



TGSA Board Meeting Agenda

Date: April 7th, 2021 (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) Verena (Environmental Commissioner)
 - (i) How can the TLNAP team better engage graduate students?
 - (ii) How can Trent Athletics better reach out to graduate students and let them know about services and opportunities?

- b) Sandra (President)
 - (i) Summary of Good Supervisor Campaign & Feedback on Grad Programs' Structure and Functioning
 - (ii) Updates from meeting with Craig Brunetti

- c) Jordon (VP Student Affairs)
 - (i) End of the term party

6. Updates from CUPE

Alison or Shiva

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. 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 TBD
- b. The reports and motions for that meeting TBD

14. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Mover:

Second:

Addendum I
Executive Reports

Sandra (President):

Last March, I attended several meetings as part of the Dean's review committee to discuss Craig Brunetti's tenure renewal. I also helped organize and participated to the two town hall sessions that provided an opportunity for graduate students to give feedback on their program structure and functioning. This was a very successful event that provided critical insights. We summarized and shared it with Craig Brunetti during our monthly meeting and at GSC (I was not present at that meeting). I met with the incoming President Sebastian to train him his new position. I also met with Stephanie Belfry, Jane Rennie, and two other TGSA board members to discuss the graduate racialized student bursary. It was suggested that that bursary be merged with the general bursary with additional questions specific for graduate racialized students and that Terms of Reference be created to outline TGSA's role in the assessment of this bursary.

I also worked on summarizing the Good Supervisor Campaign feedback to highlight the traits that seem important for graduate students in a supervisor. I will share that summary with Dr. Asaf Zohar, Director of the Sustainability Studies program, who has offered to monitor a pilot workshop for incoming (and current?) supervisor using that feedback. Lastly, I attended the Learn from the Grads and the Life After Trent – Grad students edition events and the Board of Governors luncheon which provided a good opportunity to remind governors of the impacts of the pandemic on graduate students' finances.

Sebastian (VP Internal Affairs):

This past month has been a very busy one for the TGSA. The Board acted quickly following our March meeting to organize two town hall meetings which were set up to gather and discuss the experiences of graduate students from across graduate programs at Trent. These events provided space for students to discuss challenges they are facing in their programs and also collectively brainstorm potential solutions to these issues.

I had the chance to share some of these findings with Craig Brunetti during a meeting. As the incoming President, I will continue to work on shining a light on the experiences of graduate students and working with administration to work to improve where needed and possible.

I also attended the “Learn from the Grads” event which the TGSA helped organize with the TCSA and TDSA. It was a good opportunity to provide insight into certain questions both undergraduates and current graduate students who are either thinking about applying to graduate school, or another graduate program.

I also attended numerous meetings at part of my preparation for taking on the role of President next month. Sandra has very kindly been showing me the ropes of the job and I'm looking forward to taking on the role in a month's time. In addition to this, I have prepared a transition document for the incoming VP Internal Affairs.

Elicia (VP Communication):

This month, I have been working on:

- Distributed our March newsletter
- Compiled information for the April issue
- Sent out communications and promoted the Life after Trent event, sessions on graduate student's feedback on their programs, call for volunteers for our Learn from the Grads event, call for an Indigenous Graduate Student Representative for TUNA, and call for application for vacant positions on the TGSA board
- Created a resource tab on our website that lists organizations that support various groups
- Drafted the TGSA statement on anti-Asian racism and distributed it through our email and social media accounts
- Attended the Library Advisory committee where the committee gave an overview on how the library and library services have changed and adapted in 2020/21.

Mariana (VP Finance):-

Jordon (VP Student Affairs):-

Janina (VP Senate):-

Addendum II
Commissioner Reports

Verena (Environmental Commissioner):

For the past weeks I have attended several meetings. Collectively with other community leaders, I have met with Julie Davis to discuss changes on the TLNAP Implementation Plan which will be presented at the Board of Governors on Friday March 26. Our main focus was the suggestion of changes to the language in the plan, which is non-committal. Changes were proposed that rephrase statements in the plan to a more direct and committal language (e.g., should --> will). During these conversations, it became apparent that better ways for communication and engagement with graduate students are needed.

Moreover, I have met with the Athletics Advisory Committee, where we were updated on their response to the COVID restrictions, and we also reviewed the budget. Everything looked appropriate. In this conversation, it also came up that graduate students are less aware of the athletic services, and I mentioned that I personally have not seen any athletics staff partake in our orientation events or promote their services through our channels. I suggested that I will discuss with our TGSA group how Trent Athletics can better reach and engage graduate students.

Lastly, I have received the meeting minutes from the March meeting of the Food Services Advisory Committee, Operations and Marketing Working Group and Sustainability and Fair Trade Working Group. What might interest this group is that the food summer program will be very soft. At this time they plan to operate only Starbucks and the grill at OC, Monday to Friday. Moreover, a great news is that the Starbucks showcase removed all perishable food products, saving 10 of millions of wasted food products worldwide each year.

Maryam (International Student Representative Commissioner): -

Tanya (Equity Commissioner): -