



TGSA Board Meeting Agenda

Date: February 6th, 2023

Start time: End time:

Location: In-Person and Zoom Conference

Chair: Emma Kaszecki

Scribe: Sarah Rayner

Attendance:

Absence with regrets:

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: 0

Abstain: 0

4. Past Meeting Minutes

Adopt the Minutes from January 9th, 2023 Board Meeting

Mover:

Second:

Discussion

Approve:

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

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

- (i) Emma: Referendum Questions/Call for Referendum

6. Updates from CUPE

- (i) Sebastian: I have filed a total of four grievances for unit 2 members over the past month on a variety of issues related to late pay, employment forms, and overwork. Meetings are continuing with the employer.

7. 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:

Addendum I
Executive Reports

Emma (President)

Research Policy Committee Meeting

- Gave an update on the graduate student-staff pay debacle from September

- HR is working to ensure that graduate students have access to their staff accounts from the moment they start at Trent, and they will not lose access to those accounts until after they are finished their studies (they are brainstorming provisions for what happens when's students go overtime)

CASSC Colleges Subcommittee Meeting

- Colleges are asking for a 6.9% (CPI) increase to the college fees (this includes graduate student college fees)
- They will be presenting the proposed budget to CASSC for a vote

Trent Durham Management Orientation

- Attended the Trent Durham orientation and spoke on behalf of the TGSA

TDSA Support Ally

- Attended the TDSA Support Ally on behalf of the TGSA
 - Spoke with fellow graduate students about the supports that we offer and who we are
 - Mingled with other clubs and groups at Trent, both available in Peterborough and Durham

Graduate Studies Committee Meeting

- Went over changes to NURS and INDG before they move to Senate
- Also going to Senate: the MGMT is going to offer an option to make the Symons campus a students home campus
 - ~30 spots will be available
 - Meant to attract domestic students into the MGMT program
 - The School of Business is going to hire additional faculty in Peterborough
 - There is going to be coordination with Peterborough and Durham for how the students are going to fulfill their requirements
- The concern of housing was brought up: Where are the students going to live if they choose Peterborough?

Meeting with Dean of Graduate Studies (Craig Brunetti)

- The population of graduate students at Trent is ~947 with a significant increase in international students (~\$9 million in revenue generated from international tuition)
- Craig has his budget prepared for PVP
 - Lots of increases in financial support for students
 - The Overtime Fee Proposal is also on the table

Meeting with Michael Eamon

- Wants to see an increase to the graduate college fee
- Going to produce a survey for to graduate students to help Traill see what the students want from their college

(VP Finance)

January Academic Bursaries

- Distributed academic bursaries on January 15th
- To date:
 - Academic Bursary Fund: \$19,299.78
 - Emergency Bursary Fund: \$12,566.38

Meeting with Jane Rennie

- Potential for Graduate Studies to take on the bursary application processes from the TGSA
 - TGSA Academic Support Bursaries would be distributed once per year with applications filling out a form on MyTrent
 - TGSA Financial Support Bursaries would be given based on financial need using the criteria from the School of Graduate Studies
 - Multiple reasons for these changes:
 - The TGSA is unable to confirm whether or not an individual submitting a bursary application is a student
 - The TGSA is not financial services - We are a source for financial relief and to provide some financial support for students, however, putting money directly in the pockets of student that submit applications utilizes the majority of the yearly budget and does not benefit the general membership as a whole. Changing the way bursaries are given out will provide the TGSA with more time for advocacy and the development of projects that serve the general population of graduate students at Trent. Most GSAs do not offer as much support as we do, and most GSAs serve larger populations of graduate students.

(VP Internal Affairs):

- Finished by-laws, policies, and referendum question passed on to the Board for review and voting.

Sarah (VP Communications):

- Has been planning the AGM with Emma and Egan. The Ceilie has been rented, and trivia is being planned again to increase turnout.
- End-of-year party planning. Waiting to hear back about renting The Trend, and thinking of contingency plans if that falls through.
- Student and Supervisor awards!
- Updated social media channels as needed

Will (VP Senate Report):

I attended the monthly senate meeting (see below for a summary of what was

discussed).

Senate meeting:

- Language for the number of seats for student representative at senate meetings adjusted

Undergrad study committee:

- New anthro specialization (biological anthro), new archeology program (bio-archeology)
- Biology course modifications (e.g., Can't put restrictions to first-year courses, thus it is suggested to recommend high school students to consider prior to entering a first-year course) and CUST/policing control course modifications

Grad Studies:

- INDG PhD change in course requirements (6610Y changes)
- Nursing graduate program course code 5901: Developed a reading course between Trent and OTU. Two new graduate programs (mental health and addiction diploma, dementia studies diploma)

Research Plan:

- Developing priorities that will be target common areas for all researchers.
- In next senate meeting, the intent will be shared and will undergo a trial run to see how things work out.

Academic planning / budgeting:

- Development of an M.A. in interdisciplinary aging studies (thesis based that is social-humanities, policies).

Egan (VP Student Affairs):

- Ran Paint Night at Trent Durham on Jan 26. Purchased supplies (they can be used for future events), had a few attendees
- Continuing planning of schedule of events for winter term (Date w/ a book - Feb, Reused plant pots - March, End-of-year celebration - April)
- Met with the Housing Advisory Committee on Jan 24
- Key takeaways:
 - Slowly increasing reserve cash
 - Spending on projects such as upgrading RezNet (wifi in dorms) and general maintenance/upgrades
 - Increase to residence fees coming for 2023/24, keeping with inflation and putting extra cash to the reserve
 - General want to increase reserve fund for any big costs that could come up unexpectedly
- No longer able to attend Graduate Studies Committee meetings due to conflict with TA course
- Kept up incoming emails from students and others

Addendum II
Commissioner Reports

Jaz (Equity Commissioner):

SAS meeting:

- I had a meeting with Dr. Jennifer Lund who is the head of SAS regarding both their capacity to support grad students with disabilities (acquired, permanent, temporary), and about the idea of funding extension. As I suspected there is already a mechanism in place for funding extension for grad students registered with SAS, so I am not sure if pursuing that further would be fruitful... But she and I are looking to collaborate on an event and campaign to get grad student registration up, and I have offered my support to her to try to secure more funding for SAS overall. We are also looking to potentially plan an external review for Trent SAS (UofT did this recently and got a boat load of funding). Some of this in my capacity as equity commissioner.
- I attended the meeting for the Honorific and Wayfinding Campus Names Committee, which was a bit of a gong show. More on that later.
- I also attended the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Committee. It was one of the early meetings so we went over language in the policies and set some goals for future meetings.

Margaret (International Student Commissioner):

Heather (Environmental Commissioner):

Committee meetings summary:

- Pop up coffee stands/free travel mugs also being given away in an attempt to build sustainable habits
- Brought up trying another “paper cup free” week (last attempt was just before 1 st Covid lockdown and aborted the trial). Mark will look into this for September – it takes awhile to have Tim Hortons/Starbucks sign off.
- Trent is transitioning to Single use plastic free (includes straws, stir sticks, takeout food containers, cutlery, bags, etc. Does not include things like beverage containers).
- Payment plans for Trent Card (tuition, residence, etc) will be further introduced going forward
- New consultation for food services is commencing this summer with student involvement.

In addition to attending the required TGSA committee meetings, this month I have been focused on starting my first experiment in my master’s degree, as well as preparing for my first thesis

committee meeting. Lastly, I have been looking into some options for the Lab Recycling Survey to be distributed.

Addendum III