



TGSA Board Meeting Agenda

Date: June 1st, 2022

Start time: End time:

Location: Zoom Conference

Chair: Emma Kaszecki

Scribe: Sarah Rayner

Attendance:

Regrets:

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

Introductions and update from board members

2. Call to Order

3. Adopt the Agenda:

Mover:

Second:

Discussion

Approve:

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

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

5. Student Support Co-Ordinator–Connor Elverson

8. Question Period and Departmental Issues

9. Business Arising from the Minutes

10. Motions

11. Other Business

12. Notices of Motions and Announcements

- a. The next board meeting will be held TBD
- b. The reports and motions for that meeting are due TBD

13. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Mover:

Second:

Discussion

Approve:

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

Addendum I Executive Reports

Emma (President):

Attended the Board of Governors meeting on May 6:

- Applications and enrollment at Trent is continuing on its upward trend with some highlights including:
 - OUAC applications are at a 6% increase, Trent up 14%
 - 16.8% increase in “first choice” domestic, 13% increase in “first choice” international OUAC
 - Fall accepts up 443 (20% increase), 0.5% increase in Ontario domestic high schools, up 61% for Durham GTA campus, up >100% in international, up 20.9% in nursing, up 20% in education
 - Upper 5-6% of universities that increase their growth (based on OUAC numbers)
 - **Lots of growth coming from international student and professional graduate programs**
 - As a result: Trent is looking into building a new residence in the Otonabee parking lot
 - The relocation of lost parking has not been determined yet
- There was an emphasis from alumni that they want updates on **graduate student research** in the Trent Magazine
- The updates to the sexual violence policy were rejected and the new policy reading was tabled for the next meeting (or maybe even July as I understand June is a very busy month for the BoG)

Meeting with Dean of Graduate Studies (James Conolly):

- The Provost’s Planning Group looking at creating a new academic plan centered around “guiding principles”

Is Trent a “small university” anymore? → there is a push to being “personalized” because there are advantages to being a larger school

More funding and collaboration

- Trent is above the regression in terms of student academic performance
- Targeting major grant funding in the hundreds of millions
 - Focus is student support named scholarships (naming of programs is a possibility eg. “BMO of EnLS” vs “BMO PhD funding”)
- Carry-forward money
 - Office space development for the MSc in Applied Modelling and Quantitative Methods has been approved, just has not begun
In ESB across from bio/kinesiology
 - IDSR does not have space either
Space identified under the OC caf
- Failed course policy
 - Currently: if you fail a required course you must withdraw (70% is a pass) in thesis, if you fail 2 courses in a course-based program you must withdraw
Developed ~10 years ago
 - International students are struggling the most (in most cases as a result of circumstances) + failing can create a bad situation for that student (loans, coming to Canada, Visas etc.)
 - Suggestion: students have the right to appeal any academic decision right to appeal being told to withdraw from the school = use judgment on a case-by-case basis
- Continuing Registration Fee Letter
 - The response to the letter has been useful
Raise the issue successfully creating a “heightened awareness of the issue”
The Board is pissed, Provost Cahn is annoyed, and President Groarke is hurt
 - There are options we can look at for pursuing the reduced fee
Writing semesters: A letter from your committee is submitted to SGS confirming you have completed the research portion of your degree. Following this, you maintain full-time status while paying part-time tuition, lose your extended access (ie. office, lab spaces etc.), and write your thesis. This gives the student time to write their thesis without the financial burden of paying for full-time tuition when they no longer require school resources.
Defense fee: Similar to the writing semester, however in the last research semester the student pays 60% of their tuition, with the remaining 40% being paid when they choose to defend. No tuition is required during the semesters where they are writing.
Defense semester: Other institutions (such as the University of Toronto and Western University) do not require their students to pay tuition for the semester in which they defend.
 - PROBLEMS
OSAP Interest-free status: “Use this application if you're not applying for OSAP and are in full-time studies. It will keep your previous full-time OSAP loans in interest-free status so you do not have to start repayment.”
Time to completion of a degree

Student Leaders Meeting:

- Student retention is a problem
 - Students have had a hard time learning the last two years online and the transition back into in-person learning has not be easy
 - New graduate students especially are having a hard time adjusting to the workload and transitioning from the undergraduate
 - TA training is coming to help graduate students enhance their classroom management and teaching skills
 - Need to make sure we are really connecting with our new graduate students. How are they doing? Are they okay?

Emma (VP Finance Report):

Met with Connor:

- We have lots of money! Let's figure out ways to use it.
- Increasing Emergency Bursary fund
 - Currently it is \$5,000 for the year → Increase to \$15,000? Increase the amount each student can receive?
 - Bring back bursaries that dropped off? (thesis binding, office supply bursary, separate Conference vs. Academic bursary)
- We can have “fundraisers” as a source of income
 - Clothing order

Met with Tracy (Operations - TGSA):

- How to hire employees
 - Get a business number + register with the CRA

Hire independent contractors

Emma (VP Internal Affairs):

Compiling suggestions for edits on the current version of the by-laws. Edits will be slow, but I am confident we will have freshly written by-laws by September!

- How do we pass omitting yearly audits?
 - Transparency with our membership
 - Special General Meeting?

Sarah (VP Communications):

In the month of May my focus was on sifting through the current website and making notes on what to update (there is a lot). I have reached out to current Executives and Bord members to send bios and pictures to update our current team and have updated our vacant spots on the website. My current list of tasks includes creating an actual “advocacy” page, updating helpful links, and updating the pictures.

Willi (VP Senate):

- Discussed with the TGSA executives about refining the TGSA bylaws
- Reached out to individuals that organize committees
- Reviewed the excels of all the committees of 2020-2021.

Egan (VP Student Affairs):

This last month I reached out to the Trent Queer Collective, Trent Radio, and Sadleir House.

TQC

- Met virtually w/ 2 of their board members
- Discussed interest in hosting an event in collaboration
- Several potential ideas but none concrete as of yet

Trent Radio

- Sent email asking about creating a grad student radio show
- The show would be me interviewing a new grad student or faculty member each week
- They are interested in having us run the show, would need to be pre-recorded to have interviewees

Sadleir House

- Met in person to discuss ideas between TGSA and Sadleir House
- Grad students already pay in, so may as well make use of the space there
- Could host events, there are a couple ideas being floated around
- They are very interested in having us there

Otherwise my duties were keeping up with emails and thinking of potential virtual events to run throughout August and then into the new academic year.

Addendum II
Commissioner Reports

Alison (Equity Commissioner):