



## TGSA Board Meeting Agenda

**Date:** November 4th, 2021 (Thursday)

**Start time:** 3:07 pm **End time:** 5:12 pm

**Location:** Zoom video conference

**Chair:** Sebastian Johnston-Lindsay

**Scribe:** Via Zoom Recording

**Attendance:** Sebastian Johnston Lindsay, Devon Howell, Tanya Aminataei, George Danso, Egan Hendereson, Emelia-Naana Baah, Gabriella Peters, Emma Kaszecki, Cheryl Mitchell

**Regrets:** Stephanie Gao, Nisarg Patel, Jordan MacDonald

**Absence without Regrets:** Connor Elverson (employed under Grad studies), Richard Moore, Beatriz Bento, Madison Moore, Jithendra Kodali

### 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: Alex

Discussion

Approve: All

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

### 4. Past Meeting Minutes

Adopt the Minutes from Summarized Minutes from October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Board Meeting

Mover: Devon

Second: Alex

Discussion

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 Canadian Association of Graduate Studies as well as other graduate student committees. Sebastian also had a meeting with the Advisory Committee regarding food services at Trent.

### b.) VP Senate – Devon

#### a. Senate executive met to approve the agenda for the senate general assembly. Few issues were raised of direct relevance to graduate students. Of significance was the approval of a plan to start a PhD in Psychology.

##### i. The bylaws should be amended in preparation for the creation of this program (e.g., PhD Psychology Rep)

Devon explained to the Dean of Graduate Studies that there is an ongoing issue with lack of supervision in the psychology department already and that it may pose a problem for the new PhD program.

##### ii. Supervisory capacity was discussed (can the program efficiently and fairly accommodate more grad students). The provost has assured the committee that it is manageable as the program will only take six (6) students per year to a max of twenty-four (24) PhD students in a cycle.

##### iii. Cross appointment for supervision is also planned from depts like Social Work, Education, and Sociology to manage teaching loads.

The issue is that the PhD is now created with the idea of cross appointing supervision from other departments without actually consulting such departments.

#### b. Research Policy Review Committee met to discuss internal research policies on management and balance of research work/general duties. Two subcommittees were created to investigate issues of relevance to this topic further. I will be sitting on the Research Awards Working Group with Cathy Bruce.

##### i. Issues about the wording

Professors may undertake research projects if it will not interfere with regular duties. The committee will reevaluate this policy.

##### ii. Who decides workload capabilities?

The University does not consider the supervision of graduate students is not considered part of their regular work load, yet switching out of teaching intensive positions require experience of supervising graduate students.

- iii. Impact on grad students is negligible
- c. REB (Research Ethics Board)- not much to report on this front. Two applications from faculty for new research projects were approved. I am still being trained for the REB Meetings by the Tri-Council Research Group.
- d. Special Appeals Committee- The SAC was called for a grad student for the first time in six (6) years. Due to confidentiality limitations all I can say is that the process was long and that the individual who asked for an appeal was given the opportunity to meet with the committee and has been notified of our decision. The issue (pertaining to Trent's academic policies) was first reviewed by the relevant department chair, then the Graduate Studies Appeal Committee (chaired by the Dean of Grad Studies and voted on by three additional faculty with grad teaching and supervisory committee experience). The SAC was comprised of myself, an experienced chair specializing in education and policy, and three very well trained/experienced faculty members. The ruling of the committee is final and can only be appealed in the provincial judicial system. The committees ruling is confidential.

It is important that a member in the TGSA sit on the Special Appeals Committee for a fair ruling.

- e. Senate General Assembly-

#### CLOSED SESSION

New programs coming to Trent as listed below.

- a) Climate Change Science name change
- b) BSc Health and Human Behavior
  - i) Interdisciplinary studies
- c) PhD Psychology

#### OPEN SESSION

- a) Academic Planning what is a Trent Education?
  - i) What should Trent's academic plan be?

The University has been working on Trent's Academic Plan and what this plan entails for a student at Trent.

- ii) Two separate subcommittees have been established to discuss this issue.... Does one platform or view meet the needs of all programs. Who has the time to establish this new plan?

Emma describes her experience as to why she chose her current supervisor. Should the University focus on growth of student numbers or focus on enriching the student experience and personalization of education? Trent Durham is finally allocating a building for graduate students.

