA website. Hoping to finish it by August.
- (b) Tracking our followers on our social media platforms; there is a growth! 35 new followers on Instagram and 15 followers on Twitter. Not many likes on our Facebook Page. Awarded one of our Instagram followers a \$10 virtual Walmart gift card
- (c) Posting up our TGSA team on our social media channels and Trill College Newsletter so that our members know who we are
- (d) Host a TGSA event (Skribbl.io) on June 5th, not a great turn out
- (e) Upgraded our Canva account to CanvaPro
- (f) Reorganizing the VP communication shared google document
- (g) Designing the banner for TGSA

Anique (VP Finance):

Completed/current duties:

- 2020/2021 TGSA budgetary projection for Fall
- Requesting donations for COVID-19 bursary from CUPE
- COVID-19 applications
- Establishing that the COVID-19 bursary was not voted through
- Emergency bursaries and academic bursaries e-transfers
- Amending policies regarding the GSA levy fees in the updated by-laws
- Student Benefits Committee; dilution of the coverage so that prices do not surge
- Policy amendments

Incoming responsibilities:

- Student representative on the Special Appeals Committee
- Financial statements for 2018 to 2019 for future levy cheques
- E-transfer COVID-19 bursaries

Jordon (VP Student Affairs):

We have decided due to a lack of turn-out to limit events to one or two a month max. Focusing on only one or two events will allow us to promote them more effectively (not to say it wasn't already effective) and to give more time for planning. The next event will be on July 17th, which will be another trivia night run by Gil Holmes who was our winner from our past trivia night. Our last night had a turn-out of 4 TGSA exec's including the host and two external members Gil being one of the non-TGSA board attendees. This new event is on the Office, Community and potentially Parks and Recreation. It will also likely be the last trivia solo event by the TGSA for the year.

I met with Michael Eamon over the phone to discuss our relationship with Traill and events. Mike and I have promised to collaborate on some events while also having our autonomous events. We will be sharing lists between each other to see where we can help, where we can team up, and where we can avoid copying each other. I will also be working with Mike on hybrid events. These would be both physical and distance style events. Model Parliament which was well received by Mike, would be one of those events, graduate mentoring for undergrads would also be one of those events.

I spent some time pricing out mugs for our graduate students and will be sending a separate email with a breakdown once I check one more option.

I have been looking at getting orientation event planning started but am waiting for information from the graduate studies office. Once I receive this, I will draft up some potential events and sessions we can offer to graduate students.

Sandra and I also attended an alumni event about finding work after you graduate. It felt geared more towards undergraduate students (but that is nothing new). However, a lot of the information is still applicable to grads. I will be doing a summary of the notes I took from the event and attempt to make them into a more legible report.

Janina (VP Senate):

I have been working on:

- a) Cleaning up the VP senate email folder
- b) Working through our bylaws since Sebastian asked us to

Addendum II
Executive Reports

Verena (Environmental Commissioner):

I have continued to look at the Green Tips box submissions and started brainstorming on things that I could include in the TGSA newsletter starting in fall.

Maryam (International Student Representative Commissioner): -

Tanya (Equity Commissioner):

I have been in touch with Ms. Walsh and the PACHREA subcommittee. Also, I have been going through the minutes of the subcommittee meetings from the previous years. The latest one is from more than a year ago. She said that the subcommittee is not active during the summer, so the earliest start date would be from upcoming August or September. However, PACHREA is applying for a grant funded by the federal government regarding accessibility upgrades across the campus. We are still working on the priority locations especially regarding accessible doors. The first place that came to my mind was our awesome Traill College! We all know that its wonderful historical heritage and architecture have made accessibility a bit of a challenge there. I have contacted Ms. Walsh for more information on where would be the best places in need of more accessibility upgrades. I am still waiting on her reply. Please let me know of any place around Symons or Traill that you think might be in need of accessibility upgrades. Much appreciated!