



TGSA Board Meeting Summarized Minutes

Date: December 2nd, 2020 (Wednesday)

Start time: 0500PM **End time:** 0730PM

Location: Zoom video conference

Chair: Sandra Klemet-N'Guessan

Scribe: Shyong Quan (Elicia) Yap

Attendance: Nina Schmitz, Sandra Klemet-N'Guessan, Devon Howell, Connor Elverson, Logan Hamer, Alex Miller-Gerrard, Autumn Jordon, Shannon Fiedler, Sebastian Johnston-Lindsay, Jordon Williams, Andrew Brown, Verena Sesin, Shiva Javdan, Tanya Aminataei, Nicole Covey, Elicia Yap, Beatriz Bento (17, quorum met)

Regrets: Maryam Helae, Fatma Ozen, Madhu Garg

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: Sandra Klemet-N'Guessan

Second: Jordon Williams

Discussion

-no discussion

Approve: 17

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

motion carries

4. Past Meeting Minutes

Adopt the Minutes from the Verbatim and Summarized Minutes from 4th November 2020 Board Meeting

Mover: Sandra Klemet-N'Guessan

Second: Sebastian Johnston-Lindsay

Discussion

-no discussion

Approve: 17

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

motion carries

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

a) Sandra (President)

(i) Updates from meetings and committees

(ii) Initiatives brainstorming following Experiences of Racialization at Trent: A Panel Discussion

(iii) 2021 TGSA elections

Sandra met with Dr. Eamon and talked about office spaces. Dr. Eamon has agreed to support getting office spaces back for graduate students. He also gave some feedback on our experiencing racialization at Trent event and suggested making a "Things to watch for" guide such as inappropriate things to say for the academic skills. The board also discussed and suggested ways to follow up on the event such as setting up a communication workshop to navigate people coming from different backgrounds, writing a letter to the administration, emphasizing more students or employee's perspective on the next event and have one main PowerPoint presentation with mounting points for discussion during the event.

Sandra also updated us on the outcomes and trends of the racialized bursary that happened in September. The possibility of merging it with the regular bursaries were raised, however, the board was not in favor of it as it defies the purpose of having the racialized bursary. The board also talked about the possibility of doing a lottery approach in addition to identifying criteria/priorities (i.e, having kids) for the adjudication process of the racialized bursary if there are more applicants in the future.

There will be a committee set up to work on the students-supervisor relationship document, where the rules, responsibilities and expectation of both parties are clearly outlined. Dr. Brunetti mentioned about removing international tuition for PhD students.

The board also discussed about 2021 TGSA elections, which will be happening in February. Sandra and Sebastian briefed the board on how the elections will be held. The board talked about the possibility of delegating some of the responsibilities of the VP Finance to our Student Support Coordinator.

Sandra discussed about sexual violence prevention outreach that has been brought to our attention by one of the graduate students. The board talked about having a survey and a workshop on sexual violence prevention and also involving CUPE.

- b) Sebastian (VP internal affairs)
 - (i) Motions for VP Finance nominee
 - (ii) Amendments to the TGSA By-Laws and Policies

Motion:

Candidate for Vice President Finance
Mariana Castelli Rosa - mcastellirosa@trentu.ca

Under By-Law 15.02 d. “Should an Executive Officer’s position, excluding the President, become vacant mid-tenure, the position shall be filled by a Full Member elected by the Board at a Board Meeting or Special Board Meeting;” I move that in the absence of any other nominees for the position of Vice President Finance, the Board appoint Mariana Castelli Rosa as TGSA Vice President Finance.

Motion to approve Marianna as the VP Finance

Mover: Sebastian Johnston-Lindsay
Second: Sandra Klemet-N’Guessan

Discussion

-no discussion

Approve: 17
Oppose: 0
Abstain: 0
motion carries

Motion to approve amendments 1
Mover: Sebastian Johnston-Lindsay
Second: Sandra Klemet-N’Guessan

Discussion

Sandra: Just curious. So, these things were removed because we feel that it should be someone else doing like the Google Drive database and all that? Can you provide a bit of background for these rules?