### **Bylaws and Policy Amendments**

#### 1.) Proposed Bylaw Amendment

1.1 That the new program- PhD Psychology be added to section 2.03.07.i of the current bylaws

1.2 i. The Science Representative shall be a Full Member enrolled in one of the following graduate programs at Trent University:

M.Sc. Applied Modelling and Quantitative Methods; M.Sc. Bioenvironmental Monitoring and Assessment; M.Sc./Ph.D. Environmental and Life Sciences; M.Sc./Ph.D. Materials Science; M.Sc. Psychology; ***PhD Psychology***; M.Sc.N Nursing; M.ICA. Instrumental Chemical Analysis; M.Sc. Big Data Analytics; M.Sc. Financial Analytics; M.Sc.F.S Forensic Science.

Mover: Emma

Second: Sebastian

Discussion: none

Approve: All

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

#### 2.) Change to the roles and responsibilities of the President and VP Senate: BYLAW

**2.02.01.q** “To sit as an active member on the graduate special appeals committee (SAC) when the VP Senate is unwilling or unable to do so or in the event that a conflict of interest arises preventing the VP Senate from sitting on the SAC.”

**2.02.06.k** “To sit as an active member on the graduate special appeals committee (SAC). If unwilling or unable to sit on the SAC committee OR if eliminated from candidacy by the committee Chair or the Associate University Secretary (Senate) due to a conflict of interest, the VP Senate will notify the executive, and the position will be filled by the President.”

**15.02.1.a** “The President will, with the assistance of the executive committee, ensure that the representative role on the graduate Special Appeals Committee is filled whenever the committee is called; if the President or VP Senate are both unable to fill the position (See 2.02.01.q and 2.02.06.k) then another executive will be appointed by nomination and a simple majority vote of the executive committee.”

**15.02.1.b** “If a conflict of interest arises that prevents any board member from serving on the SAC, the President or VP Senate will formally request in writing that the Associate University Secretary (Senate) and the SAC

Chair select an unbiased graduate student in any year or program to sit on the committee.”

Mover: Gabriella

Second: Alex

Discussion: none

Approve: All

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion Passed?

Yes

c.) VP of Student Affairs – Gabriella

- a. Update on Spooky Walk
- b. Scavenger Hunt

Each student will get a physical copy with a list of places to visit. Each student will take a picture in front of each location and reconvene at an agreed final location. Upon discussion with Traill, the event will run from 11am until 3pm.

c. Update on event collaboration with Trent Active Minds

Gabriella has set up a meeting with Trent Active Minds. They are trying to have a large event at the beginning and end of their Stress Less event. Trent Active Minds is hopeful in hiring a graduate student for advocating in mental health. Gabriella is suggesting a graduate self care package for December to boost morale and mental health. This self care package can contain some goodies such as tea, hot chocolate etc. TGSA tote bags can be used the packages. A registration will be required for each student and promotional material should be made soon.

Gabriella has been getting emails regarding bad wifi access at the Traill campus. Students have voiced that they do not use their offices because of this problem. Gabriella has shared this with Michael Eamon and to CUPE as well. Sebastian also mentioned that no services are available on Traill on weekends.

d) Environmental Commissioner – Emma

Emma had two committee meetings regarding Trent Lands. There has been discussion about hiring undergraduate researchers on the Trent Lands. There is also the problem of dogs damaging and effecting the environment and life around these Lands. There is discussion of implementation of a dog park. There is possibility of hiring an individual for managing these discussions and to work in the Office.

- e) Equity Commissioner – Tanya

Tanya has reached out to TCSA and they have not been as responsive as hoped. Tanya will be reaching out to Gabriella and organize events internally.

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

**14. Adjournment**

**Motion to Adjourn the Meeting**

Mover: Sebastian

Second: Devon

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

**Sebastian (President):**

This month I continued to attend various committee meetings and was in regular communication with Micheal Eamon at Traill and Grad Studies. I attended two student leaders meetings, as well as the first CASSC meeting of the year. This week, I am attending the annual conference of the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies.

I want to thank all the work that our team did these past few weeks on organizing and running great events for our members in collaboration with Traill and undergraduate student groups! I'm excited to see future events go forward and build on this work!

**Devon (VP Senate): -**

**Item 1:** Senate executive met to approve the agenda for the senate general assembly. Few issues were raised of direct relevance to graduate students. Of significance was the approval of a plan to start a PhD in Psychology.

