



## **TGSA Board Meeting Agenda**

**Date: September 28<sup>th</sup> 2025**

**Start time: 6:00pm**

**End time:**

**Location: Zoom**

**Chair:**

**Scribe:**

**Attendance:**

**Regrets**

### **Approve Previous Minutes**

**Motion to approve previous meeting minutes**

Mover:

Second:

### **1. Presentation(s) and Discussion (s) without voting**

Introductions and update from board members.

### **2. Call to Order:**

Mover:

Second:

### **3. Adopt the Agenda:**

Mover:

Second:

Discussion

Approve:

Oppose:  
Abstain:

4. **Presentation(s) and Discussion (s) with/without motions (read through submitted reports)**
5. **Finance & Operations Co-Ordinator (updates from Connor Elverson)**  
N/A-
6. **Question Period and Departmental Issues (questions from exec + external team)**  
N/A
7. **Business Arising from the Minutes (anything to discuss from last month/minutes)**  
N/A
8. **Motions (voting for any motions)**
9. **Other Business (anything else needs to be said)**
10. **Notices of Motions and Announcements (any future meetings, due dates, etc.)**

### **Addendum I**

Executive Reports

Jaz (President)

Presidents Report

Welcome team, welcome guests who are up for election

Meetings

Meetings with Craig and Sasha- School of Graduate Studies

- Benefits issues (UHIP, January start, delays in access, card registration)

- Survey

- Annual CAGS priority- supervision

Michael Eamon- Traill College

Melissa Fernandez- Student Affairs

- Sanctioned Club status

- Policy Development

- Prayer rooms on campus

- Collaborative programming meetings

Melissa- Parking

- Accessible parking spaces

- Violence against staff

- Current issues/aims

- Appeals process

- Grace period request

Meeting with TI (Cinthia)

Fall General Meeting

- Budget presented

- The work we have done so far this year (as individuals)

- By-Elections (candidate statements)

- Referenda

- Dinner

- Trivia

Committee Work:

Vice President Research and Innovation (VPRI) Hiring Committee

Academic Planning Committee starts this week

Next research policy committee is in November

Tri Council starts in January

CASSC Durham is waiting for our election results for a Durham Rep

Notes

Please attend each others events!

Survey progress

Website updating

#### Events Attended:

Networking event. Over 75 student attendees. All principals. People from many different programs and years. Lots of good conversations had. Food was good. Overall cost to us was 800.00 under the original approved budget of 1500.00, with a total contribution of 700.00 that will be paid by cheque to Melanie this week.

Head of the Trent- Pancakes

Trill College Scarf Ceremony

Board of Governors dinner and presentation from Trent/community researchers and leaders

Ashley Fellow Dinner

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Ashley Fellow public lecture

Islamic History Month Events

CAGS conference next week

#### (VP Internal Affairs)

#### Heather (VP Senate)

#### Committee Work:

CASSC (on behalf of Davida): Introduction to CASSC. Following Robert's rules. Many conversations will revolve around increases to budgets and levy fees. The student rep will bring proposed increases to their board for discussion. Head of Trent this weekend reminder. Case manager position has been hired for students that need help to navigate their time at Trent. Pay what you can Harvest Lunch Wed 11:30a all proceeds to food pantry. Cabinet colleges/TCSA working on increasing menstrual product availability.

Accommodation Policy subcommittee: An introduction and broad overview of language in the previous policy, and what we would like to update.

Senate Executive/Senate meeting: deficit will be several million times what was predicted due to decreased International student intake; this is not because we cannot fill the quota given to us, but that applications are not being processed by the government quickly enough to make it worthwhile for students to apply to Canada. There has been an enrollment task force and revenue generation team created to address funding problems.

The senate executive was asked for special topics for the year – I requested there be follow up and concrete goals/outcomes of these discussions, as AI discussion last year was great but there was not consensus overall.

Discussion of Bill 33/5 brought forward by President TCOSA – follow up and collaboration with all student associations would be important.

REB: Reviewed three ethics applications and the REB monthly meeting.

