



TGSA Board Meeting Summarized Minutes

Date: March 3rd, 2021 (Wednesday)

Start time: 5:00PM **End time:** 7:20PM

Location: Zoom video conference

Chair: Sandra Klemet-N'Guessan

Scribe: Shyong Quan (Elicia) Yap

Attendance: Devon Howell, Sandra Klemet-N'Guessan, Andrew Brown, Autumn Jordan, Connor Elverson, Jordon Williams, Nina Schmitz, Sebastian Johnston-Lindsay, Shannon Fiedler, Tanya Aminataei, Verena Sesin, Elicia Yap, Nicole Covey, Alexandra Miller Gerard (14, quorum met)

Regrets: Mariana Castelli Rosa, Madhu Garg, Fatma Ozen, Beatriz Bento, Maryam Helae, Andrew Brown, Logan Hamer

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: Autumn Jordan

Second: Jordon Williams

Discussion

-no discussion

Approve: 12

Oppose:

Abstain:

4. Past Meeting Minutes

Adopt the Minutes from the Verbatim and Summarized Minutes from 3rd February 2021 Board Meeting

Mover: Sebastian Johnston-Lindsay

Second: Devon Howell

Discussion

-no discussion

Approve: 12

Oppose:

Abstain:

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

a) Sandra (President)

(i) Elections

Michael Schmidt-VP Senate

Hello Sebastian and Sandra,

I would like to express my interest in the position of VP Senate Rep. for the upcoming term. My name is Michael Schmidt, and I am currently a M.Sc. candidate in my first year of the ENLS program; my thesis is focused on nitrate contamination in groundwater. I am in the process of applying for PhD conversion, and am looking to get more involved with graduate student life at Trent as I settle in. I am presently the CUPE Unit 2 Health & Safety representative and am also an alternate for the CUPE Unit 2 collective bargaining team.

I am a Trent alumni, having graduated last year with a B.Sc. joint major in Geography and Environmental Resource Sciences. During my time as an undergrad, I worked for Trent Conference and Hospitality Services; I was a kitchen supervisor at The Ceilie pub during the academic years, and keyholder over the summer months.

I am also an alumni of Fleming College, where I graduated from a three-year program in Environmental Technology. During my time there, I served two consecutive terms on the Frost Student Association, first as Communications Director, later as Vice-President. I also bring over a decade of experience in the culinary/foodservice sector, and another 5 years in the sciences. I believe that the aforementioned experiences all help to qualify me for a position on the TGSA board. Please consider this email as my expression of interest in consideration towards the VP Senate Rep. position.

Best regards,
Michael Schmidt

Motion to Appoint Michael Schmidt as VP Senate 2021/22

Mover: Jordon Williams

Second: Verena Sesin

Discussion

-no discussion

Approve: 12

Oppose:

Abstain:

Devon Howell-VP Internal Affairs

Greetings,

As a current member of the TGSA and the Graduate Arts Representative I have become more involved in the day-to-day operations of Trent University. The more time I spend talking with students, faculty, and staff the more apparent it becomes that there is still vital work that must be done to improve the experiences of graduate students at Trent. I hope that as the VP Internal Affairs that I can work with the Executive committee and the Board to develop and implement progressive solutions and policies that will aid in continued developments and improvements for all graduate students at Trent. In addition to my desire to work as a member of the executive team I hope to also serve on senate subcommittees to address many of the issues currently faced by graduate students located at the Durham GTA campus.

As the VP Internal Affairs, I will work to ensure that our policies and procedures continue to promote equity, inclusion, and diversity across both the Peterborough and Durham campus'. I also hope that as an executive member I will be able to encourage the university administration to develop programming and resources for the new, and larger than normal, cohort that is expected to be on the Durham GTA campus this coming fall. I look forward to the opportunity to work with the Durham Representative to develop new resources for our expanding campus. I appreciate your consideration for my nomination for the role of VP Internal Affairs and look forward to your decision.

Kindest regards,

Devon Jean Howell

Motion to Appoint Devon Jean Howell as VP Internal Affairs 2021/22

Mover: Jordon Williams

Second: Sebastian Johnston-Lindsay

Discussion

Logan emailed and notified Elicia and Sandra that he was in favour of Devon Howell being the VP Internal Affairs 2021/22.