Sebastian: Yes. So, at the at the top, these were drafted. I included Jordan here because at one point we were going to be amending Jordan's portfolio as well. These were brought to my attention by Elicia so Elicia if you want to clarify exactly reason behind them.

Elicia: Yeah, because I thought everyone is doing their own Google Drive and overseeing the maintenance of filling cabinet, I think that would fall under Connor's responsibilities. am not too sure.

Sandra: It makes sense. Okay, yeah, maybe we should add under each executive and commissioner positions that they are each responsible for their Google Drive.

Sebastian: This can be a possible amendment to be discussed in the next meeting. Sure, I can drop that just kind of adding a subsection of each of the portfolios and policy to the fact that each, each executive and commissioners responsible for their own Google Drive portfolio. Is there any other concerns or suggested changes to this amendment?

Approve: 17

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

motion carries

Motion to approve amendments 2

Mover: Sebastian Johnston-Lindsay

Second: Sandra Klemet-N'Guessan

Approve: 17

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

motion carries

Motion to approve amendments 3

Mover: Sebastian Johnston-Lindsay

Second: Shannon Fiedler

Discussion

Sebastian: This last one amendment. Any discussion on the motion to get as drafted. I was especially curious if any of the students from Durham, specifically Shannon, or Logan, if they had any comments on it?

Shannon: It looks good.

Sebastian: I did make some subtle changes but it's more or less the same general description as the Arts and Science representative however modeled more towards Durham, specifically and it allows for the fact that if there are more graduate programs rooted specifically in Durham, that the bylaws will still stand to be legitimate as they are.

Devon: Just so everybody's aware Dr. Helen teaches at the Durham campus and next year, she's planning to bring on as many graduate students as there are currently in my cohort from my department, and most of them will be based, I believe now out of Durham, to do the research with her. So, there should be six more people at Durham next

year, as far as I'm aware of now I'm the first yet anthropology graduate student that have my lab based in Durham. The only one thing that I see being a problem with that amendment in regard to electing to that position is currently anthropology students will be doing their research out of the Durham campus, but we're just starting the discussion now in our department, with our department chair, about the possibility of in the future starting to an actual separate program for anthropology on the Durham campus. So, we're technically not enrolled at the Durham campus we're enrolled at Peterborough, but all of our research and our resources come from Durham, so that would be the only problem I see.

Sebastian: Was there a particular one that you thought should be just updated?

Devon: Where it says only students enrolled in a graduate program at Durham's campus, if that could be reworded to facilitate students who are conducting research at the Durham campus as well but don't necessarily enrolled there.

Sebastian: All right, I will make that change in the Google document and I think that's a really good distinction there. Thank you very much for that.

Approve: 17

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

motion carries

c) Nicole (FCGSA Rep)

(i) Office Space at Trill College

Nicole: I can speak about this, but from your introductory remarks Sandra it seems like the office space has been kind of settled. Basically, we had an executive meeting today after you posted in the Slack. So, we discussed it in our executive meeting in order to provide you more information if you're going to continue this. It's been settled I don't really know if that really needs to be expressed.

Sandra: The more students express that desire the better especially if it comes from your association that's totally based on Trill. So, I would encourage you to send an email to Michael also echoing what the TGSA has already requested.

Nicole: Nope, my agenda was just discussing issues that were associated with office space and just some of the concerns about opening up office space that were expressed. There was a concern about who be responsible for the cleaning of these offices, because when originally, they went to the Frost Center. Our building gets cleaned once a week. And it was the understanding that if the office space opened up, then it would be the responsibility of our administrative staff to keep that up. And no more money was going to be allocated to it. So as much as everyone wants to their office, there was a concern of, how it can be managed. And if more money was going to be given to the cleaning. But everyone is really

in favor of doing scheduled offices and they hadn't really heard of the all or nothing thing that Michael even seems to have heard.

Sandra: So, I encourage you to also outline that in email to Michael.

Devon: Just a comment on that I don't know if it would be done in the same way that it's currently being done in Durham, but my office on the Durham campus I have access to that all the time, but I shared with one other student. So, maintenance is responsible for cleaning my office. Once a week, they have the tag on my door, and I can just flip it around just to say that I've been in office that week and then somebody goes in and cleans it.

