



## TGSA Board Meeting Agenda

**Date:** November 4th, 2021 (Thursday)

**Start time:** 3:00 pm **End time:**

**Location:** Zoom video conference

**Chair:** Sebastian Johnston-Lindsay

**Scribe:** Via Zoom Recording

**Attendance:**

**Regrets:** Stephanie

**Absence without 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 Summarized Minutes from October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Board Meeting

Mover:

Second:

Discussion

Approve:

Oppose:  
Abstain:

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

### a.) President - Sebastian

- a. General updates on meetings

### b.) VP Senate – Devon

- a. Senate executive met to approve the agenda for the senate general assembly. Few issues were raised of direct relevance to graduate students. Of significance was the approval of a plan to start a PhD in Psychology.
  - i. The bylaws should be amended in preparation for the creation of this program (e.g., PhD Psychology Rep)
  - ii. Supervisory capacity was discussed (can the program efficiently and fairly accommodate more grad students). The provost has assured the committee that it is manageable as the program will only take six (6) students per year to a max of twenty-four (24) PhD students in a cycle.
  - iii. Cross appointment for supervision is also planned from depts like Social Work, Education, and Sociology to manage teaching loads.
- b. Research Policy Review Committee met to discuss internal research policies on management and balance of research work/general duties. Two subcommittees were created to investigate issues of relevance to this topic further. I will be sitting on the Research Awards Working Group with Cathy Bruce.
  - i. Issues about the wording
  - ii. Who decides workload capabilities?
  - iii. Impact on grad students is negligible
- c. REB (Research Ethics Board)- not much to report on this front. Two applications from faculty for new research projects were approved. I am still being trained for the REB Meetings by the Tri-Council Research Group.
- d. Special Appeals Committee- The SAC was called for a grad student for the first time in six (6) years. Due to confidentiality limitations all I can say is that the process was long and that the individual who asked for an appeal was given the opportunity to meet with the committee and has been notified of our decision. The issue (pertaining to Trent's academic policies) was first reviewed by the relevant department chair, then the Graduate Studies Appeal Committee (chaired by the Dean of Grad Studies and voted on by three additional faculty with grad teaching and supervisory committee experience). The SAC was comprised of myself, an experienced chair specializing in education and policy, and three very well trained/experienced faculty members. The ruling of the committee is final and can only be appealed in the provincial judicial system. The committees ruling is confidential.
- e. Senate General Assembly-

### CLOSED SESSION

- a) Climate Change Science name change

- b) BSc Health and Human Behavior
  - i) Interdisciplinary studies
- c) PhD Psychology

OPEN SESSION

- a) Academic Planning what is a Trent Education?
  - i) What should Trent's academic plan be
  - ii) Two separate subcommittees have been established to discuss this issue.... Does one platform or view meet the needs of all programs. Who has the time to establish this new plan?

Motion:

**Bylaws and Policy Amendments**

1.) Proposed Bylaw Amendment

1.1 That the new program- PhD Psychology be added to section 2.03.07.i of the current bylaws

1.2 i. The Science Representative shall be a Full Member enrolled in one of the following graduate programs at Trent University:

M.Sc. Applied Modelling and Quantitative Methods; M.Sc. Bioenvironmental Monitoring and Assessment; M.Sc./Ph.D. Environmental and Life Sciences; M.Sc./Ph.D. Materials Science; M.Sc. Psychology; ***PhD Psychology***; M.Sc.N Nursing; M.ICA. Instrumental Chemical Analysis; M.Sc. Big Data Analytics; M.Sc. Financial Analytics; M.Sc.F.S Forensic Science.

2.) Change to the roles and responsibilities of the President and VP Senate: BYLAW

**2.02.01.q** "To sit as an active member on the graduate special appeals committee (SAC) when the VP Senate is unwilling or unable to do so or in the event that a conflict of interest arises preventing the VP Senate from sitting on the SAC."

**2.02.06.k** "To sit as an active member on the graduate special appeals committee (SAC). If unwilling or unable to sit on the SAC committee OR if eliminated from candidacy by the committee Chair or the Associate University Secretary (Senate) due to a conflict of interest, the VP Senate will notify the executive, and the position will be filled by the President."

**15.02.1.a** "The President will, with the assistance of the executive committee, ensure that the representative role on the graduate Special Appeals Committee is filled whenever the committee is called; if the President or VP Senate are both unable to fill the position (See 2.02.01.q and 2.02.06.k) then another executive will be appointed by nomination and a simple majority vote of the executive committee."

**15.02.1.b** "If a conflict of interest arises that prevents any board member from serving on the SAC, the President or VP Senate will formally request in writing that the Associate University Secretary (Senate) and the SAC

Chair select an unbiased graduate student in any year or program to sit on the committee.”

Discussion:

Approve:

Oppose:

Abstain:

Motion Passed?

- c.) VP of Internal Affairs – Gabriella
  - a. Update on Spooky Walk
  - b. Scavenger Hunt
  - c. Update on event collaboration with Trent Active Minds

## **6. Updates from CUPE**

## **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 will be held on December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3:00 pm
- b. The reports and motions for that meeting are due December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021
- c. The next Executive meeting will be held on November 28<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm

**14. Adjournment**

**Motion to Adjourn the Meeting**

Mover:

Second:

**Addendum I**  
Executive Reports

**Sebastian (President):**

This month I continued to attend various committee meetings and was in regular communication with Micheal Eamon at Traill and Grad Studies. I attended two student leaders meetings, as well

as the first CASSC meeting of the year. This week, I am attending the annual conference of the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies.

