



TGSA Board Meeting Agenda

Date: December 2nd, 2021 (Thursday)

Start time: 3:00 pm **End time:** 4:32 pm

Location: Hybrid/Zoom Conference

Chair: Sebastian Johnston-Lindsay

Scribe: Via Zoom Recording

Attendance: Sebastian Johnston Lindsay, Devon Howell, Emma Kaszecki, Connor Elverson, Gabriella Peters, Richard Moore, Tanya Aminataei, Alexandra Miller-Gerrard, Jordan MacDonald, Emelia-Naana Baah, Madison Moore

Regrets: Cheryl Mitchell

Absence without Regrets: George Danso

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: Devon

Second: Emelia

Discussion: None

Approve: All

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

4. Past Meeting Minutes

Adopt the Minutes from Summarized Minutes from November 4th, 2021, Board Meeting

Mover: Gabriella

Second: Alexandra

Discussion: None

Approve: All

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

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

a.) President - Sebastian

a. General updates on meetings

Meeting with Search Committee for VP Research and Innovation advertisements is now live and on the Trent website despite the voicing concerns for not having Graduate Studies as a part of this ad. Candidates are kept confidential during this time, but general inquiries and concerns can be addressed by Sebastian to the committee if TGSA has opinions.

The Housing Committee met recently, and Sebastian helped voiced some concerns about Wi-Fi connectivity problems at Trill. An email has been sent to the head of IT regarding this issue. Gabriella said she is now interacting with the student (who sent the complaint).

Trill College is reviving the 3-minute thesis competition. TGSA has previously funded this competition and planning would start soon. Board members are allowed to get involved in this planning process in the coming month.

b.) VP Senate – Devon

Bill C4 passed unanimously. This change hopefully can push Leo Georke to acknowledge this shift in politics at the University.

Trent will be starting a new teaching award this year. In addition to the Outstanding Research Award, a second-tier award will be award. Devon will be chairing another sub committee that oversees LTAs (long term absences). .

Devon and Stephanie will sit down and shuffle through the minutes to tally the attendances of the board members. Members who have not attended any meetings recently will likely be impeached.

Senate Executives...

The University is currently working on the mission statement (note: a new statement is renewed every few years). The University has an issue with retaining students for secondary and tertiary degrees, possibly due to lack of a personalized education, which the University promotes. The University may be too focused on population growth rather than the quality of education received. TCSA wants to restructure allocation of student seats, therefore each college will have one senator as well as international students.

c.) VP Student Affairs – Gabriella

Spooky Walk was the most successful event this year. Michael Eamon directed students around the Traill Campus area and gave a very educational talk about the history of Peterborough as well as Traill itself.

Trent Active Minds met with Gabriella and learned that graduate students don't actually pay for their levies, therefore students don't get access to the services like undergraduate students do. Gabriella is suggesting a "Paint Night" with Trent Active Minds in January that will tie into mental health initiatives.

Gabriella attended a meeting with Teaching and Learning Advisory Committee. No significant discussion but it is important to know that the committee is open to student opinion and experience, which can be very beneficial in the future.

The Holiday Photo Contest – a new event for December. The winner receives a prize for their selected photo.

Possibility of hosting an End of the Year Grad Social Event. Is there a way to increase turnout?

d) Environmental Commissioner – Emma

Trent University does not qualify to be a part of the UC3 project unfortunately.

e) Equity Commissioner – Tanya

Social media post about sexual harassment resources to spread awareness at Trent. Link for resources: <https://www.trentu.ca/sexualviolence/if-you-have-experienced-sexual-violence/what-policy-should-be-used>

f) Connor Elverson – The financial reports from 2017-2018 was found.

g) History MA Program Representative - Alexandra and Jordan

h) Cultural Studies PhD Program Representative – Madison

Issue with curriculum raised by students. Madison is having department meetings with various professors about this.

6. Updates from CUPE

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:

Second:

Discussion

Approve:

Oppose:

Abstain:

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:

Second:

Discussion

Approve:

Oppose:

Abstain:

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 on December 2nd at 3:00 pm
- b. The reports and motions for that meeting are due December 1st, 2021
- c. The next Executive meeting will be held on November 28th at 3:00 pm

14. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Mover:

Second:

Addendum I
Executive Reports

Sebastian (President):

This month I represented the TGSA at a number of events and meetings.

The biggest news is that the VP Research and Innovation (VPRI) Search Committee met for the first time. The advertisement is now live and despite my insistence that it include a mention of graduate studies (as it rightfully does professional studies) we remain absent from the final version. As graduate students, we are deeply impacted by and involved in the research that goes on at Trent University, whether as members of labs, or as RA's. It is therefore a matter of some curiosity that the advertisement doesn't mention our existence in its final form.

Further to this, the discussions of the VPRI committee as they relate to candidates are strictly confidential. If you have general questions about what happens in these meetings, you can always feel free to reach out. The same goes for anything you might want me to bring up in these meetings. For my part, I'll continue to advocate for the existence of graduate students to be recognized, at the bare minimum.