Sandra: Yeah, Nicole, maybe that's something you can suggest in your email as a potential solution cause Traill at the end is not very big.

Nicole: Yes, they are concerned about how many people share the offices. I've been told that three students in a single office and it's all very close. They're really worried about social distancing and how that would all work from like the administrative perspective and be responsible for the scheduling.

Sandra: My understanding is the occupancy has definitely decreased so it's probably one student at this point. The scheduling part would be at discretion of the students.

Jordon: Yeah, so, obviously, my office is at Traill. It was very rarely used and that's another point. When it came to our cohort and most of us even including English Lit like the public text, there was very few of us that actually showed up. Very few people actually don't use their office spaces.

Sebastian: The same can easily be said for Canadian Studies both in the Frost Center and Wallis Hall. Most of them sat empty during all of this. So, it's it struck me this entire time that a simple survey of students might be able to better get a sense of the two extremes. For me, I use my office, like an office job I would show up at nine o'clock in the morning and I stay there until around five. Every day, five days a week. And so, it's had a rather distressing impact on the way that I work. And I feel like that's been completely missed in the way that Traill has handled this with a more or less just assumed that all students were not using their office and it's just obviously it's not true.

Tanya: There were six of us with only three desks and it was only me for the whole semester.

Jordon: The only concern I can kind of see for Traill is the hallways and how it would work if everyone actually did use the offices, it is very enclosed and narrow. So, social distancing is very difficult when it comes to like the hallways and getting out of the building because I believe there's a few ways out and during

the winter, a couple of them are blocked off because of snow. They have to check the occupancy and who actually use their offices.

- d) Jordon (VP Student Affairs)
 - (i) Model Parliament
 - (ii) Festivus
 - (iii) Trent Talks and Life After Trent

Jordon: First is model parliament, which is an event that I have been pushing. Unfortunately, we're not going to go through with it, so I think it's a better idea to cancel this event this year. That being said, I do apologize and Sebastian, for instance, has helped me out with a lot of budgeting that's still going to continue. So, what we're going to do instead is go with my second option anyways, which was drafting a proposal. It's almost done and then what I plan on doing is presenting it to the principals of the colleges, Leo, humanities, all our higher ups. The biggest problem why we have to cancel is COVID. The other issue is the students who I was hoping would take it over which would not be us because we are far too busy, was Political Studies, given the fact that it's considered kind of political. Unfortunately, their club doesn't exist right now. I am preparing a proposal to present to the first or second years of political study. It is basically to show them how to run this event. I have been slowly on my spare time reworking into a Trent perspective. And basically, what I intend to do is pass that on to them, and hopefully get up and take the mantle and train them personally to make sure it goes through. It's probably best we don't go through that event physically; we could maybe look at an option of doing something online just practice some speed reading and presentations. But my issue of that is this event usually runs from nine to five and I don't know if any of you have ever been on a zoom call is longer than two hours but it's not something anybody who wants to do. Hopefully, it does continue like the full Ottawa event, which is honestly really fun so hopefully we can do that so I'll keep you in the loop on how that presentation goes, and we can use this as a way to make the TGSA look really good.

Alex: I have other students who might be interested in this event like law and justice students.

Jordon: Alright, so if no one else has any other questions or any comments, I would go on to festivus real quick. So festivus, we didn't have one last year. This is our holiday event. It's a fun little social. Originally, I thought about having a hybrid, like some students online can attend and some of us physically on campus. Michael and I had a wonderful conversation about both came to the same understanding of that as a terrible idea to put it lightly, and the reason being is Bagnani can only have a capacity of 15 people. But we should still have the event because it's just a fun little social it really doesn't require much from anyone except hey let's show up and have fun like end of the semester party or something like that. So, I propose that we have festive on December 17, which is about two weeks from Thursday. We will play a couple of games, like jackbox games and