I want to thank all the work that our team did these past few weeks on organizing and running great events for our members in collaboration with Traill and undergraduate student groups! I'm excited to see future events go forward and build on this work!

**Devon (VP Senate): -**

**Item 1:** Senate executive met to approve the agenda for the senate general assembly. Few issues were raised of direct relevance to graduate students. Of significance was the approval of a plan to start a PhD in Psychology.

- 1.1 The bylaws should be amended in preparation for the creation of this program (e.g., PhD Psychology Rep)
- 1.2 Supervisory capacity was discussed (can the program efficiently and fairly accommodate more grad students). The provost has assured the committee that it is manageable as the program will only take six (6) students per year to a max of twenty-four (24) PhD students in a cycle.
- 1.3 Cross appointment for supervision is also planned from depts like Social Work, Education, and Sociology to manage teaching loads.

**Item 2:** Research Policy Review Committee met to discuss internal research policies on management and balance of research work/general duties. Two subcommittees were created to investigate issues of relevance to this topic further. I will be sitting on the Research Awards Working Group with Cathy Bruce.

- 2.1 Issues about the wording
- 2.2 Who decides workload capabilities?
- 2.3 Impact on grad students is negligible

**Item 3:** REB (Research Ethics Board)- not much to report on this front. Two applications from faculty for new research projects were approved. I am still being trained for the REB Meetings by the Tri-Council Research Group.

**Item 4:** Special Appeals Committee- The SAC was called for a grad student for the first time in six (6) years. Due to confidentiality limitations all I can say is that the process was long and that the individual who asked for an appeal was given the opportunity to meet with the committee and has been notified of our decision. The issue (pertaining to Trent's academic policies) was first reviewed by the relevant department chair, then the Graduate Studies Appeal Committee (chaired by the Dean of Grad Studies and voted on by three additional faculty with grad teaching and supervisory committee experience). The SAC was comprised of myself, an experienced chair specializing in education and policy, and three very well trained/experienced faculty members. The ruling of the committee is final and can only be appealed in the provincial judicial system. The committee's ruling is confidential.

**Item 5: Senate General Assembly-**

**CLOSED SESSION**

- 1.1 Climate Change Science name change
- 1.2 BSc Health and Human Behavior
  - 1.2.1 Interdisciplinary studies
- 1.3 PhD Psychology

**OPEN SESSION**

- 1.1 Academic Planning what is a Trent Education?
  - 1.1.1 What should Trent's academic plan be
  - 1.1.2 Two separate subcommittees have been established to discuss this issue.... Does one platform or view meet the needs of all programs. Who has the time to establish this new plan?

**Bylaws and Policy Amendments**

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1.4 i. The Science Representative shall be a Full Member enrolled in one of the following graduate programs at Trent University:

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writing that the Associate University Secretary (Senate) and the SAC Chair select an unbiased graduate student in any year or program to sit on the committee.”

### **Gabriella (VP Student Affairs):-**

This month has been really successful for event planning. I have reached out to Traill College and we will be collaborating on an event that is taking place on November 1st at 6pm. The event is “A Spooky Walk” in which Michael Eamon will be leading a walk around Traill College while sharing Traill’s rich history of ghost tales, including the infamous ghost of the Blue Lady. After this event, we will be hosting a reception in which we will be distributing packaged chips and chocolate (adult trick-or-treating) and have vouchers for people to grab a hot chocolate from the Trend.

- We will also be collaborating with Traill College on a scavenger hunt. I have invited Traill’s Cabinet to be a part of this event, but they have yet to get back to us. We are in the process of choosing a date and time, but I have started brainstorming landmarks to include in the scavenger hunt. I will be meeting with Michael Eamon and Traill’s college assistant to collaborate on the landmarks we should include, taking into consideration the bus routes, and best time to hold the scavenger hunt. This event will include a tea and cookie station after the event. I am still in discussions with Traill College as to how we will be splitting this expense. For accessibility purposes I think we should have a printed copy of the scavenger hunt, so perhaps one group can handle printing expenses and the other can handle the food station.
- I want to host more mental health programming for our graduate student body, so I have reached out to Trent Active Minds in the hopes of collaborating events that will hopefully support graduate students, as well as give them mental health resources. Amylyn from Active Minds had something come up last minute, so our meeting was cancelled, but we will be meeting after reading week to discuss programming.
- We are in the process of planning our Chat With the Grads event. This event is targeted at undergraduate students who will be applying to grad school. I think it would be

appropriate to plan this event at the end of November/beginning of December. I want to advertise this event as early as possible so that we put the word out there and give people plenty of time to think, register and attend. It is a very busy time of year with midterms and big assignments looming overhead, so I think it would be wise to give people plenty of time to register.

### **Stephanie – VP Communications**

Overall October has been about keeping our students informed via social media. I’ve noticed how big of a following other student groups have and how they are constantly engaging with one



another through various platforms. I'm on our Trent accounts every day to stay updated with the students. A few posters have been made the last month for the collaborative events with Trail College.

**Addendum II**  
**Commissioner Reports**