



TGSA Board Meeting Minutes

Date: January 9th, 2023

Start time: 6:07pm **End time:** 7:09pm

Location: Zoom Conference

Chair: Emma Kaszecki

Scribe: Sarah Rayner

Attendance: Emma Kaszecki, Sarah Rayner, Egan Henderson, William Kim, Conner Elverson, Jaz Raine, Heather Klyn-Hesselink

Regrets: Sebastian Johnston-Lindsay, Ramandeep Kaur, 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: Will

Second: Egan

Discussion

Approve: All

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

4. Adopt the Minutes Previous

Mover: Jaz

Second: Egan

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

a.) Emma — President

- (i) Graduate Studies Committee Meeting (detailed notes in appendix)
- (ii) ThinkGrad Meeting (detailed notes in appendix)
- (iii) GSA Compensation Survey (Executive Roles) (detailed notes in appendix)
- (iv) By-laws are hopefully done....yay!

b.) Sarah — VP, Communications

- (i) Started planning the end-of-year party, including the introduction of student and faculty awards—will be writing out what this could look like officially going forward
- (ii) Updated social media channels as needed

c.) William — VP, Senate

- (i) Nothing really (new) happened in December as it was the end of year
- (ii) Finished up by-laws with Emma

d.) Egan — VP, Student Affairs

- (i) Continuing planning of schedule of events for winter term (Paint night - Jan, Date w/ a book Feb, Reused plant pots - March, End-of-year celebration - April)
- (ii) January's event will be a paint night at the Durham GTA campus. Theme TBD.
- (iii) Kept up incoming emails from students and others

e.) Jaz — Equity Commissioner

- (i) Meeting coming up with Jennifer Lund as I mentioned at the last meeting to discuss the current picture for SAS and grad student uptake.
- (ii) Is looking to arrange the literary cafe in late March and is brainstorming location (likely on the main campus) and logistics.
- (iii) Will be sitting in on the Sexual Violence Prevention Response Committee this week and for their meetings going forward.

f.) Heather — Environmental Commissioner

- (i) Meeting with Shelley (detailed notes in appendix)
- (ii) Read detailed notes from Food Services Committee/Sustainability Committee (detailed notes in appendix)

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 (7:09pm)

Mover: Will

Second: Jaz

Addendum I **Executive Reports**

Emma (President)

Graduate Studies Committee Meeting

- Remove of an INGD course to combine with another one
- New NURS reading course
- Potential for combining the NURS diploma programs?

ThinkGrad Meeting

- There is ~\$8000 in a ThinkGrad account from dues for the previous year
 - This can only be used for conferences, coordinators, accounting fees etc.
 - Dues are based on the number of students at the school (eg. McMaster paid ~\$800 for their 4000 students)
 - Coordinator: makes sure there is accountability and organization
- The point of ThinkGrad = generating white paper
 - Eg. graduate student mental health
 - No intention to be a lobby group → more so sharing body to help advocate to the institutions
- DECISION
 - Moving forward for the next year at no-cost to collaborate and see how the things go

GSA Compensation Survey (Executive Roles)

- Took part in a compensation survey paid for by McMaster surrounding the compensation of GSA Executives
 - 7 GSAs in Ontario + 1 GSA in Quebec participated (Trent was the smallest school and GSA)
 - Notable conclusions:

- President's, on average, work more hours during the week than the rest of the Executive
- Trent was the only GSA that offers an annual honorarium as opposed to an hourly or monthly pay schedules
- 6 of the GSAs have mechanisms in place for non-performance of Executives (i.e. By-laws/Policies outline discipline and impeachment processes), however none of the GSAs withhold pay for non-performance

Emma (VP Internal):

- Finished (fingers crossed) the By-laws and Policies with William!!!

Sarah (VP Communications):

- Started planning the end-of-year party, including the introduction of student and faculty awards
- Updated social media channels as needed

Will (VP Senate Report):

Egan (VP Student Affairs):

- On break from running radio show about grad students at Trent Radio, starts back up January 11th. (Wednesdays 3pm)
- Continuing planning of schedule of events for winter term (Paint night - Jan, Date w/ a book - Feb, Reused plant pots - March, End-of-year celebration - April)
- January's event will be a paint night at the Durham GTA campus. Aimed at international students but open to everyone. Week of January 23-27th. Theme to be determined
- Kept up incoming emails from students and others

Addendum II
Commissioner Reports

Jaz (Equity Commissioner):

- I have a meeting coming up with Jennifer Lund as I mentioned at the last meeting to discuss the current picture for SAS and grad student uptake.
- I'm looking to arrange the literary cafe in late March and am brainstorming location (likely on the main campus) and logistics.

- I'll be sitting in on the Sexual Violence Prevention Response Committee this week and for their meetings going forward.

Margaret (International Student Commissioner):

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

Heather (Environmental Commissioner):

Meeting with Shelley was postponed until after the New Year (Jan 5th , 2023)

Meeting results:

1) Shelley is onboard and willing to collaborate with improving the recycling and waste management in labs. She has already done some work in trying to pilot Trent lab glass recycling, and lab plastic as separate streams for recycling, and is going to check in with her team to see how that is going. She approves a survey to get graduate students and labs on board with reducing single use plastics and increasing recycling, and thinks it's useful to bring the research stakeholders point of view, as facilities sometimes has a hard time broaching change to them. I will start on the survey and bounce it back to her to add questions from a facilities standpoint.

2) Shelley is hiring consultants to come in and determine what Trent students/organizations expect with regards to sustainability and Trent. This will include surveys, town hall meetings, etc. As an organization, I would like to have a discussion on what TGSA expects from Trent. A push from students is needed to get Trent to commit to sustainability agendas.

3) Next meeting with Shelley TBD, after she has discussed with caretakers and consultants.

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):