



TGSA Board Meeting Summarized Minutes

Date: June 7th, 2021 (Monday)

Start time: 3:00 pm **End time:** 5:26 pm

Location: Zoom video conference

Chair: Sebastian Johnston-Lindsay

Scribe: Stephanie Gao

Attendance: Sebastian Johnston-Lindsay, Stephanie Gao, Michael Schmidt, Devon Howell, Mariana Castelli Rosa, Emma Kaszecki, Shiva Javdan, Beatriz Bento, Tanya Aminataei

Regrets: Nicole Covey (FCSA President and PhD Rep.), Gabriella Peters (VP Student Affairs)

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: Beatriz

Discussion

No discussion*

Approve: All

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

4. Past Meeting Minutes

Motion to adopt the Minutes from the Verbatim and Summarized Minutes from April 7th, 2021, Board Meeting

Mover: Mariana

Second: Michael

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

Organized a significant number of one-on-one and group meetings with new board members to familiarize themselves with TGSA. Sebastian has met with Michael Eamon, the principal of Trill College, and Michael expressed interest in working with the TGSA.

Regarding the listserv, Sebastian is still waiting for a document outlining how it can be used appropriately by the TGSA and that both parties are consensual to the terms listed. Currently, the listserv can be used for promotions of TGSA events and the newsletters. This bolsters TGSA's accountability to graduate students such that the relationship between Graduate Studies, Trill College and TGSA is relatively strong and that cooperation between both groups will be sturdy.

b. Various meetings and student association updates

Regarding the listserv, Sebastian is still waiting for a document from Graduate Studies outlining how it can be used appropriately by the TGSA and that both parties are consensual to the terms listed. Currently, the listserv can be used for promotions of TGSA events and the newsletters. This bolsters TGSA's accountability to graduate students such that the relationship between Graduate Studies, Trill College and TGSA is relatively strong and that cooperation between both groups will be sturdy. Sebastian is anticipating resuming monthly meetings with Craig Brunetti.

Sebastian will clarify with Stephanie Belfry regarding having one more than one executive member attend these meetings with Michael Eamon, Stephanie Belfry and Craig Brunetti. Sebastian will communicate with the board when these meetings will be happening.

Sebastian also attended biweekly meetings with the key contacts of the TCSA (Trent Central Student Association) and TDSA (Trent Durham Student Association), and the Ministers of the College Cabinets. From one of the meetings, a minister in the Trill Cabinet expressed interest in working with the TGSA.

c. Racialized Student Bursary Meeting with Stephanie Belfry and Jane Rennie

According to Jennie Rennie and Stephanie Belfry, the Racialized Student Bursary launched last year was successful and a popular initiative launched by the TGSA. Once this month's (June) round of applications has been adjudicated, another meeting with Jennie will be held to review issues, experiences, and improvements.

Devon mentions if Jane and Stephanie are going to follow up on feedback and notes on the bursary in the form of a report to summarize broad trends. Student feedback regarding the bursary is critical. Devon also mentions if a more formal agreement between TGSA and Graduate Studies will be drafted such that TGSA will always have input on when changes to the bursary are made, specifically how the bursary will be dispersed or changed over time, either as its own or into the general bursary. Sebastian will follow-up at the next meeting with Jennie and Stephanie. Devon mentions implementing or changing how the bursary is marketed due to a decrease in applicants in the winter semester, and whether it is a good idea to change how TGSA is targeting students for the bursary.

The advocacy work of the TGSA, the edits of the bursary etc. We want the posters to be collaborated amongst all members, to get feedback and to see if everyone is comfortable with the poster being posted on all platforms.

d. Possibility of creating a mailing list specifically for the TGSA

Sebastian suggests creating a TGSA mailing list. This will provide students an opportunity to unsubscribe from the list if dissatisfied. This new listserv will be beneficial to TGSA in maintaining contact with the graduate student body, specifically those who want to hear from TGSA directly. Sebastian suggest to a feedback portion in the newsletter to see what students may have to say regarding this new listserv idea. Devon suggests a one-month campaign in the fall to emphasize and showcase what TGSA does at Trent, beyond planning and organizing graduate events. Stephanie will create a communications regarding the listserv and see what students have to share before proceeding in creating one.

b.) VP Internal Affairs – Devon

a. Motion to acclaim Jordan MacDonald to the position of Psychology Representative in the the absence of other nominations following a 30-day nomination period

Approve: Mariana

Second: Michael

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion Passed?

All 9 approved.

Devon will email Jordan to appoint this position officially.