- 1.1 The bylaws should be amended in preparation for the creation of this program (e.g., PhD Psychology Rep)

- 1.2 Supervisory capacity was discussed (can the program efficiently and fairly accommodate more grad students). The provost has assured the committee that it is manageable as the program will only take six (6) students per year to a max of twenty-four (24) PhD students in a cycle.
- 1.3 Cross appointment for supervision is also planned from depts like Social Work, Education, and Sociology to manage teaching loads.

**Item 2:** Research Policy Review Committee met to discuss internal research policies on management and balance of research work/general duties. Two subcommittees were created to investigate issues of relevance to this topic further. I will be sitting on the Research Awards Working Group with Cathy Bruce.

- 2.1 Issues about the wording
- 2.2 Who decides workload capabilities?
- 2.3 Impact on grad students is negligible

**Item 3:** REB (Research Ethics Board)- not much to report on this front. Two applications from faculty for new research projects were approved. I am still being trained for the REB Meetings by the Tri-Council Research Group.

**Item 4:** Special Appeals Committee- The SAC was called for a grad student for the first time in six (6) years. Due to confidentiality limitations all I can say is that the process was long and that the individual who asked for an appeal was given the opportunity to meet with the committee and has been notified of our decision. The issue (pertaining to Trent's academic policies) was first reviewed by the relevant department chair, then the Graduate Studies Appeal Committee (chaired by the Dean of Grad Studies and voted on by three additional faculty with grad teaching and supervisory committee experience). The SAC was comprised of myself, an experienced chair specializing in education and policy, and three very well trained/experienced faculty members. The ruling of the committee is final and can only be appealed in the provincial judicial system. The committee's ruling is confidential.

**Item 5:** Senate General Assembly-  
CLOSED SESSION

- 1.1 Climate Change Science name change
- 1.2 BSc Health and Human Behavior
  - 1.2.1 Interdisciplinary studies
- 1.3 PhD Psychology

OPEN SESSION

- 1.1 Academic Planning what is a Trent Education?
  - 1.1.1 What should Trent's academic plan be
  - 1.1.2 Two separate subcommittees have been established to discuss this issue.... Does one platform or view meet the needs of all programs. Who has the time to establish this new plan?



**Bylaws and Policy Amendments**

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

This month has been really successful for event planning. I have reached out to Trill College and we will be collaborating on an event that is taking place on November 1st at 6pm. The event is “A Spooky Walk” in which Michael Eamon will be leading a walk around Trill College while sharing Trill’s rich history of ghost tales, including the infamous ghost of the Blue Lady. After this event, we will be hosting a reception in which we will be distributing packaged chips and chocolate (adult trick-or-treating) and have vouchers for people to grab a hot chocolate from the Trend.

- We will also be collaborating with Traill College on a scavenger hunt. I have invited Traill's Cabinet to be a part of this event, but they have yet to get back to us. We are in the process of choosing a date and time, but I have started brainstorming landmarks to include in the scavenger hunt. I will be meeting with Michael Eamon and Traill's college assistant to collaborate on the landmarks we should include, taking into consideration the bus routes, and best time to hold the scavenger hunt. This event will include a tea and cookie station after the event. I am still in discussions with Traill College as to how we will be splitting this expense. For accessibility purposes I think we should have a printed copy of the scavenger hunt, so perhaps one group can handle printing expenses and the other can handle the food station.
- I want to host more mental health programming for our graduate student body, so I have reached out to Trent Active Minds in the hopes of collaborating events that will hopefully support graduate students, as well as give them mental health resources. Amylyn from Active Minds had something come up last minute, so our meeting was cancelled, but we will be meeting after reading week to discuss programming.
- We are in the process of planning our Chat With the Grads event. This event is targeted at undergraduate students who will be applying to grad school. I think it would be

appropriate to plan this event at the end of November/beginning of December. I want to advertise this event as early as possible so that we put the word out there and give people plenty of time to think, register and attend. It is a very busy time of year with midterms and big assignments looming overhead, so I think it would be wise to give people plenty of time to register.

### **Stephanie – VP Communications**

Overall October has been about keeping our students informed via social media. I've noticed how big of a following other student groups have and how they are constantly engaging with one another through various platforms. I'm on our Trent accounts every day to stay updated with the students. A few posters have been made the last month for the collaborative events with Traill College.

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