



## TGSA Board Meeting Summarized Minutes

**Date:** August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (Monday)

**Start time:** 3:00 pm **End time:** 4:20pm

**Location:** Zoom video conference

**Chair:** Sebastian Johnston-Lindsay

**Scribe:** Stephanie Gao,

**Attendance:** Sebastian Johnston-Lindsay, Nicole Covey, Mariana Castelli Rosa, Tanya Aminataei, Madison Moore, Connor Elverson Shiva Javdan.

**Regrets:** Gabriella Peters (VP Student Affairs), Emma Kaszecki (Environmental Commissioner), Devon Howell, Nisarg Patel

### 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: Mariana

Second: Tanya

#### Discussion

Approve: All

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

### 4. Past Meeting Minutes

Adopt the Minutes from the Verbatim and Summarized Minutes from July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Board Meeting

Mover: Mariana

Second: Nicole

#### Discussion

No discussion\*

Approve: All

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

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

### **a.) President - Sebastian**

#### **a. Update regarding meeting with Michael Eamon**

Sebastian has been discussing with Michael upon distribution of office spaces and communicated with CUPE as well. Michael has been rather open discussing this, but the issue is now being handled by the administrative assistants in graduate studies at Traill on how to provide office space.

#### **b. Various meetings and student association updates (i.e. CUPE)**

Sebastian and Alison met with CUPE. Alison wants to raise issues, specifically regarding consent at Trent. Communication between TGSA, CUPE, and Trent is ongoing. Sebastian anticipates no issues moving forward. There are concerns from CUPE regarding the way Trent has communicated training documents, specifically about how to deal with sexual violence and abuse. CUPE is currently working on this.

Sebastian says that we have received the communications document regarding the terms and agreements when using the graduate listserv.

Devon (as acting VP Internal Affairs) and Sebastian has signed off the document which allows the transfer of funds from graduate studies to collect levy fees for TGSA.

Sebastian attended one of the orientation events and gave a run-down of what TGSA does and our role at Trent.

Due to Gabriella's absence, Sebastian briefly touches on her report. There are three events being planned by the TGSA, the Meet and Greet. The second event is the Codenames game night, and the last event is the joint CUPE-TGSA information session on what to expect as a teaching assistant.

### **b.) VP Communications – Stephanie**

Stephanie updated profiles on the TGSA website as well as TGSA events in the website calendar. She will send out the communication regarding the listserv and share the August newsletter as soon as possible.

c.) VP Finance – Mariana

Connor did the budget and saw that there was a \$1200 donation from CUPE last year and is put into this year's budget. Connor and Mariana reached out to CUPE about this donation to discuss the donation. Mariana shared the tax and other financial bursaries and is still working on them.

d.) Tanya (Equity Commissioner)

a. TGSA/TCSA Joint event

No discussion\*

b. Tabling for TGSA at Orientation

TCSA offered a table for Orientation Week for graduate students. Tabling is done in-person. Sebastian currently has a box of TGSA swag that can be used during orientation week. This will take place sometime in the first 10 days of September. Tanya will get more information. A home BBQ will be taking place during orientation week. Tanya suggests for TGSA to host something similar for incoming graduate students.

c. Lounge and funding required

Tanya had a meeting with the TCSA last month and discussed several opportunities for September and will give more updates at the next meeting. TCSA is preparing ga launch in the student centre and is available for all the students. TCSA is asking if TGSA can donate to them to build this lounge. This lounge is a space for students to gather and hang out. The grand opening will take place early September. Stephanie suggests a document specifying how the funds will be used towards the lounge such that TGSA can keep track of how our funds are being used.

e.) Madison Moore (Cultural Studies Ph.D Program Representative)

Students in the second-year cohort in the program. The students wish to have their second year bi-weekly course online rather than in-person. Admin objects to it because of the in-person plan for all students to be on campus this fall.

## 6. Updates from CUPE - Shiva

a. Bargaining progresses. The Collective Agreement (CA) expires at the end of August (this month).

Allison will communicate with CUPE and confirm the \$1200 donation to have it processed. The bargaining is still progressing, and they are meeting weekly. The CA is expiring this month and is working on updating and improving the agreement.

**b. Unit 2 Meeting about bargaining**

Once the proposal for the CA is ready, CUPE will call a meeting with the UNIT members to update everyone on bargaining and inform them about the proposals and plans proposed. Members' feedback is recommended at the event. The CUPE Townhall meeting will have two sessions regarding the plan to introduce in-person learning again.

**c. Orientation! CUPE and TGSA joint-hosted event**

The official event will be held on August 18 and the collaborative event will be held on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

**7. Other updates**

Connor has been in contact with Tangerine to officially closed TGSA's old banking account. Connor is still getting confirmation that the account is closed.

**8. 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:

Second:

Discussion

Approve:

Oppose:

Abstain:

**9. 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:

Second:

Discussion

Approve:

Oppose:

Abstain:

**10. Question Period and Departmental Issues**

Frost Centre wishes to collaborate with TGSA for their event. 0 cost event that can be held in person or on Zoom.

