



TGSA Board Meeting Minutes

Date: December 12th, 2022

Start time: 6:05pm **End time:** 7:30pm

Location: Traill College and Zoom Conference

Chair: Emma Kaszecki

Scribe: Sarah Rayner

Attendance: Emma Kaszecki, Sarah Rayner, Egan Henderson, Conner Elverson, Jordan MacDonald, Jaz Raine, Heather Klyn-Hesselink, Margaret Appiah

Regrets: Sebastian Johnston-Lindsay, Ramandeep Kaur, William Kim

1. Presentation(s) and Discussion (s) without voting

Introductions and update 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: Jaz

Second: Egan

Discussion

Approve: All

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

4. Adopt the Minutes Previous

Mover: Sarah

Second: Egan

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

a.) Emma — President

- (i) Overtime fee proposal update—everything has been received well so far!
- (ii) VP Bruce about Strategic Research Policy (detailed notes in appendix)
- (iii) Library Advisory Committee Meeting—there's a search for a new librarian
- (iv) Student Leaders Meeting (detailed notes in appendix)

b.) Sarah —VP, Communications

- (i) Continuation of making graphics for our events
- (ii) Spent time planning holiday party with Egan, which will be discussed more at our next meeting. It went very well, though!
- (iii) Is starting to think of the end-of-year party, and possible student and faculty awards.

c.) William — VP, Senate

- (i) Emma reads William's report verbatim (detailed notes in appendix)

d.) Egan —VP, Student Affairs

- (i) Radio show is being run on Wednesdays at 3pm
- (ii) Is starting to plan out Winter term events, including some returning events from last year

e.) Jaz —Equity Commissioner

- (i) Planning a literary café for the upcoming semester
- (ii) Had a meeting with Student Accessibility Services and discussed capacity, uptake, funding, etc.
- (iii) Discussion of a social justice conference

f.) Heather —Environmental Commissioner

- (i) Read detailed notes from Food Services Committee/Sustainability Committee (detailed notes in appendix)
- (ii) Is doing "Blind Date with a Book" event with Egan in the Winter term

g.) Margaret —International Student Commissioner

- (i) Has been doing outreach to international students through advertising our social media channels—trying to figure out how to get information about us out in a broader way

6. Student Support Co-Ordinator—Connor Elverson

7. Updates from CUPE

- (i) Sebastian: I have filed a total of four grievances for unit 2 members over the past month on a variety of issues related to late pay, employment forms, and overwork. Meetings are continuing with the employer.

8. Question Period and Departmental Issues

9. Business Arising from the Minutes

10. Motions

11. Other Business

12. Notices of Motions and Announcements

- a. The next board meeting will be held TBD
- b. The reports and motions for that meeting are due TBD

13. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting (7:30pm)

Mover: Sarah

Second: Jaz

Addendum I **Executive Reports**

Emma (President)

Overtime Fee Proposal Update

Meeting with VP Bruce

- Strategic Research Policy directions
 - What are research priorities? What do graduate students want to see from Trent?
 - https://trentu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7PsXASFIkHikbEW

Library Advisory Committee Meeting

- The search has begun for the new librarian

Student Leaders Meeting

- “How to best communicate and collaborate”
 - Attended some Christmas Parties
- School of Graduate Studies Christmas gathering
- PVP Christmas gathering

Sarah (VP Communications):

- Spent most of the month planning the holiday party with Egan
- Lowkey planning the end-of-year party
- Updated website and social media channels as needed

Will (VP Senate Report):

Strategic Research Planning – Emma Kaszecki, Christopher Rooney, and Cathy Bruce

- Discussed themes of research, current weaknesses, and how to overcome the weaknesses.
- A plan to developing an interdisciplinary approach to research was brainstormed.

Teaching and Learning Advisory Committee (TLAC)

- Discussed the inconsistencies with the ranking system for individuals who are nominated for any teaching awards at Trent University. The new ranking system will be in place in the new academic year. The nomination period was revised from being nominated only in the Fall term to a term-based nomination period.

Senate Teaching Awards Subcommittees (STAS)

- An overview was given, and how to rank nominated individuals was discussed. Timelines were also discussed as well.

Senate meeting

- Discussed research strategy and some areas to enhance research for the 2023-2027 period at Trent University (possibly involve admin/IT to be involved in research, but more related to the budgeting/Information Technology side of research).
- Indigenous PhD program – A second pathway is developed where PhD candidates who have 7 years of Indigenous practice can practice with an Elder.
- CUST PhD Special Field Exam – Addressing the outcome of the exam. The special field exam grading has been discussed to change from a Pass-Fail to something similar to the ENLS PhD Candidacy Exam (Pass, no pass but has the opportunity to retry the exam, or fail).
- A new MA INDG Program has been assessed and in the process of being finalized due to revisions required. This program will look into indigenous culture with a major emphasis in truth and reconciliation.
- Undergraduate Criminology: A new virtual practicum has been introduced.
- Co-operative education has been introduced in the humanities, and a new course in kinesiology (Occupational Ergonomics) is developed.

Egan (VP Student Affairs):

- Running radio show about grad students at Trent Radio (Wednesdays 3pm)
- Planning out schedule of events for winter term (Date w/ a book, end of year event)
- Kept up incoming emails from students and others

Addendum II **Commissioner Reports**

Jaz (Equity Commissioner):

Margaret (International Student Commissioner):

- Contacting International students' office
- Social media awareness of TGSA to some international students

Heather (Environmental Commissioner):

This past month I have been settling into the role, attending some committee meetings and trying to get a meeting with the Sustainability Office set up.

Update on Food Services Committee/Sustainability Committee:

- 1) Take out containers are increasing at Trent, even more than since September audits. Suggestions for improving this include trying trays in cafeteria's so students don't need takeout containers to stack their food. Also, the pop up travel mug/free coffee program which pushes for reusable travel mugs on campus (which will now be starting January).
- 2) Dining fees will significantly be increasing for students. The current program backfired, by trying to keep costs low, the majority of undergrads will not have enough money to get through the year. There are supports in place including grocery programs and also bursaries for food services on campus. Several students have been overheard in the cafeteria's stating they are only eating once or twice/day so they won't run out. So advised to keep an eye on undergraduate students for well being.

“The TCSA has a food pantry with dry, fresh and refrigerated foods. The TCSA has a “grocery assistance program” that students apply for and can receive vouchers to a grocery store. Bursaries may be available through Financial Aid. Food Services and the TCSA support an emergency food program. It is funded by students who donate left over dining plan funds. Students can access up to three \$25 cards for use on campus. Cards are available through the College offices, Security, FPHL, Counselling, TrentU card Office.”

Update on TGSA events:

- 1) Will be running the Blind Book Date event with Egan this year again.
- 2) Also tentatively an apartment/balcony pollinator potting event come Spring, using old/repurposed containers.

Other:

- 1) A meeting with Shelley from the Sustainability Office is in the works, tentatively set for the week of Dec 19 th .

2) Will be researching my personal interest in reducing lab waste/increasing recycling which impacts graduate students directly, hoping Shelley can guide me on some current lab recycling parameters. A survey to graduate students on this matter may be helpful.

Ramandeep (Trent Durham Representative):