



## TGSA Board Meeting Summarized Minutes

**Date:** April 7th, 2021 (Wednesday)  
**Start time:** 0500PM      **End time:** 0710PM  
**Location:** Zoom video conference

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

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

**Attendance:** Michael Schmidt, Nina Schmitz, Sandra Klemet-N'Guessan, Sebastian Johnston-Lindsay, Connor Elverson, Autumn Jordan, Shiva Javdan, Nicole Covey, Verena Sesin, Elicia Yap, Shannon Fiedler, Jordon Williams (13, quorum met)

**Regrets:** Madhu Garg, Beatriz Bento, Logan Hamer, Alexandra Miller-Gerrard, Tanya Aminataei, Mariana Castelli Rosa, Andrew Brown, Maryam Helae, Fatma Ozen, Devon Howell, Dominique O'Bonsawin, Carol Andrews

### 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: Verena Sesin

Second: Shannon Fiedler

Discussion

-no discussion

Approve: 13

Oppose:

Abstain:

### 4. Past Meeting Minutes

Adopt the Minutes from the Verbatim and Summarized Minutes from 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 Board Meeting

Mover: Shannon Fiedler

Second: Sebastian Johnston-Lindsay

Discussion

-no discussion

Approve: 12

Oppose:

Abstain: 1

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

a) Verena (Environmental Commissioner)

(i) How can the TLNAP team better engage graduate students?

(ii) How can Trent Athletics better reach out to graduate students and let them know about services and opportunities?

Verena discussed with the board about ways to engage graduate students to give feedback and input. The board suggested holding a townhall, addressing graduate students directly and giving incentives for participation such as a gift card. The board also brainstormed ideas on how Trent Athletic can better reach out to graduate students. These ideas include being a part of our orientation week, advertising the services that they offer through a video and including their services in Traill's and TGSA's newsletter.

b) Sandra (President)

(i) Summary of Good Supervisor Campaign & Feedback on Grad Programs' Structure and Functioning

(ii) Updates from meeting with Craig Brunetti

Sandra updated the board on the initiatives on promoting good student-supervisor relationship. Firstly, setting up a committee to construct a student-supervisor agreement. This committee will include professors and graduate students. Secondly, creating a workshop on how to be a good supervisor with Dr. Zohar and Center of Teaching and Learning. Thirdly, setting up a good supervisor award through the TGSA on top of a supervisor teaching award through the Center of Teaching and Learning.

Sandra and Sebastian discussed about the outcome of the two town halls sessions where graduate students were welcomed to provide feedback on their graduate programs. These feedbacks and concerns were relayed to Craig during a meeting and through a letter and Craig was able to address some of the concerns that graduate students had. The board has recommended that these sessions should be continued and held throughout the year.

Sandra also updated the board on tuition rebate for students who are experiencing delays due to COVID. Craig mentioned that students can appeal for it after they have defended, and he was also looking into doing another round of bursaries in the

summer and considering extending student's GTA funding if they are delayed due to COVID.

Sandra talked about the racialized graduate student bursary and Graduate Studies are considering merging the general bursary with the racialized graduate student bursary so that the logistics are easier for them. Merging of the bursaries would not affect the pool of money available for students. Sandra also proposed writing a Terms of Reference to outline the position of the TGSA in the future in regard to the bursary. The board recommended that the incoming board members could review the process of the bursaries and present it to graduate students.

Sandra reminded the executives and commissioners to submit their transition documents before April 30<sup>th</sup> and set up a meeting with their respective incoming board members.

**Motion to grant the honorarium for all the outgoing executives and commissioners of the year 2020/21 provided that the executives and commissioners send their transition document by April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to the VP Finance, VP Internal Affairs and President. If the transition document is deemed incomplete by the new team 2021/22, the outgoing executives and commissioners will be required to send another one the following month.**

**Motion to grant a split honorarium to VP Finance, between Mariana Castelli Rosa and Anique Chatzis, \$600 each, and both will be required to send in a transition document**

Mover: Sandra Klemet-N'Guessan

Second: Jordon Williams

Discussion

The board discussed about the need to amend the bylaws regarding the honorarium so that it is phrased clearer whereby outgoing executives and commissioners will be required to send a new transition document if the one submitted is not satisfactory. The board also talked about splitting of the honorarium between the two VP Finance.

Approve: 12

Oppose:

Abstain: 1

- c) Jordon (VP Student Affairs)
  - (i) End of the term party

Jordon talked about the end of the year party. The board decided on doing a trivia night for the party and a virtual party for TGSA members.

Jordon also reminded that the incoming board members should consider paying a subscription for Slack. Sandra reminded the executives to contact IT to get the new executives on their email address.

## 6. Updates from CUPE

### Alison or Shiva

Jordon and Michael mentioned that the survey for the bargaining team is closed.

