



## TGSA Board Meeting Verbatim Minutes

**Date:** November 4th, 2020 (Wednesday)

**Start time:** 0500PM      **End time:** 0650PM

**Location:** Zoom video conference

**Chair:** Sandra Klemet-N'Guessan

**Scribe:** Shyong Quan (Elicia) Yap

**Attendance:** Logan Hamer, Shannon Fielder, Alison Fraser, Alexandra Miller-Gerrard, Sandra Klemet-N'Guessan, Autumn Jordon, Nicole Covey, Sebastian Johnston-Lindsay, Nina Schmitz, Carol Andrews, Verena Sesin, Elicia Yap, Connor Elverson, Maryam Helae (14, quorum met)

**Regrets:** Jordon Williams, Tanya Aminataei, Dominique O'Bonsawin, 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: Alison Fraser

Discussion

-no discussion

Approve: 14

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

**\*\*motion carries\*\***

### 4. Past Meeting Minutes

Adopt the Minutes from the Verbatim and Summarized Minutes from 7<sup>th</sup> October 2020 Board Meeting

Mover: Sandra Klemet-N'Guessan

Second: Nicole Covey

Discussion

-no discussion

Approve: 14

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

**\*\*motion carries\*\***

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

a) Sandra (President)

(i) Updates from anti-racism task force

(ii) Updates from Racialized Graduate Student Bursary

Sandra shared with the board about updates on the first meeting she had on the anti-racism task force. There is a wide range of profile sitting on this task force and they will be meeting bi-weekly. Sandra also brought up the Racialized Graduate Student Bursary and was going to follow up with Jane Rennie if there were any general trends and complaints coming out of these applications. The objective is to include it in the general bursary and learn from the bursary to address these needs better. Sandra also mentioned about the panel discussion involving racialized people at Trent and encouraged TGSA members to advertise it.

b) Sebastian (VP internal affairs)

(i) Motions for nominees

Sebastian moved the motions to acclaims the nominees.

Motions:

Arts Representative

In the absence of other nominations following a 30 day nomination period, I move that the Board votes to acclaim Devon Howell to the position of Arts Representative.

Mover: Sebastian Johnston-Lindsay

Second: Logan Hamer

Discussion

-no discussion

Approve: 14

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

**\*\*motion carries\*\***

Science Representative

In the absence of other nominations following a 30 day nomination period, I move that the Board votes to acclaim Andrew Brown to the position of Science Representative.

Mover: Sebastian Johnston-Lindsay

Second: Logan Hamer

Discussion

-no discussion

Approve: 14

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

**\*\*motion carries\*\***

The board discussed and decided to make a more appointed call for the VP finance position, detailing the responsibilities and qualifications of the VP Finance, to get more nominees for the position. The board also mentioned about splitting the honorarium with the new VP Finance and Anique.

VP Finance

In the absence of other nominations following a 30 day nomination period, I move that the Board votes to acclaim Joseph Bogaard to the position of VP Finance.

Mover: Sebastian Johnston-Lindsay

Discussion

-no discussion

Approve: 0

Oppose: 12

Abstain: 2

While the board waits for more nominations for the VP Finance position, Sandra moved the motion to appoint Connor as our interim VP Finance that will overlook the bursaries applications for the time being.

**Motion to appoint Connor as our interim VP finance**

Mover: Sandra Klemet-N'Guessan

Second: Sebastian Johnston-Lindsay

Discussion

-no discussion

Approve: 14

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

**\*\*motion carries\*\***

Connor gave an update on the status for the audits which may be finalized in the next few weeks.

- c) Nina (VP Senate)
  - (i) Senate discussion about remote learning

Nina talked about the Senate wide discussion about remote learning, including the positive and negative aspects of it in both the Peterborough and Durham campus. Nina also mentioned that some professors are demanding their students to turn on their cameras. The board talked more about this issue in more details, such as 1) how, as a graduate student and being a mediator between undergraduate students and professors, to navigate in this tough situation, 2) who would be drafting and overseeing the camera and microphone policies, 3) training for TUFA members and 4) other unions or associations such as SAS may support this policy. During the Senate executive, a lack of study spaces was also brought up and Leo was open to opening up more study spaces for students. Sandra mentioned that she can bring this issue up to Craig and Michael about opening up graduate student's offices.

## 6. Updates from CUPE

### Alison (CUPE Unit 2 representative)

Alison talked about the CUPE AGM and that CUPE will be working on bargaining for the unit 2 collective agreement this year. CUPE is also recruiting stewards for the steward network.

## 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: 14

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

**\*\*motion carries\*\***

**8. Commissioner Reports (see Addendum II)**

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

Minutes: Additions to Commissioner reports

**Motion to Approve the Executive Reports**

Mover: Sandra Klemet-N'Guessan

Second: Elicia Yap

Discussion

-no discussion

Approve: 14

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 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020
- b. The reports and motions for that meeting are due 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020

**14. Adjournment**

**Motion to Adjourn the Meeting**

Mover: Sandra

Second: Verena

Discussion

-no discussion

Approve: 11

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

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

**Sandra (President):**

This past month, I met with Craig Brunetti once and Michael Eamon twice to stay up to date with the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) and Traill College. I also resumed my attendance to the weekly Student Leaders meeting and started to sit on the Housing Advisory Committee and the Anti-Racism Task Force. The latter seems like a promising enterprise given the diversity and the values of the Task Force members.

