



TGSA Board Meeting Minutes

Date: November 14th, 2022

Start time: 6:02pm **End time:** 8:31pm

Location: Zoom Conference

Chair: Emma Kaszecki

Scribe: Sarah Rayner

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

Regrets: Sebastian Johnston-Lindsay

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: William

Second: Jordan

Discussion

Approve: All

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

4. Adopt the Minutes Previous

Mover: Egan

Second: William

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

a.) Emma — President

- (i) Introduction of our new members! (Jaz, Heather, Ramandeep, and Margaret)
- (ii) Meeting with the Dean of Graduate Studies (Craig Brunetti) (detailed notes in appendix)
- (iii) Meeting with Shelley Strain (Sustainability Office) (detailed notes in appendix)
- (iv) Student Leaders Meeting (detailed notes in appendix)
- (v) CAGS 2022 (detailed notes in appendix)
- (vi) Fall General Meeting and Elections (detailed notes in appendix)

b.) Sarah — VP, Communications

- (i) Continuation of making graphics for our events, as well as outreach for new board members
- (ii) Handled online aspects of our Fall election, including polling and outreach emails
- (iii) Co-planning our holiday party...details to come!

c.) William — VP, Senate

- (i) Teaching and Learning Advisory Committee (detailed notes in appendix)
- (ii) Senate meeting (detailed notes in appendix)

d.) Egan — VP, Student Affairs

- (i) Ran Spooky Walk – no attendance, but possibly because of it being after Halloween
- (ii) Co-organizing holiday party with Sarah for December 8th
- (iii) Starting radio show, and is going for training soon
- (iv) Planning events for Winter term

6. Student Support Co-Ordinator–Connor Elverson

7. Updates from CUPE

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 (8:31pm)

Mover: Egan

Second: William

Addendum I
Executive Reports

Emma (President)

The proposal for an overtime fee reduction was sent off!

Meeting with the Dean of Graduate Studies (Craig Brunetti)

- General updates from Craig about School of Graduate Studies goings on
 - Renovation plans are being drawn and budgets are being calculated for the renovation of the ENLS office space in DNA to make it more collaborative and versatile in the hopes that more students will use the space
 - Is the college fee too low for graduate students?
 - Michael Eamon is interested in increasing the college fee for graduate students to help cover the cost of the extensive graduate programming put on by Trill

Meeting with Shelley Strain (Sustainability Office)

- Quick catch up
 - Shelley is looking to collaborate with the TGSA more and reach the graduate student population with her programming
 - **Heather, this is a great opportunity for you!**

Student Leaders Meeting

- AVP Finance Cheryl Turk attended the meeting to provide an update on the financial climate of Trent
 - If the 2022/2023 academic year (fiscal year is May 1-April 30) goes according to plan then Trent will finish the year with a nominal surplus of \$51,000
 - Visa/permit restrictions are playing a big role in international students being unable to come to Trent = less international student income
 - Some COVID-19 measures are still operational (leaving the air handlers going 24/7 and the use of air filters)
 - Employee compensation is a hot topic —> TUFA and OPSEU are in bargaining this year
 - Finance is trying to prepare a 3-year budget plan, however the turbulent economy is essentially preventing that from being possible
 - We have outgrown our government funded financial corridor —> we have grown so much that we should be receiving more from the government, however they have not made any changes to the financial corridors since before COVID
- Adding fees for students to pay for (Campus Safety Fee) must go to referendum at the Winter GM even if the fee is ancillary

CAGS 2022

- Learned a lot, met a lot of great people, and had a great week!
- Big take aways:
 - Student space is an issue everywhere

- The student-supervisor relationship is different at every school
- Professional development, micro credentials, and EDI are at the top of administrators minds everywhere
- The graduate student workload and the shift of what the graduate student experience is has been recognized and is slowly being addressed
 - There are more expectations of graduate students than ever before, therefore changes need to be made to ensure that graduate students have a positive educational experience and are prepared for life after graduate school
- There are new programs for under-represented groups from the Tri-Agencies
 - Indigenous CGS-M holders will receive an additional \$5,000 in funding
 - There was a 5-year, \$40.9 million program announced to target black researchers

Fall General Meeting and Elections

- We held fall elections after our fall general meeting
 - 10% voter turnout resulting in 4 new Board members

Sarah (VP Communications):

- Created graphic for Spooky Walk
- Has been planning the holiday party with Emma and Egan
- Kept in contact with potential/new board members pre-and-post election
- Handled all online aspects of the election

Will (VP Senate Report):

VP Senate – Board Meeting Report

- Teaching and Learning Advisory Committee

o Discussed challenges that are currently present at the teaching setting, including addressing lack of GTAs, overtime GTAs, and consequently the need to hire undergraduates.

o The use of CrowdMark – Allows cross-sectional marking between multiple graders for a single assignment. In simple, a marker will be designated to a given question that they believe they may provide better marking suggestions than other questions.

o Centre of Teaching – Developed platforms for instructors to engage in respect to teaching. These resources are to support the instructor in delivering content and other miscellaneous teaching initiatives.

o A teaching mentorship program has been discussed for undergraduates. There may be a possibility that graduate students may also participate in this program.

- Senate meeting

o Collaborations

- Discussed potential international collaborations with a University in Ho Chi Minh City. Specifically, the international collaboration will focus on bringing M.Sc environmental students from Vietnam of the aforementioned University to Trent to complete an education at the PhD

level in environmental sciences.

o Trent Education

- Development of French certificate. It is a certificate that anyone (graduate, undergraduates) can complete to earn a BBB level certificate. In the undergraduate level, credits can be earned towards their degree, but the certificate must wait until after graduation.

o Graduate Study Committee

- Various course name changes in certain degrees including Cultural Studies and M.A in Anthropology.
- Changes in requirements in the BEMA program. The total course credit is the same but changed the sample monitoring course to two courses within the BEMA program.

o Research

- Strategic Research Plan. Dr. Cathy Bruce discussed about research engagement and how research excellency can be achieved
- Currently in a work in progress with a consultation process where strategies can be developed in enhance research activity such as supporting all student research. Furthermore, Dr. Bruce's suggest engaging in interdisciplinary research via similar research themes via developing clusters of researchers to work together. However, many Universities are already doing this, and the challenge now is to how to enhance it on our end and achieve our goals at the same time leading to meaningful metrics.
- Professional degrees have been addressed and have not been considered as 'High Quality Personnel (HQP)'. The committee is currently addressing this, and a possibility of including internship-based programs that are not thesis-based may be included.

o COVID Challenges

- Due to COVID, the relevancy of grades does not mean anything.
- Requesting that masking is still in effect due to increasing cases.
- With online teaching, the discussion of online versus in-person teaching was brought up. With online teaching, it is a burden to the instructors as pre-editing is required.
- With online learning, some individuals are experiencing depression as there is no connection, or the same interaction of being physically present, with the community at the University. It was suggested that a blend of both, along with a possibility of implementing universal learning design, should be done to maintain a sense of community.

□ Politics – The government is suggesting that their control would be effective in managing education. In particular, the government plans on removing University senates and perform the work themselves. It was suggested in the meeting that we need to convince people that Universities are extremely important in Canada.

Egan (VP Student Affairs):

- Ran Spooky Walk on Nov. 3rd
- Planning Holiday/end of term event on Dec. 8th with Sarah
- Starting radio show about grad students at Trent Radio (Wednesdays 3pm)
- Planning out schedule of events for winter term

Addendum II
Commissioner Reports