



## **TGSA Board Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** February 6th, 2023

**Start time:** 6:06pm **End time:** 8:14pm

**Location:** Traill College and Zoom Conference

**Chair:** Emma Kaszecki

**Scribe:** Sarah Rayner

**Attendance:** Emma Kaszecki, William Kim, Sarah Rayner, Egan Henderson, Conner Elverson, Jaz Raine, Heather Klyn-Hesselink, Margaret Appiah, Ali Fraser

**Regrets:** Sebastian Johnston-Lindsay, Jordan MacDonald

### **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: Egan

Second: Will

Discussion

Approve: All

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

### **4. Adopt the Minutes Previous**

Mover: Will

Second: Jaz

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

**a.) Emma — President**

- (i) Research Policy Committee Meeting (detailed notes in appendix)
- (ii) CASSC Colleges Subcommittee Meeting (detailed notes in appendix)
- (iii) Trent Durham Management Orientation (detailed notes in appendix)
- (iv) TDSA Support Ally (detailed notes in appendix)
- (v) Graduate Studies Committee Meeting (detailed notes in appendix)
- (vi) Meeting with Dean of Graduate Studies (Craig Brunetti) (detailed notes in appendix)
- (vii) Meeting with Michael Eamon (detailed notes in appendix)

**VP Finance**

- (i) January Academic Bursaries (numbers and details in appendix)
- (ii) Meeting with Jane Rennie (meeting details in appendix)

**VP, Internal**

- (i) Finished bylaws, policies, and referendum questions!

**b.) Sarah — VP, Communications**

- (i) AGM planning and end-of-year party planning are on track and going well (details in appendix)
- (ii) Planning for grad student and supervisor awards is underway (TGSA Community Leadership Award and Excellence in Supervision Award)

**c.) William — VP, Senate**

- (i) Attended monthly meetings for Senate, Undergraduate Study, and Grad Studies (meeting details in appendix)

**d.) Egan — VP, Student Affairs**

- (i) Ran Paint Night at Trent Durham, with a few attendees
- (ii) Continues planning events for the Winter semester, with a focus on Plant Potting and the end-of-year party
- (iii) Housing Advisory Committee (meeting details in appendix)

**e.) Jaz — Equity Commissioner**

- (i) SAS meeting (meeting details in appendix)
- (ii) Honorific and Wayfinding Campus Names Committee (meeting details in appendix)
- (iv) Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Committee (meeting details in appendix)

**f.) Heather — Environmental Commissioner**

- (i) Sustainability Committee (meeting details in appendix)

**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**

## **8. Question Period and Departmental Issues**

## **9. Business Arising from the Minutes**

## **10. Motions**

Motion to bring questions to referendum

### Discussion

Main discussion centers Q 7: *Do you support consultation with the School of Graduate Studies for equitable distribution of TGSA Bursary funds?*

Ali: Why is this change necessary? Questions giving power to School of Graduate Studies/Financial Services when it could remain in the hands of graduate students.

Emma: We do not have the ability to tell who current graduate students are, and we would still hold control over this process overall. It would just make our jobs easier and keep money where it belongs.

Approve: 6

Oppose: 1

Abstain: 0

## **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 (8:14pm)**

Mover: Sarah

Second: Egan

## Addendum I Executive Reports

### Emma (President)

#### Research Policy Committee Meeting

- Gave an update on the graduate student-staff pay debacle from September
  - HR is working to ensure that graduate students have access to their staff accounts from the moment they start at Trent, and they will not lose access to those accounts until after they are finished their studies (they are brainstorming provisions for what happens when's students go overtime)

#### CASSC Colleges Subcommittee Meeting

- Colleges are asking for a 6.9% (CPI) increase to the college fees (this includes graduate student college fees)
- They will be presenting the proposed budget to CASSC for a vote

#### Trent Durham Management Orientation

- Attended the Trent Durham orientation and spoke on behalf of the TGSA

#### TDSA Support Ally

- Attended the TDSA Support Ally on behalf of the TGSA
  - Spoke with fellow graduate students about the supports that we offer and who we are
  - Mingled with other clubs and groups at Trent, both available in Peterborough and Durham

#### Graduate Studies Committee Meeting

- Went over changes to NURS and INDG before they move to Senate
- Also going to Senate: the MMGT is going to offer an option to make the Symons campus a students home campus
  - ~30 spots will be available
  - Meant to attract domestic students into the MMGT program
  - The School of Business is going to hire additional faculty in Peterborough
  - There is going to be coordination with Peterborough and Durham for how the students are going to fulfill their requirements
- The concern of housing was brought up: Where are the students going to live if they choose Peterborough?

