



## TGSA Board Meeting Agenda

**Date:** March 3rd, 2022 (Thursday)

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

**Location:** Zoom Conference

**Chair:** Sebastian Johnston-Lindsay

**Scribe:** Via Zoom Recording

**Attendance:**

**Regrets:** Stephanie Gao (VP Communications)

**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 February 3rd, 2022, Board Meeting

Mover:

Second:

Discussion

Approve:  
Oppose:  
Abstain:

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

**a.) President - Sebastian**

- a. Annual General Meeting – Election and Referendum Results
- b. Meeting with Dean of Graduate Studies – Survey Report
- c. Transition Period
- d. Motions to approve new Board members

Equity Commissioner

Motion to acclaim Alison MacMillan to the position of Environmental Commissioner.

Approve:  
Oppose:  
Abstain:

Vice President Communications

Motion to acclaim Sarah Rayner to the position of Vice President Communications.

Approve:  
Oppose:  
Abstain:

**b.) VP Senate – Devon**

**c.) VP Student Affairs – Gabriella**

**6. Updates from CUPE**

**7. Student Support Co-Ordinator – Connor Elverson**

**a.) Proposed By-Law and Policy Amendments – for Discussion**

- remove references to audit being required by the TGSA.
- remove thesis binding from policies
- direct extra cash to an endowment fund (to be set up, further discussion required) rather than capital reserve after 40k
- allowing electronic receipts (it's 2022)

- changing some timeframes for bursaries to better align with standard academic timing. (Per academic year rather than per 12 months, per semester rather than per 4 months)
- remove health benefit commissioner role
- review whether the committees referenced in 8-13 need to exist in the policies, given we've never used them.

## **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 on April 7th at 3:00 pm
- b. The reports and motions for that meeting are due April 5th, 2022

## **13. Adjournment**

### **Motion to Adjourn the Meeting**

Mover:

Second:

## **Addendum I** **Executive Reports**

### **Sebastian (President):**

Thanks to everyone's hard work, we pulled off an AGM and achieved quorum in record time! We also successfully held an election for our incoming executive members who have been elected with a resounding mandate from approximately six percent of our membership. 48 members out of a possible 802 voted in these elections.

Congratulations to the successful candidates!

In other news, all the referendums apart from our own by-law amendments failed mostly due to a lack of participation from our membership. This is not at all surprising, but it's low even for the TGSA.

In other, more positive news; I met with James Conolly to discuss some of the next steps arising from our student survey and the report I drafted based on those results. Some of the main talking points from that report were presented at the AGM. Needless to say, the results confirmed my

suspensions that graduate students have felt more or less abandoned by the university over the course of the pandemic and the resulting isolation has had a definite impact on our membership's mental health. In many cases there have been significant concerns surrounding financial stability and there is a massive amount of frustration with the fact members had to pay full tuition fees over the course of terms during which they had little to no access to campus facilities.

More information will be forthcoming about that. I'm awaiting James to read the report in full before releasing it any more publicly. I'm happy to answer any questions regarding it during this meeting or following it.

Thanks to Connor, we have received all outstanding Levy Fees for the past two years. This is a huge windfall for us and I am happy to report that the TGSA is extremely healthy from a financial side of things.

I'm also pleased to note that we have two new applicants for positions on our board. One for VP Communications and another for Equity Commissioner. It's looking like we will have a full Executive moving into the new term!

**Devon (VP Senate): -**

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

**Stephanie – VP Communications**

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

**Emma – Environmental Commissioner**

Last month I met with Shelley Strain from the Sustainability Office to discuss the progress of current projects. The conclusion: projects are a little slow right now and I was advised to try and head a project of my own as I see fit!

Upon exploration of Trent's Sustainability website it was discovered that much of the information was outdated. Additionally, there was no climate emergency declaration, nor was there an action plan for decreasing Trent's carbon footprint. To remedy this oversight I drafted a report to declare a climate emergency on behalf of students at Trent University, and reached out to the TCSA and TDSA with the

objective of making the declaration a joint statement across all student advocacy groups. The drafts and final report can be found in the Environmental Commissioner folder.

### **Tanya – Equity Commissioner**

"In the last month, I was working with Trent consent and policy staff, deciding on what to include in the workshop, picking a proper time that works best with the graduate students' busy schedule, preparing the final announcement, and helping with the last steps of organizing the 'policy and me' which is a grad exclusive workshop in partnership with the consent at Trent. It is going to be held on Friday March 4th at 12 pm. The join link to the event has been sent out so don't forget to drop in if you have time!"

### **Addendum III**

#### **Student Support Co-Ordinator - Suggested By-Law and Policy Amenments for Discussion**

Removal of the following policies;  
2.03.05 (Health Benefits Commissioner)

#### Change

6.05.06 (Change to Endowment)  
6.05.01 (Remove Audit, list of events?)  
6.06.01 (Remove Annual Audit)  
6.06.02 (Remove These Binding?)  
14.04 (Allow Electronic Receipts?)  
16.04.01 (Allow Electronic Receipts?)  
16.05 (Photocopies?)  
  
14.03 (12 Months > Academic Year?)  
15.02 (12 Months > Academic Year?)  
16.03.01 (6 months > Per Semester?)  
16.03.03 (4 Months > Per Semester?)  
16.03.02 (12 Months > Academic Year?)

#### Review

- 8,9,10,11,12,13 – Committees