

### **Question 1:**

The population of graduate students at Trent University has reached a new record high in the 2023-2024 academic year of over 1,200 students representing nearly every province and territory in Canada, in addition to 36 foreign nations. The current Trent Graduate Students' Association (TGSA) by-laws dictate that 5% of the student population must attend the Annual General Meeting to call an election and bring forward referendum questions. Historically, reaching quorum for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) has been an extreme challenge and has remained persistently so, despite the growth in graduate student population. If quorum is not met for the AGM an election cannot be called and progress within the TGSA and including advocacy on behalf of the student body on boards and committees, is halted. To ensure continuous progress and continuity of operation, we propose altering the quorum requirement for the AGM to 20 graduate students, which aligns with the Trent Central Student Associations (TCSA) by-laws, despite their significantly larger constituency.

*Question: Do you support altering the quorum requirement for the TGSA AGM from 5% of the population to 20 graduate students?*

*Yes*

*No*

*Abstain*

### **Question 2:**

The School of Graduate Studies is one of the fastest growing departments at Trent University, with an enrollment increase in excess of 60% since the 2020-2021 academic year: tripling between 2022 and 2023 alone. Graduate students arriving to Trent for their studies often notice the limited representation of graduate studies on campus – limited to research and office space. Currently, designs are being finalized for the development of new residence buildings on the Symons Campus within which the TGSA has been offered the opportunity to procure graduate-student-only space. This will include lounge areas, collaborative workspaces, bookable rooms, and a new TGSA service desk centrally located on the East Bank. The construction project is expected to reach completion in Fall 2028. To secure a place in the new buildings the TGSA is required to enter into a lease agreement for the space. Based on the anticipated fair-market valuation (~ \$38/sq.ft.) for renting the space, we propose the creation of an ancillary-fee at the cost of \$50.00 (paid as \$16.66 and per semester). The fee will be subject to a 3% increase every year after the TGSA has access to the space to project for rent increases from the developer. **This fee is less than half the cost of the fee charged to undergraduate students for The Student Centre.** Upon successful adoption of the referendum question, collection of these fees will not take effect until the commencement of the space (estimated Fall 2028).

*Question: Do you support the creation of a \$50 ancillary-fee (subject to 3% increase each year thereafter) commencing at the completion of construction of the designated graduate student space in the Symons Campus building development?*

*Yes*

*No*

*Abstain*

**Question 3:**

Upon the completion of construction for graduate student space on Symon Campus (estimated Fall 2028) the task of furnishing the space belongs to the TGSA and graduate students at Trent. Preparing the space so it is usable for graduate students includes purchasing furniture, light fixtures, office supplies, kitchen appliances, and more. In preparation for the large expense, we propose allocating 5% of the yearly operating budget for the next 5 academic years (2024-2025, 2025-2026, 2026-2027, 2027-2028, and 2028-2029) to a savings account dedicated to furnishing the space. These savings will be extracted from the existing TGSA income procured from membership dues, and will ensure that the TGSA does not violate its by-laws by running a deficit budget during the 2028-2029 academic year. As a permanent condition of this referendum question, the savings can only be used to make purchases directly related to the furnishing and stocking the graduate-only space (with any remainder being used at a later date for infrastructural improvements) by future administrations.

*Question: Do you support allocating 5% of the TGSA operating budget for the next 5 academic years (2024-2025, 2025-2026, 2026-2027, 2027-2028, and 2028-2029) to a savings account dedicated for the procurement of furnishings upon the completion of a graduate-student-only space on Symons Campus?*

*Yes*

*No*

*Abstain*

**Question 4:**

The Amended bylaws that you were previously emailed and are also posted on our website (add link) have been updated to reflect the altered quorum requirements and fee increases for the 2024-2025 academic year as per policy **3.1 General Finances** which stipulates an increase in TGSA levy fees equivalent to 3% of CPI, whichever is lower.

*Question: Do you accept these new By-laws and Policies as amended?*

*Yes*

*No*

*Abstain*