among us. Obviously a social so if you aren't obligated to play a game, we can do breakouts and do something different. I enjoy this during the holidays is something called an ugly sweater contest. Basically, I don't know if anyone has ever been involved in a sweater contest. That could be like a \$25 gift card, and it doesn't really cost as much besides 50 bucks for gift cards because we do not have to provide food or anything. Okay cool we'll just move right on the last thing, it'd be really brief because I don't have a lot on it. We are planning for another Trent alumni or life after Trent event. Last one was quite successful. Life after Trent does is, they invite former, alumni, or graduates from Trent, and they talk about work experiences careers how they got where they are and whatnot. The first event was supposed to be about the idea of like the academic realm. It was half that and half professional which is fine because it worked really well. For the next one I really want to focus more on government or like public sector jobs per se. We can get one individual from the private sector and one from the public sector. The only issue is that we want to balance in between the Arts and Humanities and Sciences. The last event is called Trent talks, basically two faculty or experts who are alumni talk about a certain subject that is usually mediated by the Chancellor. They have been willing to have these students centered events. So, basically, we'll be creating our own separate Trent talks, which I think is really good even if it's just presenting your own research in some respects on a certain topic. The caveat is with that we also need to determine who we'd like to host, and the recommendation was that professor to host the event versus a student, just to get viewership really, so if you know of any prof you think might be really good at doing this as well, obviously, send them my way, it will just make my life a lot easier.

- e) Verena (Environmental Commissioner)
 - (i) Trent Lands and Nature Areas Plan - Student Request for Comment Period Extension

Verena: I want to talk about the Trent lands and nature areas plan, which I'm not sure of all of you are familiar with so basically it is a plan that Trent University released a draft in November and this plan outlines all the future development of our campus areas. This plan is basically a guidance document which will zone different areas and make prepositions of where to move certain places like in Cleantech commons area, which is a new industrial park to be built, and it also outlines all the Trent nature areas where we have species at risk on campus so all the trails will probably be walking on. So, this plan is currently up for comment from anyone, community members, Trent students and so on, and their comments are currently due on January 4th. I have received a couple of emails from different parties having substantial concerns with this plan, and some of those concerns over development in terms of building new roads, eroding different landscapes, eroding wetlands, minimizing Species at Risk habitat, moving the experimental farm into a nature area, and basically overdeveloping a lot of our natural areas that we love so much because it's great to go out there for walks and it's great to have lots of habitat for so many species in our ecosystem out there. So, in a

nutshell, they have been concerns raised, and now it's basically asking if we as TGSA want to take an active role in advocating, first of all, for an extension of the comment period. Because basically there's a huge number of documents to go through to make meaningful commentary. And there are people out there that are able to provide those meaningful comments and hoping to have more time to be able to provide this input that seems to be so crucial. And the problem with that is that basically a little bit of history. The plan was released in November, I got notification of that and I was attending a meeting the next day where the plan was presented to us and feedback was asked for which I've heard like I cannot comment after having one day to read like hundreds of pages of documents that I'm not familiar with. So, the comment period back then was only two weeks, so we successfully already advocated to have it being extended to January 4 but then again there's of course the semester is busy and this Christmas and New Year's so effectively there's not actually very much time to meaningfully go through these documents to provide comments. So, the point where I'm at right now is receiving a lot of input and concerns from our student body and also faculty and so on facilities management that are all very much voicing concerns but feel helpless not being able to speak up against our administration, which of course a lot of corporate interests, economic interests it's important for Trent to develop and make that money. So, currently, what can we, as the TGSA, do in order to advocate for student voices being able to be heard, meaningful comments being able to be provided. I've been in touch with Jocelyn from the TCSA as well who said that they are probably going to write some sort of letter, requesting an extension of the common period. And I think that's the first thing we need to think about right now, advocating for longer common period because, after that, once we know we have time to provide meaningful input, we might also be able to actually facilitate some meaningful input. So, what are your thoughts on this, A, would you be willing to advocate with the TCSA for an extension of the comment period, whether our stance on this issue, in what way do you work want to advocate do we just want to sign on to something or do you want to take more active role? So, I'm just opening up here for questions or comments.

Jordon: I think I've seen this plan before because or something similar, I attended a couple of meetings last year discussing the new residents that are supposed to come out on the Peterborough campus and the Durham residents as well as Traill. And we had already had an original I think discussion about some concerns, especially where they were attempting to put the building, which was going to be basically near the wetlands, if I remember correctly. And that was one of the big concerns within the meeting itself. I think we should take an active role.