- b. Introduction of potential amendment regarding responsibilities of attending meetings as a Board member

Devon suggests maintaining accountability on the board by amending the by-laws, specifically the impeachment clause, by removing an individual from the board if absent from 3 consecutive meetings without notice. This can act as an incentive for those to actively represent the student body and interests. This can be done by drafting a new by-law to be approved by the next AGM. Issue with the quorum reflects the lack of students attending the AGM for voting in the new by-law. Ratification and determine the appropriate quorum need to be considered.

- c. Introduction of potential amendment regarding the term lengths of the Arts Representative and Science Representative Positions

Devon suggests another amendment on the Arts Representative and Science Representative Positions. Currently, both positions are at 12-month intervals. Issue is that the by-law states that these positions can rollover into an executive position, which leaves these positions empty for 4 months. Devon suggests changing the term duration from 12 months to 8 months. Another suggestion is to have someone temporarily fill in these two positions. The last suggestion is to not have anyone fill these positions for the 4 months at all considering it is less busy during the graduate summer term. These positions should ideally be targeted towards 1st year Master students or PhD students to allow flexibility for student to transition to an executive position.

- d) Notes on Progress with Durham

There is a lack of research space and office spaces for students. Devon has previously drafted a regarding lack of space for students. The influx of students into Durham will require the necessity of GTAs and the allocation of GTAs into the Durham campus with office spaces, workspaces, and lab spaces. Trent is not allocating resources across both campuses, regardless of the number of students in the Durham Campus, the matter must be addressed by both CUPE and TUFÉ. It is necessary to have a graduate student seat for senate in the Durham Caucus.

- c.) VP Finance – Mariana

- a. Discuss language on the emergency bursary to be more alert to mental health concerns. Also, discuss as a Board a point raised at the last meeting surrounding the changing of language to provide \$500 per 12 months for Health/Dental rather than the current phrasing of \$250 every six months.

Mariana suggests creating a new kind of bursary towards mental health for those impacted by COVID-19. Suggestion made by Sebastian to change the language of the bursary in the Emergency Bursary form to accommodate mental health. Devon suggests digitalizing bursary application for easier accessibility and improved logistical evaluation. A mental health bursary can also be a form of acknowledging mental health through these bursaries. Devon asked if two applications are allowed if a student incurs both a dental cost and living cost. Mariana said there is nothing in-text that disallows that. Mariana suggests reaching out to Craig Brunetti to add mental health to the emergency bursary. Sebastian suggests making edits and circulate it amongst the board for approval before changes can be made to the bursary.

d.) Environmental Commissioner – Emma

a. Update the Board on the situation with the Trent Land and Nature Area Plan

Trent has a large of land, farmland, nature surrounding areas. Trent wants to build on the land where there are currently trees. Students bring up issues regarding species at risk, habitats, native trees, sacred land issues. Emma attended a meeting with representatives of the project, an environmental counsellor and a member of a company who performed an all four seasons study of the land to determine what needs to be protected the overall mappings of the land, different types of habitats, wetlands versus dry areas. TGSA does not have to intervene at this stage.

A seniors village will be built as a long term care facility to accommodate the long wait list for senior care. This village may be integrated into Trent's academic programs for student learning.

e.) International Student Commissioner – Beatriz

Beatriz discusses the need for the listserve for international graduation students only. Devon suggests obtaining it from International Studies or to personally filter international students from the whole list of graduate students. Beatriz comments that this will allow opportunity to organize events for the international students while considering their nationality. There is a lack of services available for international graduate students compared to domestic students.

Identify if there are new incoming international graduate students in September 2021; if so, organize an event/brochure with places and activities in Peterborough

-Could include things such as: where to buy groceries, list of good banks to open an account as an international student; best mobile companies; where to apply for the SIN number, order of things to do (steps of moving to Canada), etc

- A general one with the best bars, restaurants and such could also be interesting for all students that are new to Peterborough, not only international ones – so we could do this even if there aren't new international graduate students coming in September
- transportation system

6. Updates from CUPE

Shiva

No new updates, however, all points discussed will be mentioned in the next CUPE executive meeting for any issues/problems.

Michael

Suggestion of an Ad Hoc Committee for privacy to ensure that information is handled in a safe and responsible way, including how data is retained and policies that may outline such information. Devon comments that Jane should have information on how to handle private information well as IT and the risk management department because TGSA is an official organization. Michael suggests reaching out to other organization at Trent on how they are handling matters similar to this.

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 July 5th at 3:00 pm
- b. The reports and motions for that meeting are due June 28th
- c. The next Executive meeting will be held on June 28th at 3:00 pm

14. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Mover: Sebastian

Second: Devon

Addendum I
Executive Reports

Sebastian (President):

This month, my work has been primarily focused on getting the new Board up and running. This included meeting individually with new members, responding to emails and chat messages and managing the day-to-day operations of the TGSA. I want to thank everyone for their hard work in getting up to speed and their willingness to learn on the fly!