**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:

Second:

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

**Sebastian (President):**

July was a very busy month for the TGSA. I was involved in a number of meetings and communications with various members of the administration on some important issues and can be summarized as follows:

First off, I met many times with Michael Eamon surrounding the issue of graduate student office space. With the opening up to in-person learning come the Fall, the university's position of denying graduate students the opportunity to work and learn in designated spaces on the Trill campus in particular is becoming increasingly untenable.

I want to recognize that the issue is deceptively complex and requires consultation with many levels of the Trent administration and staff at Trill. Without the cooperation of all levels and people involved, it seems unlikely that we will be able to have our own space on campus come the Fall. Michael has met with three key bodies thus far to communicate the need for office space at Trill for graduate students. Thus far, he has met with the VP Human Resources, the Dean of Graduate Studies, and the administrative assistants at Trill. One scenario which might transpire is a kind of voluntary sign-in for a designated office on campus with an additional option for a space where graduate students who are GTAs to sign up for specific times for office hours. I will continue to meet with Michael on these issues as they continue to develop.

To this end, I met with Ali Fraser, our VP Unit 2 at CUPE to discuss a number of issues. We began by talking about CUPE's intention to work alongside us as we work to get graduate students back on campus and in offices. CUPE is also keeping an eye on the re-opening of the university to in-person learning and encourages us to keep communication open if there are any concerns from the graduate student body.

We also talked about an ongoing issue that CUPE has raised with Consent at Trent and the Sexual Violence Prevention office concerning training material that had been developed and sent out to graduate students for use in their roles as GTAs. This issue is not likely to go much further, but it is worth mentioning for the record here. It is my opinion that given CUPE's primary responsibility to its members in issues concerning labour and training that the TGSA back them up on this should this issue continue.

I have also received a Communication Agreement from Graduate Studies concerning the use of the List Serve and distributed it to the Executive. I've taken a look over it and it seems to be in line with our understanding of what would be included. In short, it contains no surprises. I'm awaiting any feedback from the Executive before I sign it along with Devon Howell as the acting VP Internal Affairs.

Finally, I helped our team organize the upcoming orientation events for the incoming cohort of graduate students alongside CUPE and graduate studies and got the information sent off to Laurie Collette to be included on the orientation webpage. I will be attending two orientation and information sessions on behalf of the TGSA and talking about the three social and informational events we have planned over the month of August.

**Devon (VP Senate): -**

**Stephanie (VP Communication): -**

- Most of the TGSA board profiles are on the website
- TGSA events are updated on calendar
- Mailing List communications has been drafted, approval required before release
- July 2021 Newsletter was not sent out. August Newsletter is ready to be released today upon approval.

**Mariana (VP Finance):-**

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

This month was a busy one. The social event that we ran took place on June 30th at 7pm, we held a CodeNames game night and so far this was the most successful social night we have had this summer. The event took place over Zoom and the game server has a large capacity so that we do not have to put the event attendees into breakout rooms. Overall this event was a good example of what future game nights should look like. I will use this experience as an outline while planning future social events.

Laurie from Graduate Studies reached out to the TGSA to see if we would like to plan some TGSA Orientation events, similar to the ones run in previous years. Based on the template for what was done last year, the TGSA will be hosting a meet and greet and a CodeNames game night, as well as collaborating on an event with CUPE 3908 regarding “what to expect as a TA”.

I have been in constant communication with Sebastian and Ali via email discussing logistics of the events so that the joint event can be run in accordance with the expectations of both CUPE and the TGSA. I have also been in close communication with Stephanie so that event posters and registrations could be made for the events. The final dates for the Orientation events are as followed:

TGSA Meet & Greet- August 13th @ 6pm

CodeNames Game Night- August 18th @ 7pm

CUPE 3908 and TGSA’s “What To Expect As a Teaching Assistant”- August 20th @ 6pm

All three events will be taking place over Zoom

**Devon (VP Senate):-**

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

**Emma (Environmental Commissioner): -**

As mentioned in the last month, I wanted to reach out to individuals at Trent that can lend some guidance and information beneficial towards the University Climate Change Coalition (UC3). That being said, it was very overwhelming to see the number of people that could be of use, and I needed to start somewhere. As per Michael Schmidt's recommendation at the beginning of the summer I reached out to the Student Representative on the Board of Governors, Daniel Palberg. Mr. Palberg is currently establishing himself on the Board, and is set to be out of the country for the duration of the Fall 2021 semester. Communication is set to continue before he departs, but I have essentially been back-burnered on the matter until he is free to chat.

Besides this slow progress, I have been working on my PhD conversion paper, and that is what the majority of my time has been dedicated to.

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

**Tanya (Equity Commissioner): -**

In the meeting that I had with the TCSA folks last month, we discussed several interesting mutual events for the upcoming semester. Regarding the orientation week, we talked about the TGSA having a table and preparing a number of welcoming boxes for the graduate students. Also, TCSA has been working on creating a lounge located in the student centre. The lounge can be used by graduate students as well as the TGSA in case we want to hold an event there. TCSA would like to know if we would be able to offer some funding to further help the preparation of the lounge. Its grand opening will be held soon