Verena: Yes, certainly. That's a great input and yeah there's so much policy involved where of course, you and I are probably not the experts on, but we do have those experts on board, likely if we were going to advocate. So, one thing that I wanted to mention that TCSA is having a meeting this Sunday at 1pm. I, unfortunately, have a conflicting meeting. But if anyone is interested to attend this meeting this Sunday, I can forward the information to you. The second thing is

that Jocelyn suggested that we would have a joint meeting to push this initiative forward to more formalize how we want to go about this.

Devon: I definitely think there should be a strong push first for the comment period. The university has more than enough time in the grand scheme of things to extend things even by a couple of months. And I think it's fairly obvious to assume that the attempted rush is intentional to prevent any further investigation into the environmental impact of the new construction will have. It's important to remind senior administration at the university that the Trent expansion although important, it is important that were ethical in our expansion and how we decided to develop.

Nina: Yeah, I had a quick question. Is there some sort of community involvement? I'd be surprised if there wasn't like a lot of pressure also from the wider Peterborough community

Verena: There's a lot of community groups that have even in the past, worked on this. And there's certainly a lot of there's even a town hall, in terms of what community could give input but you'd be so frustrated on hearing all those stories on how the communication has been taking place where often, there was no room for extra meaningful input and there was also often no that say you provide advice, but you don't hear anything after like there's less of a transparent process of actually how do all these advices from different groups actually been implemented, or considered. I think our role for TGSA is to facilitate that voices can be heard, and that the process is transparent.

6. Updates from CUPE

Shiva (CUPE Unit 2 representative)

Shiva: We'd like to update you on a few things. First, we did actually sign the petition for the letter for the migrant workers that you guys brought up. I don't know if they've done anything more than that. The other thing I would like to update you guys on one is regarding student evaluations. Student evaluations aren't actually part of the collective agreement for Unit Two, but it's something that a lot of departments have been providing over the years so whenever you finish a course the students that you've been teaching have the option of writing out evaluations for you. And the great thing about these evaluations is that you can include them within your packages when you apply for jobs afterwards. So, there is a great benefit for us as Unit Two members to get this evaluation but because of COVID we were worried that the university would have not prioritized these evaluations, but we actually got an update. Today, that they will be offered through Blackboard, so they are actually providing the student evaluations for you so what we wanted to make sure is that, because there's so many different departments if you guys have heard something different, or if they're not being offered to you. If you could please contact us and let us know, just so we can get

an idea of what's happening within each of the different departments for Unit Two members in terms of these student evaluations.

Devon: I was talking to my supervisor actually Tuesday about this. And I don't know if it's just because you brought this information now, but she had said that, like our department wasn't going to be offering them and that's because in the past I believe it's been that GTAs can only have the reviews done via paper not on the electronic system. But we have our AGP meeting or anthropology graduate meeting on Friday, so I don't know if they'll be bringing it up then.

Shiva: I just got the email a couple of hours before a meeting started that they were offering that that hopefully that's the issue, and they'll bring it up but if you do hear anything different definitely send us an email so we can follow up on that. We have our unit two collective agreement is up for renewal next year, which is really exciting so we can start getting some changes brought forth, because we know that there's always room for improvement for us and in Unit Two. So, what's happening is, first we're going to be having a caucus meeting on January 20 at 4:30pm, and this is open to all Unit Two members, which is pretty much all grad students. They can attend to see what's happening in terms of the steps that we're taking towards the bargaining of our collective agreements. And I think at this meeting they will be having elections, or they'll be talking about the elections for the bargaining committee team. So, we're actually going to be forming a team of individuals from our unit to membership will then help us with, not the actual bargaining, but it's more about making sure that the priorities are set. What we want to be focusing on within the collective agreement, getting as many people involved in that, as possible so we can come to a really healthy and beneficial agreement moving forward. We're encouraging everyone to join in and if you're thinking of becoming a member of the actual bargaining committee team, that's also something to think about. We have one grievance that's hasn't officially been filed but we're working on right now for Unit Two member and it involves a member who has unfortunately been pushed to work more than 120 hours so it's about their hours that they're not. They're concerned about the amount of work that they're being pressured to do. So, that's all I can really provide right now, we're just starting out with that grievance.

