



TGSA Board Meeting Agenda

Date: March 10th, 2022 (Thursday)

Start time: 3:00 pm **End time:** 5:14 pm

Location: Zoom Conference

Chair: Sebastian Johnston-Lindsay

Scribe: Via Zoom Recording

Attendance: Sebastian Johnston-Lindsay, Gabriella Peters, Ali Fraser, Devon Howell, Stephanie Gao, Melissa Miller-Gerrard, Jordan MacDonald, Connor Elverson, Emelia-Naana Baan, Egan Henderson

Regrets: Richard Moore, Tanya Aminataei, Madison Moore

Absence without Regrets:

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: Gabriella

Second: Devon

Discussion

Note: Sebastian made this month's agenda. Stephanie was absent for emergency for 10 days.

Approve: All

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

4. Past Meeting Minutes

Adopt the Minutes from Summarized Minutes from February 3rd, 2022, Board Meeting

Mover: Devon
Second: Gabriella

Discussion

Approve: All
Oppose: 0
Abstain: 0

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

a.) President - Sebastian

a. Annual General Meeting – Election and Referendum Results

By-law amendment has passed based on the results. The remaining two referenda did not pass. The University requires at least 15% of the graduate student body to vote for referenda to pass. The off-housing referendum is asking for too much of the students who have already received a tuition increase this past year. In addition, the uptake of new students does not solve the problem of Peterborough's housing crisis.

b. Meeting with Dean of Graduate Studies – Survey Report

Sebastian has met with James Connolly to discuss how the University has been dealing with issues that students have experienced due to COVID-19. There is a need to increase communications between the Dean of Graduate Studies and TGSA. Sebastian is suggesting releasing the report to the membership about the discussion between TGSA and James, as well as posting onto the website. The Board of Governor meeting about \$250,000 revenue allocated to students surpass their funding period will have full time status but part time tuition. Due to the pandemic, the School of Graduate Studies has been allocating funds to specific programs to operate extra-curricular activities, but COVID has halt these initiatives. James intends to still push for the money to be used for this purpose despite not being used last year.

The TGSA and Trent University are now settled in finances moving forward regarding the levy fees. However, there is a fee that needs to be paid to the University before receiving these funds.

c. Transition Period

d. Motions to approve new Board members

Unfortunately, this meeting has not met quorum and will be postponed to the next board meeting.

Equity Commissioner

Motion to acclaim Alison MacMillan to the position of Equity Commissioner.

Approve:
Oppose:

Abstain:

Vice President Communications

Motion to acclaim Sarah Rayner to the position of Vice President Communications.

Approve:

Oppose:

Abstain:

b.) VP Senate – Devon

Devon is pushing for the MSc. in Anthropology to be released on August 1st rather than September 1st, so that current students with MA in Anthropology can graduate with a MSc. instead. To determine if a degree will be MSc. or MA., the decision will be made after admission.

The Senate has decided open a new policy subcommittee (which Devon now sits on) that will affect new students who are Tri-Council funded, this will mainly fall on their supervisors. A funding plan will be required (research funding management) and submitted to the University for review and must meet University standards.

Lack of counseling available to Durham students at the Durham campus. Counseling services are only available to undergraduate students but University policies state that students receive such services at their home campus.

Off-campus housing for students is still an ongoing issue. Sebastian raises question: why doesn't Trent offer housing tips in the admission letter? Students shouldn't have to pay more fees after a recent tuition increase. General consent that TGSA is not satisfied with Trent's actions. Lack of support from Trent causes extreme stress and problems for students.

Devon said that the University is allegedly allocating money to build new teaching facilities due to the lack of spaces that are unable to accommodate a large student enrollment.

c.) VP Student Affairs – Gabriella

The book event was successful! Everyone appeared to enjoy their books. There are leftover books that can be used for other events. The potting event was also successful, although there were some absent registrants, there were some interested students at the door, therefore nothing went to waste! The Grads Night Out event is scheduled for April 8th, 2022. The trivia leader will be Alexandra's friend. Gabriella suggests a felting event for distressing for next month.

d.) Environmental Commissioner – Emma

Emma has sent out a declaration for a climate emergency at Trent University because the University has failed to declare so. Emma has reached out to TDSA and TCSA to see if they want to co-sign. Race to Zero is a collective effort worldwide by students to lower emission to zero. Emma wants to push Trent towards this direction.