Approve: 12

Oppose:

Abstain: 1

Devon gave an update on the situation happening at the Durham campus such as the lack of proper study spaces for graduate students. Sandra talked about the recent elections and encouraged outgoing members to set up a meeting with their respective incoming members. Sandra suggested that follow ups to the good supervisor campaign are organizing a workshop for supervisors with the Center for Teaching and Learning and creating a supervisor award.

- b) Nina (VP Senate)
 - (i) Senate subcommittee update

Nina updated the board on the last senate meeting she attended such as the financial standpoint of Trent, a proposal on a pass-fail option for first-year students in the Bachelor of Education program, and the camera policy where camera should not be made mandatory during lectures or seminars, has been implemented and guidelines have been sent out in the Durham campus. Nina also discussed about the two proposals that TCSA and Trill College brought up about senate seats during the nominating and governance subcommittee and it led to a bigger discussion on restructuring the allocation of Senate seats. The board discussed about possibility of having two senate seats for the TGSA, where one would be given to a graduate student at the Durham campus.

- c) Jordon (VP Student Affairs)
 - (i) Events update

Jordon gave us an update about the events that he has been planning, which include the Life after Trent event, Learn from the Grads event, an equity event with help from Tanya and an end-of-the-year event.

- d) Sebastian (VP Internal Affairs)
 - (i) Ratification of the by-laws and possible future amendments regarding quorum

Sebastian proposed an amendment to lower the quorum for our annual general meeting to 10 people instead of 25 so that our next annual general meeting can start on time and run smoothly. The board discussed and agreed.

Some board members brought up concerning issues from their respective departments. The board has decided to hold two one-hour meetings where graduate students are given a safe space to share their inputs, issues and thoughts on their programs. This information will be brought to the attention of the Dean of Graduate Studies.

6. Updates from CUPE

Alison or Shiva

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: 14

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: Sandra Klemet-N'Guessan

Second: Elicia Yap

Discussion

-no discussion

Approve: 14

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 7th April 2021
- b. The reports and motions for that meeting 1st April 2021

14. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Mover: Sandra Klemet-N'Guessan

Second: Elicia Yap

Addendum I **Executive Reports**

Sandra (President):

February was heavily oriented towards the organization of the AGM and the elections. I helped organize the AGM, put up the elections survey and oversaw the emails sent, reminder emails, and final election results report. I also attended the Canadian Graduate Studies (CAGS) conference for a week and gained interesting insights, particularly with regards to skills & career development and equity, diversity, and inclusion in academia. I also met with Craig Brunetti, the Dean of Graduate Studies, and Michael Eamon, Principal of Traill College.

Sebastian (VP Internal Affairs):

It has been a fairly quiet month. I was involved in planning for the AGM held on February 9th and successfully ran for President of the TGSA! We managed to get the amendments to the By-Laws and Policies ratified by the membership by 82% out of a possible 74 votes, which I think we should be quite proud of.

There are some possible future amendments to be made regarding quorum to ensure that future AGMs run more smoothly, or at least that they can start more easily.

In other activities, I helped with the upcoming Life After Trent by giving a list of names from a list provided by Jordon.

Finally, welcome to all the new folks joining us for the transition period for the next two meetings. Looking forward to continuing on as President and carrying on the good work we have all been a part of this year!

Elicia (VP Communication):

This month, I have been working on:

- Distributed our February newsletter
- Compiled information for the March issue
- Prepared and compiled the agenda and slides for AGM

- Sent out communications regarding our AGM, election and election results
- Promoted the Mental Health Discussion Group and Paint/Craft Night
- Promoted Good Supervisor Campaign and student's testimonials on their supervisors via social media. Sent it to Laurie and Dr. Brunetti from the School of Graduate Studies as well as Andrew Brown and Devon Howell, TGSA Science and Arts Representatives.

Mariana (VP Finance):-

Jordon (VP Student Affairs):

Since last writing a report, I have contacted other organizations and groups regarding events and grad student needs. I met with the Alumni office and Careers to discuss the event "Life After Trent," where we determined the next event would be Thursday, March 18th at 4 pm. Danielle, who is our contact for LAT, sent over a two-page list of individuals who could be potential candidates, and we have managed to send a ranked list of 6 people.