I provided feedback and facilitated the release of the Racialized Graduate Students Bursary with the SGS Finance officer Jane Rennie. The release news were shared by SGS, TGSA, then some graduate programs. I continuing to exchange with Jane Rennie about trends and results from applications to this bursary and there has been discussions about the future of that bursary three years from now. The date and details for the panel discussion featuring self-identified racialized professors, graduate, and undergraduate students has been finalized in collaboration with VP Student Affairs Jordon Williams and Equity commissioner Tanya Aminataei.

**Sebastian (VP Internal Affairs):**

I've been involved in a few activities concerning the TGSA over the past month. I met with VP Student Affairs, Jordan Williams to discuss the Model Parliament event that he's been working on.

The ongoing task of reviewing the By-Laws continues. Thus far I have VP CUPE 2 Alison Fraser, FCSA PhD Rep Nicole Covey, and VP Communications Elicia Yap as potential members of a Constitutional Change Committee. Hopefully we'll be able to meet over the course of the next month.

I also attended the CUPE 3908 AGM on October 27th.

In terms of Committee participation, the Graduate Studies Committee meeting was cancelled due to a lack of agenda items. I did attend the Food Service Committee meeting on Thursday October 29th. I will continue to pass along the notes and information from these meetings to VP Senate, Janina Schmitz follow each meeting.

Finally, we've received a number of applications for numerous program representative positions. A list of them is included below:

Arts Representative

Devon Howell - [devonhowell@trentu.ca](mailto:devonhowell@trentu.ca)

Science Representative

Andrew Brown - [andrewbrown@trentu.ca](mailto:andrewbrown@trentu.ca)

VP Finance

Joseph Bogaard - [josephbogaard@trentu.ca](mailto:josephbogaard@trentu.ca)

Motions:

Arts Representative -

In the absence of other nominations following a 30 day nomination period, I move that the Board votes to acclaim Devon Howell to the position of Arts Representative.

VP Finance -

In the absence of other nominations following a 30 day nomination period, I move that the Board votes to acclaim Joseph Bogaard to the position of VP Finance.

Science Representative -

In the absence of other nominations following a 30 day nomination period, I move that the Board votes to acclaim Andrew Brown to the position of Science Representative.

**Elicia (VP Communication):**

This month, I have been working on:

- Distributed our October newsletter and advertised information and events that were sent along to me
- Compiled information for the November issue. Hopefully it will be sent out by Nov 9<sup>th</sup>, currently waiting for the approval for the new PhD program before advertising it.
- TGSA is on the Trent Mobile App. I met with Colin to go through the back end of the app and will be responsible for updating some of the links such as our calendar and newsletter monthly
- Updated the committee representative list and added our new board members on the TGSA website
- Sign TGSA up for LinkTree which is used for our Instagram account. LinkTree is a program that enable us to put all the important links together in one place which make them more organized and accessible to students
- Attended the Library Advisory Subcommittee meeting. During this meeting, Jean did a demonstration on Leganto, which is a program that help organize an online reading list for students on Blackboard. This program will be mainly used by faculty members. The Archives policy was

also recently updated which have been approved by the committee and will be brought up to the Senate for approval. Lastly, the budget for the library and archives 2020/21 was discussed which consists of acquisitions, salaries and operations. The additional \$50K as a permanent increase to the library acquisitions budget for the next 3 years was approved. However, due to COVID-19, there is about a 3.5% decrease in budget. Much of the expenses revolves around salary, multi-access planning and programs such as Omni, Leganto and Scholar Portal. The interlibrary loan (ILL) is not put into effect as of now due to COVID-19.

**(VP Finance):-**

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

**Janina (VP Senate):**

In October, both the senate and the senate executive meetings required quite a bit of preparation. Initiated by our president Leo, the student senators were asked to prepare a presentation of students' experiences with remote learning. Together with the feedback presented by the faculty council, our presentation served as a basis for a larger (and in parts heated) senate discussion. During the senate exec meeting, we discussed the launch of a new undergrad program in criminology. As grad students, the launch of a new undergraduate program may not evidently concern us. However, the discussion about the program took a direction that is reflective of larger issues at Trent and I thus felt the need to engage. The program was originally designed by former social science faculty member Gillian Belford (who has now left Trent). According to professor Belford's priorities, the core requirements of the program as outlined in the proposal include a variety of courses on critical analysis of justice systems, structural inequality inherent in justice systems, police violence, gendered violence, indigenous incarceration, etc. Upon reading the proposal, I was pleasantly surprised by the critical angle the program seems to take on crime studies. In the senate exec meeting, however, two faculty members uttered the concern that the program does not reflect enough TV crime show elements that students may expect when applying. In short, I felt the need to offer a counter perspective and defend professor Belford's proposal.

**Addendum II**  
**Executive Reports**

**Verena (Environmental Commissioner):**

I have attended a student leader meeting about the Trent Lands and Nature Areas Plan. In this meeting, the new draft TLNAP plan was presented to us and we were able to ask questions and make comments. I have made several comments about issues related to the protection and conservation of nature areas and species-at-risk. Moreover, I advocated for extending the comment period, which was received and ultimately it was decided to extend the period until early January. I have been in touch with a graduate student who is heavily involved in this topic, Debbie Jenkins. We are currently brainstorming our options to bring this plan and related issues to the attention of our student body and other affected parties. We want to make sure that there is adequate time and opportunity for students and others to comment on the plan. Moreover, we



want to make sure that our comments are properly addressed and action is taken to remediate issues related to the current draft plan version.

**Maryam (International Student Representative Commissioner): -**

**Tanya (Equity Commissioner):**