



## TGSA Board Meeting Summarized Minutes

**Date:** September 1st, 2020 (Tuesday)

**Start time:** 05:00PM      **End time:** 06:17PM

**Location:** Zoom video conference

**Chair:** Alison Fraser

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

**Attendance:** Janina Schmitz, Tanya Aminataei, Jordon Williams, Sebastian Johnston-Lindsay, Connor Elverson, Anique Chatzis, Alison Fraser, Shannon Fiedler, Beatriz Bento, Maryam Helae, Elicia Yap (11, quorum met)

**Regrets:** Verena Sesin, Madhu Garg, Fatma Ozen, Sandra Klemet-N'Guessan

### 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: Alison Fraser

Second: Sebastian Johnston-Lindsay

Discussion

-no discussion

Approve: 11

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

**\*motion carries\***

### 4. Past Meeting Minutes

4.1 Adopt the Minutes from the Verbatim Minutes from 4<sup>th</sup> August 2020 Board Meeting

Mover: Alison Fraser

Second: Jordon Williams

Discussion

-no discussion

Approve: 11

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

**\*motion carries\***

4.2 Adopt the Minutes from the Summarized Minutes from 4<sup>th</sup> August 2020 Board Meeting

Mover: Alison Fraser

Second: Jordon Williams

Discussion

-no discussion

Approve: 11

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

**\*motion carries\***

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

a) Sandra (President)

(i) Updates about addressing systemic racism

(ii) Updates about Student Caucus

**Motion to move Sandra's presentation to the next meeting**

Mover: Alison Fraser

Second: Jordon Williams

Discussion

-no discussion

Approve: 11

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

**\*motion carries\***

b) Nina (VP Senate)

(i) Update: senate vote on new UAPC policy

(ii) New Committee Representatives for 2020/21

Nina discussed about an update on a recent Senate vote on a policy on sharing and distribution of course content. The policy is now on a trial period for a year which ends on August next year. This policy puts out guidelines of how students are to treat

course content where students are not allowed to share or publish or distribute the content out with other members of the course, unless the instructor has given written permission, and also the recordings of lectures are recorded in order to make the class as asynchronous then that content is owned by the course instructor and students are again not allowed to share it or use it for any other purpose, but their personal education. The goal is to approve the policy permanently by fall next year. The Senate will then decide if this policy will be approved permanently in March next year.

Nina also reached out to Maryam and asked if they can offer any financial support but they have responded that they can't do anything about it. However, Trent has made some recommendations to address these equity concerns and students are not required to attend seminars.

Nina also reminded the board to choose at least two committees they want to sit on.

- c) Jordon (VP Student Affairs)
  - (i) Model Parliament

Jordon discussed about the plan and progress for Model Parliament's. Many of the student unions including TCSA, TDSA and Political Studies have signed on. Jordon is trying to get all the colleges involved as well. He wants to draft up a plan to bring it up to the VP and President Leo's as well as a budget for the TGSA. The board discussed about budget and student participation of the event.

## **6. Updates from CUPE**

### **Alison (CUPE Unit 2 representative)**

- (i) CUPE orientation for new grads

Alison talked about the orientation guide, rebuilding the communication between CUPE and TGSA and international graduate students who are facing delays in getting their study permit and are being asked to decline their GTA. The board discussed about overworking since most of the GTA work involves marking and how to go about addressing if one exceeds their hours.

## **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: Jordon Williams

Second: Anique Chatzis

Discussion

Sebastian asked the board about groups that are operating under TGSA. There is none at the moment.

Approve: 11

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 Commissioner Reports**

Mover: Nina Schmitz

Second: Jordon Williams

Discussion

-no discussion

Approve: 11

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 TBA

**14. Adjournment**

**Motion to Adjourn the Meeting**

Mover: Sebastian Johnston-Lindsay

Second: Anique Chatzis

Discussion

-no discussion

Approve: 11

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

**\*motion carries\***

**Addendum I**

Executive Reports

**Sandra (President):**

**General**

In August, the TCSA initiated the formation of a Student Caucus including the TGSA and several other student leaders. This provides a space for the main student associations on campus to discuss common issues across our memberships, identify top priorities for the year, brainstorm solutions, and join forces to lobby the admin regarding these issues. As such we had a chance to identify a couple of these issues and present them/ask questions Leo Groarke and the new Provost Michael Khan with whom we met at the Student Leader's meeting. Events organized in partnership with the Alumni office have been finalized. I also met along with VP Finance and Student Affairs with CUPE to re-establish an agreement that allows the TGSA to easily access the \$1200 allowance from CUPE to support our social outreach initiatives. Lastly, I attended two of the TGSA orientation events and the official orientation one; it was a success!

**Systemic racism at Trent**

Following consultations and research on scholarships offered to marginalized people across Canada, I proposed and got approved by both Craig Brunetti and Jane Rennie the creation of a self-identified racialized student specific \$10,000/yr fund to deliver to eligible students. I have also initiated the student-supervisor agreement board working group using other universities' templates. Meanwhile, Craig will be discussing with program directors the idea of introducing such agreement. Lastly, I have reached out to TUFA and CUPE to send a call to their membership for self-racialized faculty members or course instructors who could be interested in participating to the symposium we are organizing in October/November. The structure of the event has been discussed with VP Student Affairs.