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: Sandra Klemet-N'Guessan
Second: Elicia Yap

Discussion

-no discussion

Approve: 17

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

motion carries

8. Commissioner and Program Representative Reports (see Addendum II)

- a. Equity Commissioner
- b. Environmental Commissioner
- c. Health Benefits Commissioner
- d. International Student Representative Commissioner
- e. Psychology Program Representative

Minutes: Additions to Commissioner and Program Representative reports

Motion to Approve the Commissioner and Program Representative Reports

Mover: Sandra Klemet-N'Guessan

Second: Elicia Yap

Discussion

-no discussion

Approve: 17

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

motion carries

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 13th January 2021
- b. The reports and motions for that meeting are due 7th January 2021

14. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Mover: Sandra Klemet-N'Guessan

Second: Nina Schmitz

Discussion

-no discussion

Approve: 17

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

motion carries

Addendum I
Executive Reports

Sandra (President):

This past month I met with the Bata Librarian about promoting graduate students' rooms and carrels so that they are more used. I met with Michael Eamon for our bi-weekly updates on the TGSA and Traill ends. I met with Jane Rennie about the trends that came out of the Racialized Graduate Students Bursary. I met with Craig Brunetti and shared updates on both the TGSA and School of Graduate Studies ends. Lastly, I have been meeting with the Anti-racism task force biweekly. The task force's terms of reference and plan for the year are now ready.

On Thursday November 19th we held the Experiences of Racialization: A Panel Discussion event for which I was the moderator. A total of 63 participants were registered to the event, 41 (including TGSA members and the panelists) attended and stayed for most of the event. Participants included faculty members, graduate, and undergraduate students, senior management including the Chair of the Board of Governors and several Vice-Presidents. Following the event, I met with Michael Khan and Tariq Al-Idrissi to debrief on the event. They were very happy with how the event went and I think this has given some good food for thought for the Task Force. I have also shared Jarrod's idea of a workshop on respectful inter-ethnic relations during orientation week with the VP Student Affairs and the TGSA Equity Commissioner, Tanya Aminataei, is interested in working with Jarrod to potentially develop a similar workshop more geared towards graduate students (and perhaps professors?). Lastly, the TGSA board and potentially other student groups will discuss the possibility of bringing some of the ideas that came out of this event to the Board of Governors. The event was recorded.

Sebastian (VP Internal Affairs):

This month I focused on the recruitment of a new Vice President Finance for the TGSA. I have distributed the application of the one applicant to the Board and included a motion for a vote on their candidacy below.

Motion:

Candidate for Vice President Finance

Mariana Castelli Rosa - mcastellirosa@trentu.ca

Under By-Law 15.02 d. “Should an Executive Officer’s position, excluding the President, become vacant mid-tenure, the position shall be filled by a Full Member elected by the Board at a Board Meeting or Special Board Meeting;” I move that in the absence of any other nominees for the position of Vice President Finance, the Board appoint Mariana Castelli Rosa as TGSA Vice President Finance.

I have also worked on more amendments to the TGSA By-Laws and Policies which are affixed to this report in the Appendix and can be found at this link:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_1fcEwpT1KIXOLmI8lpmzd1DwvCvBV2ruJ9pScr2LvE/edit

The main concerns are bringing the By-Laws and Policies up to date in regard to previous amendments passed this summer, taking into account suggestions by fellow Board members who suggested changes to their portfolios to better reflect the work they are doing, and finally entrenching the role of Durham Representative in our governing documents to clarify their roles.

Appendix:

Proposed amendments to the Policies and By-Laws of the TGSA

DRAFT

November 2020

Compiled and Drafted by:
Sebastian Johnston-Lindsay, VP Internal Affairs
Shyong Quan Yap, VP Communications
Jordan Williams, VP Student Affairs

As per By-Law 26.03, the topics of the following amendments were reported to the VP Internal Affairs 30 days in advance of the December 2020 Board meeting.

All Amendments will require ratification by the General Membership at the next General Meeting, as per By-Law 26.01 and 11.01, respectively.

