



TGSA Board Meeting Agenda

Date: May 5th, 2021 (Wednesday)
Start time: **End time:**
Location: Zoom video conference

Chair: Sebastian Johnston-Lindsay
Scribe: -
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 April 7th 2020 Board Meeting

Mover:
Second:

Discussion

Approve:
Oppose:

Abstain:

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

a) Sebastian (President)

- (i) Welcome to the TGSA! Plans for the year from incoming Executives and Representatives
- (ii) Update on the outcomes of the Town Hall events and Craig Brunetti's responses
- (iii) Meeting with Graduate Studies regarding use of the grad list-serve
- (iv) Voting on Representatives (Nominee information in appendix to this report)

Motions:

Nominations, Acclamations, and Elections

International Student Commissioner

Due to there being a contested race for the position of International Student Commissioner, the vote will proceed by secret ballot. The two candidates who are unsuccessful will then be considered for the positions of Program Representatives for their respective programs.

Nominees - Beatriz Bento, Nisarg Patel, George Danso

Environmental Commissioner

In the absence of other nominations following a minimum 30 day nomination period, I move that the Board votes to acclaim Emma Kaszecki to the position of Environmental Commissioner.

Vice President Communications

In the absence of other nominations following a minimum 30 day nomination period, I move that the Board votes to acclaim Stephanie Gao to the position of Vice President Communications.

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

Sebastian (President):

I'm really looking forward to working with everyone this year as the TGSA President. We've accomplished so much in the past year and I'm excited to continue and build upon all the good work that the TGSA has been involved in over the past year.

I wanted to propose that at least over the summer months that the Executive meet at least once per month outside of regular Board meetings to get accustomed to their new roles and to keep communication as open as possible. Given that we're all in new positions and that not all of us have been on the Board in the past I feel that this would be a good way to get some headway on some of our work for the year and to become more acquainted with each other and our portfolios.

Program Representatives and Commissioners are welcome to attend if they have an item that requires working closely with the executive, but it won't be mandatory. There may be times where you'll be asked to attend if you sit on a specific committee, however I do see these as being more process and expectation oriented than anything else.

I will also be sending out a poll shortly so we can determine when the best time to meet each month will be. I will send out a secondary one for the Executive meetings. Since we don't yet have a VP Communications, I have been granted temporary access to that email and will be acting in that capacity until our new VP Communications is on board and up to speed. So, if you have anything you would like included in our May newsletter, feel free to email the VP Communications email. I would also really appreciate any help anyone can offer in this respect. Elicia has left us with huge shoes to fill in this portfolio!

Relatedly, Elicia recently released a copy of some feedback from Craig Brunetti based on the information we collected from the Town Hall event. I have attached a copy of the letter and accompanying feedback that Sandra and I drafted and which sent to Craig on April 28th to this report. Please review it as it will inform some of our actions moving forward. It will also serve as a useful resource for referring current and incoming students to some of the concerns we are aware of and, especially for Representatives, it will also give you some insight into some of the specific departmental issues which you can follow up on over the course of your term.

Based on some of the feedback we received, I think that it would be a good idea to continue with these kinds of events at least once per term in the Fall and Winter terms. This will help continue to build a relationship between graduate students and the TGSA and raise the TGSA's visibility within the Trent community. It will also allow us to track any progress on some of these concerns and continue to work with the appropriate bodies to rectify them moving forward.

Last week, Sandra and I met with Stephanie Belfry from Graduate Studies to discuss the use of the grad list email. The impetus of this meeting came from concerns Stephanie and Craig had about an email that was sent out from us regarding the procedure and policy surrounding tuition rebates for graduate students whose time to completion was extended due to the pandemic.

The main things we need to bear in mind moving forward is that Graduate Studies understands that the use of the grad list email is, unfortunately for us, provisional and conditional. They also understand that anything we send could be read as being endorsed by their office. The main concern they had this time was that we used the School of Graduate Studies logo and also included the term “from the School of Grad Studies” in the subject line. Both of these things need to be avoided in the future, which will be a collective effort on our part.

Because of this instance, Graduate Studies is now considering a set of guidelines whereby we will need to get any communications, besides AGM information and our newsletter, being sent out via the grad list vetted by Michael Eamon. While this is certainly a step backwards in terms of our ability to communicate directly with our membership, it also hopefully means that we will be able to better curate our statements with Graduate Studies’ and Michael’s input. It also means that the roles of all of us, but particularly our Program Representatives, will become even more significant as you will be the ones tasked with distributing information not approved by graduate studies to your department peers rather than the TGSA’s broadcasting it out to our entire membership.

When Craig, Stephanie, and Michael get back to me regarding these guidelines, I will distribute them to the Board and we can consider them at the next Board meeting or Executive meeting.

Devon (VP Internal Affairs): -

(VP Communication): -

Mariana (VP Finance):-

Gabriella (VP Student Affairs):-

Michael (VP Senate):-

Addendum II
Commissioner Reports

(Environmental Commissioner): -

(International Student Representative Commissioner): -

Tanya (Equity Commissioner): -