1. Ayesha Salleh MSc- Lead of Health Policy
2. Kait Sykes MA- Digital Designer and Developer
3. Megan Lloyst MSc- Aquatic Biologist
4. Jessa Chupik MA- Lead/Partner Talent Acquisition
5. Danielle Sage MSc- Registered Psychotherapist
6. Emily Morrison MA- Executive Director.

On top of setting up the LAT event, I spoke with Julianna, who would like to open up more opportunities for grad students at Careers. We discussed this at our last meeting and will push for grad studies to get more involved in this process so that grads can find work after completing their degrees. I plan on initiating a meeting in the coming weeks.

We have been approved to do trivia with Traill from Michael Eamon and Jessica Becking. Adrian, who runs the trivia, has yet to respond to me. Also, Jessica Becking no longer works at Traill, so the future of the TGSA and Traill trivia event is not known. I have sent another follow-up with Michael Eamon carbon copied to ensure Adrian's speedy response.

The Learn from the Grads event from last year has officially been revived. The TCSA is preparing advertisements for undergrads, which will be shared among Durham and Trent campus students. We are using the same messaging from the last event, which will be sent out to grads near the beginning of the coming week (the first week of March). I have contacted last year's interested panellists and have unfortunately heard nothing back. The event will be held on March 25th from 1 pm-3 pm.

Tanya, our equity commissioner and I have met to discuss the new equity event. Given my time commitments and the end of term, it is unlikely that an effective poverty discussion can be held. Instead, we have chosen to focus on Representations of Gender on campus, with Tanya contacting individuals on campus we could partner with. If anyone would like to help, please do let us know.

In April, we will still be having our end-of-the-year event. Much like Festivus, I propose this as a social party on Zoom given the lack of knowing the province and Peterborough COVID mandate in April. However, beyond that party, and depending on COVID, I think it would be an excellent idea for the Board to attempt a meet-up for the last event together before a large group of us bid the TGSA a farewell.

Finally, I am excited to welcome our new board members to the table. The newly elected VP of Student Affairs will be invited to attend any of my meetings mentioned above and planning events from here on out to open up a dialogue with individuals I have been working with over my term.

Janina (VP Senate):

The VP Senate tasks in February included:

- CASSC meeting: Budget update from housing and food services
 - o As expected, both run a deficit because of COVID
 - o Update student affairs: in-person classes shall resume in the fall term as much as possible, however, contingency plans are in place
- Preparing the AGM report
- Senate exec meeting
- Senate meeting:
 - o Update on Laurentian University
 - o Trent's funds are in order (Leo)
 - No research fund is mixed up with the university's operating budget
 - Trent has suffered financial damage due to COVID, but is financially stable
 - o Lively discussion about the Bachelor of Education's request to establish pass/fail option for first year students. Request approved. Discussion opened for other departments to do the same. Large support from majority of senators.
 - Craig: option not recommended for grad students as it might pose problems to attain post-doc positions
 - o Non-mandatory Camera policy:
 - Senator Henderson sent out guidelines to all of Durham faculty with emphasis on NON-mandatory camera in class
 - Faculty council is working on policy for all of Trent
 - Recommendation from senators Ali Fraser and Rayna: maybe policy not necessary, but send out guidelines and make sure it is an accessibility issue
 - Discussion still ongoing
- Senate Nominating and Governance Subcommittee:
 - o First meeting in two years
 - o Deciding on proposals from TCSA and Trill College to attain additional seats in senate
 - o Next meeting in March; Discussion about "radical changes to allocation of student seats" open

Addendum II
Commissioner Reports

Verena (Environmental Commissioner):

I attended a few meetings of committees that I am sitting on to represent the TGSA. Moreover, I hosted the Mental Health Discussion Group / Paint Night on February 18th. We had only one student show up, but it was very nice, and I think the student much enjoyed the event and company. For the February TGSA newsletter, I have contributed information from our TLNAP survey.

Maryam (International Student Representative Commissioner): -

Tanya (Equity Commissioner): -