Amendment 1.) To remove or amend sections of Policy 2.02.03 Vice President Communications

i.) Remove 2.02.03 b. “To oversee the maintenance of the filing cabinet in the TGSA office and organizing the documents wherein;”

ii.) Remove 2.02.03 d. “To oversee the maintenance of the TGSA Google Drive database as the “owner” and organize the documents wherein;”

iii.) Amend 2.03.03 h. “To send and receive emails from the gsa@trentu.ca email as appropriate;”

To

“To send and receive emails from the vpcommunicationstgsa@trentu.ca email as appropriate;”

Amendment 2.) To amend By-Law 19 Transfer of Executive and Commissioner Positions at 19.01 in order to clarify and bring this section into logical agreement with both 2018 and 2020 Amendments.

i.) 19.01 “The transition of authority for Executives and Commissioners shall occur no more than thirty (30) business days after the conclusion of the General Meeting.”

To

“The transition of authority for Executives and Commissioners shall occur no more than ninety (90) business days after the conclusion of the General Meeting during which the new Board was elected by the membership.”

Amendment 3.) An amendment to entrench and outline the role of the Trent Durham Representative in the TGSA’s *By-Laws and Policies*.

i.) Amend By-Law 16.01 e. “Two (2) Board Members to be elected from the General Membership by their constituent groups and who shall be known as Representatives and shall have the following titles:

- i. Arts Student Representative; and
- ii. Science Student Representative;”

To

“Three (3) Board Members to be elected from the General Membership by their constituent groups and who shall be known as Representatives and shall have the following titles:

- i. Arts Student Representative;
- ii. Science Student Representative; and
- iii. Trent Durham Representative”

ii.) Add Policy 2.03.10 Trent Durham Representative

“The duties of the Trent Durham Representative shall be:

- a. To represent the interest of graduate students studying at Trent’s Durham campus to The Board;
- b. To be familiar with The University’s Academic Integrity Policy for graduate students and to help educate first year students and answer questions about this policy;
- c. To be familiar with The University’s Health and Safety Policy and to help educate first year students and answer questions about this policy;
- d. To meet with Program Representatives to promote the TGSA;
- e. To aide in the formation of a student society for programs or interest groups based at Durham where none exists;
- f. To sit on vacant committees as requested by the VP Senate Representative indefinitely or until the position can be filled;”

iii.) Add the following text at Policy 4.05.01:

“c. Only students enrolled in a graduate program at Trent’s Durham Campus can vote for the Trent Durham Representative. In the absence of a vote held within the programs based at Durham or the student body, the Durham Representative shall be appointed under the guidelines set out in Bylaw 16.01 a. of this document.”

Elicia (VP Communication):

This month, I have been working on:

- Distributing our November newsletter
- Compiling information for the December issue
- Working with the VP Internal Affairs on drafting a call for the vacant VP Finance position and publicized it
- Collaborating with Trent International, Trent Aboard and the School of Graduate Studies on organizing and promoting the International Trivia
- Promoting the Experiencing Racialization at Trent: A Panel Discussion Event through various channels such as TCSA, TDSA, TUFA and CUPE

(VP Finance):-

Jordon (VP Student Affairs):-

There is not a great deal to report on as many of our more significant events have passed. We attempted a game night in October to play Jackbox and had roughly ten signups. Unfortunately, only one attendee showed up, and the event was subsequently cancelled. I hope to redo this event in the next term.

The panel discussion went incredibly well, from what I heard. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the event due to a personal matter out of my control. I am happy that our team could work together to get incredible panelists and run a successful event that will hopefully be continued.

I have started planning for other Life After Trent events with the Alumni office and Trent Talks. We can talk more about potential topics. The former should be a move away from the academy and talk about career paths for both Arts and Sciences grad students. For Trent Talks, we would be conducting our series to discuss topics with a student focus. Topics would have to be approved by the Trent Talks team and cannot negatively view the University for obvious reasons.

Model Parliament. Given the current situation with COVID and the fact that only the TGSA and TCSA are working on the event, I believe we should not go through with the event this year. TUPS, the political studies club, does not exist this year as none of the members came back to Trent. The TDSA backed out for an unknown reason. As a group, we have produced quotes for an Ottawa run event, and I still intend on compiling contacts and these quotes to present to the University's college principals. I have also contacted Political Studies to discuss getting first and second-year political studies involved in the future project. If there is no interest from them and other groups, then it is safe to assume that no one wants this event, and I will not be doing any further work on it.