6. Updates from CUPE

The Lead Steward 2 position is now vacant. Elections for this position on March 23 at 7pm. There will be revision of the Unit 2 collective agreement as well as a Q&A period.

7. Student Support Co-Ordinator – Connor Elverson

a.) Proposed By-Law and Policy Amendments – for Discussion

- remove references to audit being required by the TGSA.
- remove thesis binding from policies
- direct extra cash to an endowment fund (to be set up, further discussion required) rather than capital reserve after 40k
- allowing electronic receipts (it's 2022)
- changing some timeframes for bursaries to better align with standard academic timing. (Per academic year rather than per 12 months, per semester rather than per 4 months)
- remove health benefit commissioner role
- review whether the committees referenced in 8-13 need to exist in the policies, given we've never used them.

The above mentioned propositions requires quorum.

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 on April 7th at 3:00 pm
- b. The reports and motions for that meeting are due April 5th, 2022

13. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Mover:
Second:

Addendum I
Executive Reports

Sebastian (President):

Thanks to everyone's hard work, we pulled off an AGM and achieved quorum in record time! We also successfully held an election for our incoming executive members who have been elected with a resounding mandate from approximately six percent of our membership. 48 members out of a possible 802 voted in these elections.

Congratulations to the successful candidates!

In other news, all the referendums apart from our own by-law amendments failed mostly due to a lack of participation from our membership. This is not at all surprising, but it's low even for the TGSA.

In other, more positive news; I met with James Conolly to discuss some of the next steps arising from our student survey and the report I drafted based on those results. Some of the main talking points from that report were presented at the AGM. Needless to say, the results confirmed my suspicions that graduate students have felt more or less abandoned by the university over the course of the pandemic and the resulting isolation has had a definite impact on our membership's mental health. In many cases there have been significant concerns surrounding financial stability and there is a massive amount of frustration with the fact members had to pay full tuition fees over the course of terms during which they had little to no access to campus facilities.

More information will be forthcoming about that. I'm awaiting James to read the report in full before releasing it any more publicly. I'm happy to answer any questions regarding it during this meeting or following it.

Thanks to Connor, we have received all outstanding Levy Fees for the past two years. This is a huge windfall for us and I am happy to report that the TGSA is extremely healthy from a financial side of things.

I'm also pleased to note that we have two new applicants for positions on our board. One for VP Communications and another for Equity Commissioner. It's looking like we will have a full Executive moving into the new term!

Devon (VP Senate): -

Gabriella (VP Student Affairs):-

Stephanie – VP Communications

Addendum II
Commissioner Reports

Emma – Environmental Commissioner

Last month I met with Shelley Strain from the Sustainability Office to discuss the progress of current projects. The conclusion: projects are a little slow right now and I was advised to try and head a project of my own as I see fit!

Upon exploration of Trent's Sustainability website it was discovered that much of the information was outdated. Additionally, there was no climate emergency declaration, nor was there an action plan for decreasing Trent's carbon footprint. To remedy this oversight I drafted a report to declare a climate emergency on behalf of students at Trent University, and reached out to the TCSA and TDSA with the objective of making the declaration a joint statement across all student advocacy groups. The drafts and final report can be found in the Environmental Commissioner folder.

Tanya – Equity Commissioner

"In the last month, I was working with Trent consent and policy staff, deciding on what to include in the workshop, picking a proper time that works best with the graduate students' busy schedule, preparing the final announcement, and helping with the last steps of organizing the 'policy and me' which is a grad exclusive workshop in partnership with the consent at Trent. It is going to be held on Friday March 4th at 12 pm. The join link to the event has been sent out so don't forget to drop in if you have time!"

Addendum III

Student Support Co-Ordinator - Suggested By-Law and Policy Amenments for Discussion

Removal of the following policies;
2.03.05 (Health Benefits Commissioner)

Change

- 6.05.06 (Change to Endowment)
- 6.05.01 (Remove Audit, list of events?)
- 6.06.01 (Remove Annual Audit)
- 6.06.02 (Remove These Binding?)
- 14.04 (Allow Electronic Receipts?)
- 16.04.01 (Allow Electronic Receipts?)
- 16.05 (Photocopies?)

- 14.03 (12 Months > Academic Year?)
- 15.02 (12 Months > Academic Year?)
- 16.03.01 (6 months > Per Semester?)
- 16.03.03 (4 Months > Per Semester?)
- 16.03.02 (12 Months > Academic Year?)

Review

- 8,9,10,11,12,13 – Committees