## 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: 12

Oppose:

Abstain: 1

## 8. Commissioner Reports (see Addendum II)

- a. Equity Commissioner
- b. Environmental Commissioner
- c. International Student Representative Commissioner

### Minutes: Additions to Commissioner reports

#### **Motion to Approve the Commissioner Reports**

Mover: Sandra Klemet-N'Guessan

Second: Elicia Yap

Discussion

-no discussion

Approve: 12

Oppose:

Abstain: 1

**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 TBD
- b. The reports and motions for that meeting TBD

**14. Adjournment**

**Motion to Adjourn the Meeting**

Mover: Sandra Klemet-N'Guessan

Second: Sebastian Johnston-Lindsay

**Addendum I**

**Executive Reports**

**Sandra (President):**

Last March, I attended several meetings as part of the Dean's review committee to discuss Craig Brunetti's tenure renewal. I also helped organize and participated to the two town hall sessions that provided an opportunity for graduate students to give feedback on their program structure and functioning. This was a very successful event that provided critical insights. We summarized and shared it with Craig Brunetti during our monthly meeting and at GSC (I was not present at that meeting). I met with the incoming President Sebastian to train him his new position. I also met with Stephanie Belfry, Jane Rennie, and two other TGSA board members to discuss the graduate racialized student bursary. It was suggested that that bursary be merged with the general bursary with additional questions specific for graduate racialized students and that Terms of Reference be created to outline TGSA's role in the assessment of this bursary.

I also worked on summarizing the Good Supervisor Campaign feedback to highlight the traits that seem important for graduate students in a supervisor. I will share that summary with Dr. Asaf Zohar, Director of the Sustainability Studies program, who has offered to monitor a pilot workshop for incoming (and current?) supervisor using that feedback. Lastly, I attended the Learn from the

Grads and the Life After Trent – Grad students edition events and the Board of Governors luncheon which provided a good opportunity to remind governors of the impacts of the pandemic on graduate students' finances.

**Sebastian (VP Internal Affairs):**

This past month has been a very busy one for the TGSA. The Board acted quickly following our March meeting to organize two town hall meetings which were set up to gather and discuss the experiences of graduate students from across graduate programs at Trent. These events provided space for students to discuss challenges they are facing in their programs and also collectively brainstorm potential solutions to these issues.

I had the chance to share some of these findings with Craig Brunetti during a meeting as the incoming President, I will continue to work on shining a light on the experiences of graduate students and working with administration to work to improve where needed and possible.

I also attended the “Learn from the Grads” event which the TGSA helped organize with the TCSA and TDSA. It was a good opportunity to provide insight into certain questions both undergraduates and current graduate students who are either thinking about applying to graduate school, or another graduate program.

I also attended numerous meetings at part of my preparation for taking on the role of President next month. Sandra has very kindly been showing me the ropes of the job and I'm looking forward to taking on the role in a month's time. In addition to this, I have prepared a transition document for the incoming VP Internal Affairs.

**Elicia (VP Communication):**

This month, I have been working on:

- Distributed our March newsletter
- Compiled information for the April issue
- Sent out communications and promoted the Life after Trent event, sessions on graduate student's feedback on their programs, call for volunteers for our Learn from the Grads event, call for an Indigenous Graduate Student Representative for TUNA, and call for application for vacant positions on the TGSA board
- Created a resource tab on our website that lists organizations that support various groups
- Drafted the TGSA statement on anti-Asian racism and distributed it through our email and social media accounts
- Attended the Library Advisory committee where the committee gave an overview on how the library and library services have changed and adapted in 2020/21.

**Mariana (VP Finance):-**

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

**Janina (VP Senate):-**

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

**Verena (Environmental Commissioner):**

For the past weeks I have attended several meetings. Collectively with other community leaders, I have met with Julie Davis to discuss changes on the TLNAP Implementation Plan which will be presented at the Board of Governors on Friday March 26. Our main focus was the suggestion of changes to the language in the plan, which is non-committal. Changes were proposed that rephrase statements in the plan to a more direct and committal language (e.g., should --> will). During these conversations, it became apparent that better ways for communication and engagement with graduate students are needed.

Moreover, I have met with the Athletics Advisory Committee, where we were updated on their response to the COVID restrictions, and we also reviewed the budget. Everything looked appropriate. In this conversation, it also came up that graduate students are less aware of the athletic services, and I mentioned that I personally have not seen any athletics staff partake in our orientation events or promote their services through our channels. I suggested that I will discuss with our TGSA group how Trent Athletics can better reach and engage graduate students.

Lastly, I have received the meeting minutes from the March meeting of the Food Services Advisory Committee, Operations and Marketing Working Group and Sustainability and Fair-Trade Working Group. What might interest this group is that the food summer program will be very soft. At this time, they plan to operate only Starbucks and the grill at OC, Monday to Friday. Moreover, a great news is that the Starbucks showcase removed all perishable food products, saving 10 of millions of wasted food products worldwide each year.

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

**Tanya (Equity Commissioner): -**