#### Meeting with Dean of Graduate Studies (Craig Brunetti)

- The population of graduate students at Trent is ~947 with a significant increase in international students (~\$9 million in revenue generated from international tuition)
- Craig has his budget prepared for PVP
  - Lots of increases in financial support for students
  - The Overtime Fee Proposal is also on the table

#### Meeting with Michael Eamon

- Wants to see an increase to the graduate college fee
- Going to produce a survey for to graduate students to help Trill see what the students want from their college

### (VP Finance)

#### January Academic Bursaries

- Distributed academic bursaries on January 15th
- To date:
  - Academic Bursary Fund: \$19,299.78
  - Emergency Bursary Fund: \$12,566.38

#### Meeting with Jane Rennie

- Potential for Graduate Studies to take on the bursary application processes from the TGSA
  - TGSA Academic Support Bursaries would be distributed once per year with applications filling out a form on MyTrent
  - TGSA Financial Support Bursaries would be given based on financial need using the criteria from the School of Graduate Studies
  - Multiple reasons for these changes:
    - The TGSA is unable to confirm whether or not an individual submitting a bursary application is a student
    - The TGSA is not financial services - We are a source for financial relief and to provide some financial support for students, however, putting money directly in the pockets of student that submit applications utilizes the majority of the yearly budget and does not benefit the general membership as a whole. Changing the way bursaries are given out will provide the TGSA with more time for advocacy and the development of projects that serve the general population of graduate students at Trent. Most GSAs do not offer as much support as we do, and most GSAs serve larger populations of graduate students.

### (VP Internal Affairs):

- Finished by-laws, policies, and referendum question passed on to the Board for review and voting.

### Sarah (VP Communications):

- Has been planning the AGM with Emma and Egan. The Ceilie has been rented, and trivia is being planned again to increase turnout.
- End-of-year party planning. Waiting to hear back about renting The Trend, and thinking of contingency plans if that falls through.
- Student and Supervisor awards!

- Updated social media channels as needed

#### Will (VP Senate Report):

I attended the monthly senate meeting (see below for a summary of what was discussed).

Senate meeting:

- Language for the number of seats for student representative at senate meetings adjusted

Undergrad study committee:

- New anthro specialization (biological anthro), new archeology program (bio-archeology)
- Biology course modifications (e.g., Can't put restrictions to first-year courses, thus it as suggested to recommend high school students to consider prior to entering a first-year course) and CUST/policing control course modifications

Grad Studies:

- INDG PhD change in course requirements (6610Y changes)
- Nursing graduate program course code 5901: Developed a reading course between Trent and OTU. Two new graduate programs (mental health and addiction diploma, dementia studies diploma)

Research Plan:

- Developing priorities that will be target common areas for all researchers.
- In next senate meeting, the intent will be shared and will undergo a trial run to see how things work out.

Academic planning / budgeting:

- Development of an M.A. in interdisciplinary aging studies (thesis based that is social-humanities, policies).

#### Egan (VP Student Affairs):

- Ran Paint Night at Trent Durham on Jan 26. Purchased supplies (they can be used for future events), had a few attendees
- Continuing planning of schedule of events for winter term (Date w/ a book - Feb, Reused plant pots - March, End-of-year celebration - April)
- Met with the Housing Advisory Committee on Jan 24
- Key takeaways:
  - Slowly increasing reserve cash
  - Spending on projects such as upgrading RezNet (wifi in dorms) and general maintenance/upgrades
  - Increase to residence fees coming for 2023/24, keeping with inflation and putting extra cash to the reserve
  - General want to increase reserve fund for any big costs that could come up unexpectedly

- No longer able to attend Graduate Studies Committee meetings due to conflict with TA course
- Kept up incoming emails from students and others

## Addendum II Commissioner Reports

### Jaz (Equity Commissioner):

#### SAS meeting:

- I had a meeting with Dr. Jennifer Lund who is the head of SAS regarding both their capacity to support grad students with disabilities (acquired, permanent, temporary), and about the idea of funding extension. As I suspected there is already a mechanism in place for funding extension for grad students registered with SAS, so I am not sure if pursuing that further would be fruitful... But she and I are looking to collaborate on an event and campaign to get grad student registration up, and I have offered my support to her to try to secure more funding for SAS overall. We are also looking to potentially plan an external review for Trent SAS (UofT did this recently and got a boat load of funding). Some of this in my capacity as equity commissioner.
- I attended the meeting for the Honorific and Wayfinding Campus Names Committee, which was a bit of a gong show. More on that later.
- I also attended the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Committee. It was one of the early meetings so we went over language in the policies and set some goals for future meetings.

### Margaret (International Student Commissioner):

### Heather (Environmental Commissioner):

#### Committee meetings summary:

- Pop up coffee stands/free travel mugs also being given away in an attempt to build sustainable habits
- Brought up trying another “paper cup free” week (last attempt was just before 1 st Covid lockdown and aborted the trial). Mark will look into this for September – it takes awhile to have Tim Hortons/Starbucks sign off.
- Trent is transitioning to Single use plastic free (includes straws, stir sticks, takeout food containers, cutlery, bags, etc. Does not include things like beverage containers).
- Payment plans for Trent Card (tuition, residence, etc) will be further introduced going forward
- New consultation for food services is commencing this summer with student involvement.

In addition to attending the required TGSA committee meetings, this month I have been focused on starting my first experiment in my master's degree, as well as preparing for my first thesis committee meeting. Lastly, I have been looking into some options for the Lab Recycling Survey to be distributed.