Festivus. Much like MP, we are unable to host Festivus in a physical environment. Given the number of cases in Ontario and the fact that the TGSA should not put itself in scrutiny and criticism for hosting physical events, I propose Festivus be an online event. For the event, we can play games, have an ugly holiday sweater contest, have just a fun social, etc., with some gift card prizes.

Over the holiday break, I will be looking at potential future events with the commissioners and beyond. Expect some information on this in late December.

Janina (VP Senate):

November has been mostly quiet on the senate side of things. During our senate exec and senate meeting, we approved quite comprehensive, yet uncontroversial changes to a variety of both undergraduate and graduate programs. The changes proposed by the graduate studies committee mostly comprised program specific changes in courses and/ or course structuring. A detailed review of the course changes can be found in the senate minutes. The other change relevant to graduate students is a rephrasing of the "leave of absence" in the graduate student calendar. In a nutshell, the new version of the leave of absence specifies and eases eligibility criteria. The senate also reviewed the 2019-2020 summary of sabbatical reports from faculty members and the unexpected changes or challenges posed by Covid 19. President Leo presented another emergency plan for a potential COVID lockdown scenario in the winter term but mentioned that he considers the events unlikely.

In light of the last senate's discussion on "student and faculty feedback on remote learning", Cathy Bruce, Claire Monet and a few student senators, myself included, asked for a follow up. Cathy distributed different support guides for both students and faculty. On top of that,

an extensive student survey conducted by Student affairs and forwarded to the centre for teaching and learning has culminated in a list of “recommendations” for faculty members. The CTL will send out this list of recommendations in a timely manner, so faculty members can adapt their syllabi accordingly ahead of the start of the next winter term. I sent out a request to the CTL asking whether or not these recommendations touch upon the topic of mandatory camera usage in seminars.

Lastly, in a combined effort, we organized our first and hopefully not last symposium on “racialization at Trent”. Yeiiah to Sandra and Tanya and everyone who helped! It was such a success, and I am so, so glad we did right by the panelists! Speaking again from a VP senate perspective, I heard panelist and Trent professor Momin Rahman’s suggestion that a potential site of struggle for students could be to make demands to the board of governors. Though I am still reflecting on the possibilities and implications of his suggestion, I recognize the potential for action on an institutional level within it.

Addendum II

Commissioner and Program Representative Reports

Verena (Environmental Commissioner):

Here is my report:

I have attended several meetings of committees, representing the TGSA. Here are a few points that I think would be interesting to the group:

Foodservice Advisory Committee, Sustainability and Fair-Trade Working Group

How is Food Services responding to COVID? It is likely that food services will see a loss of multiple million dollar this year. Total sales are reduced about 70%. Their operations were changed to respond to the reduced traffic. Nevertheless, all four dining halls were kept open. Three small cafes and Tim Hortons are closed as there is insufficient traffic to keep them open.

Environmental Advisory Board

The EAB did not meet in 2019-20 because of a lack of administrative support. We discussed unfinished and planned business and brainstormed on how to move forward. We will likely increase meeting frequency and invite several new people to join.

Trent Nature Areas Stewardship Committee

The committee discussed supporting a student group to educate, collect data, research, and work on the Trent nature areas. Another topic was possible updates of the signage and way finding in the TNA Wildlife Sanctuary trails. We also discussed the committee's input to the Trent Lands Plan, mentioning the benefits of a collective set of points for comment on the plan.

Maryam (International Student Representative Commissioner): -

Tanya (Equity Commissioner):

Logan (Psychology Program Representative):

Trent Graduate Student Association (TGSA)

1. Students were sent an email updating them on what is going on, the upcoming racialization event, the bursary, an introductory blurb, and the TGSA's/CUPE's work in regard to the webcams needing to be on or off (no response)
2. A meeting with the Trent Psychology faculty is taking place tomorrow at 2 that I will be attending along with a first-year psychology graduate meeting sometime in mid-December
3. Attended a presentation on contextual pain experiences in mice and humans
4. Attended a presentation on the Racialization Experience at Trent University