The Housing Committee also met for the first time this year. I brought up some concerns regarding the speed of the internet at Traill College residences which had been brought to myself and VP Student Affairs, Gabriella, over the course of the past month. I believe that it has been resolved to some degree after we went straight to the top of IT after the issues being passed

around between Traill, Housing, and IT for a number of weeks. Nona Robinson was the one who suggested this during a student leaders meeting and it seems to have worked out. We'll continue monitoring this issue and follow up as needed.

I also talked with Michael Eamon about the upcoming planning sessions for the 3MT competition. In previous years the TGSA has funded a prize in its name and I think it would be good to do this again this year. It's crucial that we insist on being involved as this past year, the 2thesis competition used funds which had been given by a previous Board for the TGSA Prize and had Leo Groarke present it. Michael didn't really have a good answer for why the TGSA wasn't consulted and asked to give out the TGSA prize despite funding it, but it's something which cannot happen again especially as this came on the heels of Graduate Studies threatening our use of the listserv for using their logo on a communication to our membership.

Finally, catch VP Communications, Stephanie Gao, and I in the upcoming holiday video for Trent. Our awe is genuine and our waving is on point.

Devon (VP Senate): -

Gabriella (VP Student Affairs):-

Our Spooky Walk event in collaboration with Traill College took place on November 1st at 6pm. Michael Eamon led the group on a historical walk around the neighborhood and Traill's campus. Attendees also had the opportunity to explore the inside of Kerr House at the end of the event. After the walk, the group went to the Trend for snacks and refreshments. It was our most successful event so far. There were a total of 22 attendees. Both the turnout and the energy for this event was very exciting. Michael Eamon did a great job leading the walk and the weather was nice.

On the other hand, our Scavenger Hunt on November 18th in collaboration with Traill College was not as successful. Although the weather was decent, turnout for the event wasn't great. That being said, we still had people attend the event and join us after for refreshments in The Trend. The individuals who attended had a lot of fun and were very creative with their pictures. This may be a good idea as a September event in future years. Although I reached out to Traill Cabinet to help out/ collaborate on this event, they did not attend or share the event on their socials. I will try to collaborate again in the future if they're interested.

I met with Trent Active Minds this month to see if we could collaborate on an event together. Amylyn from Active Minds was incredibly kind and invited the graduate student association

to be a part of their 'Stress Less Week' even though we do not pay into their levy fees. 'Stress Less Week' is running from the 29th of this month to December 3rd. In this meeting, Amylyn and I discussed the possibility of holding a paint night in January as a collaboration Event. I will reach out to her next month to follow up and begin planning.

I attended the monthly Teaching and Learning Advisory Meeting Committee meeting. In this meeting we discussed syllabi and some of the strategies that we felt supported students/ gave them more of a chance of success.

A student from Traill College emailed me to see if I could advocate for the lack of/ slow wifi at Traill College. I reached out to Michael Eamon to let him know what was happening at the college. His response to me was that this student has also reached out to him and he informed housing about it. The student continued to follow up with me because nothing was resolved so I decided to take the matter into my own hands and emailed IT and Housing Services directly. I did not hear back from either group for weeks. After consulting the TGSA President, I reached out to Tim MacInnes from IT Services directly and he replied immediately claiming that he had not heard anything about these technical issues. He was very prompt in his replies to me and looked into the issue for me and found something that may have been the cause of the issue. I put him and the student in direct contact with each other. It has been a few weeks and I have not heard from the student who filed the complaint so I am hoping the issue was fixed. I am disheartened by the lack of communication at this university. As students, it is imperative that we have access to the resources that we are paying for. I'm glad I could help this student but I am also frustrated that the student felt the need to reach out to me after feeling brushed aside by College Administration. This further reminded me why groups like the TGSA are so important for student advocacy.

On a lighter note, the TGSA will be giving out care packages to graduate students on December 10th. The TGSA will be meeting on December 2nd to go shopping and pack up the care packages. These care packages will be filled with treats, TGSA swag, school supplies and mental health resources.

Finally, we are planning a holiday photo contest. This contest entails emailing a holiday photo to the TGSA exec. We will vote on whose picture is the most aesthetically festive and one lucky individual will win a mug filled with holiday goodies.

Stephanie – VP Communications

November has been hectic research wise unfortunately. The website has been updated with new information and social media has been our key method of contacting and interacting with Graduate

students. However, there is a limit to that and using the listserv for consistent communications might need to become the new normal.

I have helped Gabriella with promo materials for the events she has been organizing.

Addendum II
Commissioner Reports

Emma – Environmental Commissioner

This month I learned that making a large impact at Trent is going to take a bit more than I bargained for! Trent is unable to join the UC3 as a result of not meeting the criteria (ie. being a top-ranking research university in Canada). While this is disheartening, Shelley Strain in the Trent Sustainability office has agreed to keep me in the loop with current and upcoming projects to give her a hand with. I also had a Nature Areas Stewardship Committee meeting where we finalized a position Trent will be posting to assist in maintaining the integrity of the nature areas.