**Sebastian (VP Internal Affairs):**

Following the passage of the amendments at the July Board Meeting, I worked on implementing these new amendments and getting the new version uploaded to the TGSA website. I've worked closely with the VP Finance and VP Communications to get this done.

In conjunction with the VP Finance I have also updated the forms for both the TGSA Emergency Bursary and the TGSA Academic Bursary. Both have subsequently been uploaded to the TGSA website.

At the request of TGSA President, Sandra Klemet-N'Guessan, I've also reviewed the possibility of implementing a student-supervisor agreement which is in-line with several other universities initiatives to clarify the expectations that exist between graduate students and their supervisors.

I hope to begin working to find out what graduate student groups operate under the TGSA as outlined in Bylaw 27 of our governing documents.

Finally, in my ongoing capacity as the Chair of the Frost Centre Student Association, I have been reaching out to Frost Centre students, especially with regards to getting program representatives from the department. As VP Internal Affairs, I hope to work with the board to begin communicating with our membership about the roles of program representatives as well as the newly defined roles of Arts Representative and Science Representative with the goal of getting nominations for these positions for the 2020/21 academic year.

**Elicia (VP Communication):**

In the month of August, I worked on:

- a) September newsletter: reached out to Trent library, IT services, health and counselling, Trent International as well as Dean of Grad Studies for information on changes due to the pandemic, compiled information and draft up the newsletter
- b) Draft a statement about inclusivity and mental health
- c) Designing posters for orientation events and posting them on our social media
- d) Thinking about setting up a forum for students to post rental listings etc

**Anique (VP Finance):**

*Completed/current duties:*

- Modifications for the 2020/2021 TGSA budgetary projection for Fall
- Yearly donation plan from CUPE to TGSA
- Emergency bursaries e-transfers
- Policy amendments, emergency bursary and academic bursary application
- Graduate enrollment
- Increased auditing fees; allocation from previous budgets
- Insurance
- Up-keeping the expenses
- Scholarship brainstorming for racialized students
- Tuition increases for graduate students

*Incoming responsibilities:*

- Student representative on the Special Appeals Committee
- Auditing
- Determine an adequate budget based on current graduate enrollment

**Jordon (VP Student Affairs):**

The orientation events have finally concluded and they had great attendance. Our social event had closer to 20 people, TA event had over 30, and World Trivia had about 15 people.

Unfortunately, Codenames was a bust and was cancelled due to low turnout. Moving forward we will try to poll our student body to see what kind of events they would like.

We have set the goal of having two alumni events per semester. These events will be open discussions, planned jointly through the alumni office. The first one will be based around the academic job market, and the second will look at the non-academic job market. Other events involved here will be specific to fields like the environment, business, government. One will happen at the end of September and the other in November.

The symposium planning has started. The president (Sandra) met to discuss a possible lay out and format. We are looking at 6 panelists: 2 faculty, 2 grad students, 2 undergraduate students with one spot being given to each discipline (Arts and Sciences). The first hour will be a presentation between the six panelists and the last hour will be a round table discussion between the panel and the audience.

The Model Parliament meeting has not happened yet. The other groups are busy right now and I am still working on getting a hold of college principles. Expect some notice in a week or so depending how talks go.

The end of year festibus was also talked about but I will follow up with the University to see how we can host a potential hybrid event. Traill closing complicates this.

**Janina (VP Senate):**

Tasks I have been working on in August:

- First Senate vote on new/modified regulation proposal form for the UAPC (undergraduate academic policy committee)
  - o Policy concerned with sharing and distribution of course content
  - o One year trial effective September 1<sup>st</sup> until August 2021
  - o Summary of New Policy:

The sharing and distribution of any course content, other than between individual students registered in the course, is not permitted without written permission of the instructor. Material recorded belongs to the instructor and can only be used for personal study of students registered in the course in question. The University requires anyone in possession of course content to safeguard the privacy and intellectual property rights of all persons in the learning environment. Regulations and limits surrounding the recording of class content are covered in the fair dealings section of the Federal Copyright Act.

- Policy was adopted with only one rejection. The concerns of the member voting against the new policy are being taken into consideration (but were not shared)
- Setting up and working my way through the new online Senate Portal
  - Reviewing 2019/2020 agenda and meeting materials of both senate meetings and senate exec committee
- Organizing/ Updating list for upcoming Committee representatives 2020/21
- In contact with Shivaan Burke from Maryam Monsef's office about financial support for student online learning
- Organize meeting with Board of Governors reps in September
- Consult on terms of reference for Anti-discrimination/ Minority fund with a friend who works for a social design/ social change company and has experience in launching institutional support systems like funds

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

**Verena (Environmental Commissioner):**

Contribute green tips section which includes Five Women in Environmental Science & Sustainability to Follow on Twitter and Trent Students' Tips for Ecofriendly Living for the September newsletter

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

**Tanya (Equity Commissioner):-**