Significantly, our first Executive meeting welcomed new members to it as well and was held rather informally. We can continue this format moving forward during the summer for those who feel they would benefit from it.

I attended a few key non-TGSA meetings this month. The first of which was one with Michael Eamon at Traill College to clarify some of the concerns which have arisen regarding the list serve email. I'm confident that the TGSA will retain control over their use of the list serve for usage when we wish to notify our membership of events, AGMs, and our newsletter. These three components are fundamental to the functioning of the TGSA, promote the well being of the overall Trent graduate student community and also allows us to maintain accountability to our membership directly.

Having now had the chance to meet with Michael, I'm confident that the relationship between Traill, the School of Graduate Studies and the TGSA is strong and that a spirit of co-operation and recognition of certain limitations and contexts which I've discussed over the past month with the Board is our best way forward. I welcome any input on this topic.

This being said, I am still awaiting a formal document from Stephanie Belfry and Craig Brunetti at graduate studies. I am assured that we will receive such a document within the next couple of weeks. I intend to follow up later this week to make sure this doesn't drag on.

I also attended a student leaders meeting, which is held bi-weekly and includes key TCSA and TDSA Executives, and key Ministers from the College Cabinets. I'm hopeful that moving forward we can work with Cameron Ewing, Co-PM of the Traill College Cabinet to organize some kind of Traill-based events which can hopefully bolster connections across our Associations and memberships.

I have an upcoming meeting with Stephanie Belfry and Jane Rennie regarding updates on the Racialized Student Bursary which was launched last year and was quite successful over its first few rounds. Related to this, I am also going to reach out to Craig Brunetti to touch base generally on Graduate Studies and keep the lines of communication open.

The TGSA also posted two statements in response to both the violence unfolding in Israel-Palestine and the recent discovery of children's remains on the grounds of a former residential

school in Kamloops, B.C. These were posted to our social media. Thank you to all those who took the time to provide feedback and edits on those. It's vital that we continue to speak up and use our platforms to speak out on injustice with a unified voice as a student government.

With this in mind, I would like to suggest that moving forward we try to create a mailing list that students can opt in and out of as a means of circumventing the main concerns surrounding the list serve. I can work with the VP Communications, Stephanie Gao, on this, but if anyone else has experience or suggestions, they are always welcome.

Devon (VP Internal Affairs): -

1. To maintain a consistent standard and set of expectations for all TGSA board members I would like to know how the board feels about amending the bylaws to include a "responsibility" section. The purpose of this would be to ensure that all board members make their best effort to attend scheduled meetings. It would be considered an impeachable offense if a board member missed three (3) consecutive meetings without sending their regrets to an executive.

2. Changes to the Arts and Science Rep positions

- a. that the arts and science rep positions be an eight (8) month term starting in October and ending in May.
- b. These positions would be focused towards first year students.
- c. Allow for transition into executive positions as outlined in the current bylaws.

3. Notes on progress at Durham

- a. Resources
- b. Space
- c. Incoming students
- d. Durham Caucus seat?
- e. Potential Senate seat?
- f. Campus tour in June
 - i. Field school
 - ii. Lab course
 - iii. New building
 - iv. Meet the Dean?

4.) Psychology Representative Candidate Information:

My name is Jordan MacDonald, I am graduating from UNB Saint John with a BA in psychology, with an Honours equivalent. I am enrolled in the MSc Psychology program at Trent University. I have a passion for psychology and health research and have co-authored published research in my field. I also have a passion for helping people and have always been interested in the clinical applications of psychology, which is where some of my long-term research interests lie. Aside from education and research related work, I have received multiple awards from UNB for my volunteer work and dedication to the community: I have been inducted into the Sir Howard Douglas Society for my exceptional grades and volunteer work and have received the Graduating

Student Leadership Award. I have also spent quite a bit of time reinvigorating The Baron, UNBSJ's student newspaper, which was struggling when I was initially hired in 2019. I have been an ex-officio member of the board since mid-2019 in addition to my position of Chief Editor. My undergraduate degree was not without challenges, though. I was a single teen parent with primary custody when I started my undergrad and it has taught me the importance of a healthy life-work balance and helped me find a passion for helping others.

Stephanie (VP Communication): -

Mariana (VP Finance):-

In May, I processed bursary applications (6 academic, 2 emergency) and organized the corresponding folders in our Google Drive. Because I had had surgery in April, Sandra and Sebastian kindly extended the deadline so I could finish last year's duties this month. I organized emails, folders and excel sheets from the previous school year and finally sent my transition documents.

Right now, I am working with Sebastian (and whoever else wants to help) to improve the language used in our bursary applications. For the emergency health bursary, for example, students can claim CAD 250 every 6-month period. We decided last meeting it would be more helpful to be able to claim CAD 500 per year.

I talked to Sebastian about adding language that addresses mental health to the bursary information, but we are unsure how to go about that. Any input is welcome. I am also unsure if this should become an agenda item.

Gabriella (VP Student Affairs):-

This was my first month on the board so I took the month to get a feel of what the TGSA does and how I can contribute to this year's team in my role as VP Student Affairs. My first initiative was looking at the TGSA's Instagram to get a feel of what events have taken place in the past, especially being online. I was particularly interested in seeing what processes were used to plan events, such as registration etc.

After speaking to the outgoing VP Student Affairs, as well as reading his transition document, I got a better understanding of what kinds of events individuals are interested in seeing happen/ what events had more engagement. At an earlier executive meeting this month, I wanted to see if we could improve student engagement by creating group registrations. My thought process behind this was that individuals that I personally reached out to expressed interest in attending events but communicated that they felt uncomfortable engaging with strangers online. This led me to wonder if we could create a registration in which people could sign up with their friends and show up to TGSA events and get to know more about our association. On the other hand, I figured we could make a box to check off on the google form for the people who were interested in hanging out and getting to know new people. Although some people were intrigued by this idea, the TGSA runs events to get students from different disciplines to intermingle and so this idea has been put on the back burner for now. I am still interested in trying to figure out a way to make online events less awkward.

I got permission to access the TGSA social media pages and made a poll to engage with students and ask what types of events they would like to see this year. The response I received is that individuals would like to play the game Skribbl.io. This is an online drawing game, similar to Pictionary. My problem is that only 8 people can play on a server. Although there was some hesitation surrounding breakout rooms, it may be the only way we can have these game nights. If we plan on having Jackbox nights in the future, I think this will also be an issue we will run into as only 6-8 people can play on a server.

Michael (VP Senate):-

Addendum II
Commissioner Reports

Emma (Environmental Commissioner): -

For the month of May most of my work involved settling into my new role on the TGSA. I did some preliminary research about Trent's environmental policies and strategized what I intend to achieve in my role. Primarily, working towards ensuring Trent is qualified for and recognized by the University Climate Change Coalition to demonstrate our commitment to climate change action. Additionally, I attended an information session on Thursday May 20 th about the Trent Lands and Nature Area Plan (TLNAP). This meeting shared how the land will be used, as well as how development plans take into consideration protecting the surrounding environment. I sent an email to the TLNAP, as directed, with follow-up questions.

The TLNAP information session shared plans to build a Senior's Village with 224 long term care beds. The City of Peterborough currently has a 2-4 year waiting list for long term care beds, so this will satisfy a desperate need for the community. The Plan also aims to provide an educational opportunity for Trent's students in programs such as nursing, social work, and kinesiology. While there are no set blueprints or plans for how this vision will come to fruition, the Plan was approved by the Board of Governors in March. Prior to this approval, a four-season study of the area was conducted by the environmental consulting firm SAVANTA in conjunction with representatives from Curve Lake. They identified and isolated cultural impact plantations and communities, recommending an area for development that maintained the protection of habitats and species of interest. Development on this land will take a "nature first" approach headed by the urban planning firm Bousfields Inc. The Stage 1 submission report for development will be submitted by Bousfields to the province on June 1st .

Beatriz (International Student Representative Commissioner): -

During the month of May my focus was on getting acquainted with the responsibilities and expectations for my new role as the International Student Commissioner of the TGSA for the 2021/2022 term. This has been particularly hard due to the lack of documents and reports from

the previous commissioners.

However, I have compiled some ideas for my future work as I take on this new role.

- Contact TI and TISA for future collaboration.

- Get the list of international graduate students. Maybe contact Graduate studies directly.

- Identify if there are new incoming international graduate students in September 2021; if so, organize an event/brochure with places and activities in Peterborough

Could include things such as: where to buy groceries, list of good banks to open an account as an international student; best mobile companies; where to apply for the SIN number, order of things to do (steps of moving to Canada), etc

A general one with the best bars, restaurants and such could also be interesting for all students that are new to Peterborough, not only international ones – so we could do this even if there aren't new international graduate students coming in September

- Maybe a Durham version too? (I am not aware how big is the international community in Durham campus).

- Identify the nationalities represented in Trent's graduate community: create an event for each different one, showcasing their culture, type of food, funny facts etc.

Tanya (Equity Commissioner): -