SAC: Attended two special appeal hearings. Will be bringing to AP&P suggestion from review – that grade averages will be based on the required courses for the degree + top electives. This will  
1) ensure that those who take extra courses but do poorly in them will

not have them effect degree – may increase income for the university 2) come to my attention that some students take way more courses than needed to increase grade average – this seems unequitable, could favour higher income students

Teaching and Learning: Blackboard will be transitioning to a new “Ultra” version. Discussion around AI and teaching/learning. Info session on the different groups/views on AI.

Events Organized or Attended:

Davida and I are starting to plan the holiday event. It will be a board game/game themed night, held in Champlain Great Hall Dec 5th 7-10pm, set up/tear down 6-11p. The risk assessment has been started.

· Call for board games/other games....anyone have any that they can lend us?

1. Heather - Catch phrase, battle ship, backgammon, Pictionary,

2. Kristen – The Office

3. CUPE...

I'd like to also have some more interactive games for those that don't like to sit still:

· pin the tail on the donkey variation (pin the diploma on the grad student, pin the nose on the snowman?),

· corn hole/Christmas tree/snowman ball game

· twister,

· charades,

· candy cane marshmallow shuffle board,

· inflatable antlers+rings,

- People bingo, emoticons,
- Winter photo corner?
- other suggestions?

Craft corner:

- DIY gift - overnight oats? - people can fill a container (single serving) or baggie coconut cranberry, chocolate peppermint, vanilla chai, apple pie
- colouring pages – holiday/winter themed
- bracelet making - beads or embroidery thread?

Food/beverages:

- hot chocolate w/toppings
- holiday punch
- hand snacks by board games – chips and holiday candy
- catering? ideas for what types of food people would like to see
- M&M desserts

Other:

- It's come to my attention that the walking paths in Trent are by and large very poorly lit at night. I would like to address this. Jaz has suggested some contacts who I will reach out to in the next month.
- Will be starting some web designer/coding learning to help out with our web development

**David** (VP Student Affairs)

Committee Work:

I was unfortunately unavailable for the CASSC committee, but Heather stood in for me (thanks Heather!).

Events organized or attended:

Currently planning our FGM

Working with Uzma for Islamic History Month

Working with Heather to plan a holiday games night

Planning a clothing swap for the winter because last year's winter clothing drive went pretty well.

## Commissioner and Representative Reports

### Uzma (Equity Commissioner)

#### Committee Work:

Cyclical Program Review Committee (CPRC): October 15th. Meetings are every two weeks.

We reviewed 2 Self-Studies (one from Economics and one from MICA) and one final assessment report from SOCI/CRIM for program strength and weaknesses, quality of the program, student experience, and for its plans for continuous improvement.

Housing committee meeting: Monthly meetings are starting. First meeting is November 6th from 3 to 4 pm. Which I will not be able to attend. Julia Bedding has asked if someone else could on my behalf. Please let me know if anyone is available to attend and I will forward Julia your contact information. Thanks

#### Events Organized or Attended:

TGSA and Trent University Libraries have collaborated to present the Islamic History Month Zoom event, coming up on October 29th from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm. Please see poster attached. Trent MSA, TCAS, TDSA, Trent Libraries and Spiritual Affairs have collaborated to promote this event on their social media. We will have two speakers:

- Abdullah Yossofzi : Uncatalogued: A Muslim Librarians' lived experience
- Besma Soltan: Islamic approaches to entrepreneurship: values, purpose and practice
- Johanna Hart (spiritual affairs), Allison Ridgway (Trent Peterborough Library), and Nuha (Durham Muslim Student Association) will speak about the organizations they represent.

Trent Peterborough Library has collaborated to have book displays at both libraries. The Bata Library display was from October 7th till October 17th. Durham campus library display will be there till the 30th of October. Zotero list of books is also created and available through the QR code on the poster.

#### Ideas related to your role:

The budget increase considerations as speakers alone are a significant cost.

After the success of last year's collaboration with the Social Work department, Dr. Donna Richard has approached me to start work on February Black History Month event. We (TGSA) need to discuss the extent of our collaboration.

#### Pertinent student communications:

- Communications with student at the Graduate Student event at Trail College

## Cinthia (International Student Commissioner)

Committee Work:

Committee Name-

The Library Advisor Committee had a meeting on October 15th at 10 am. Unfortunately, I could not attend because of a schedule conflict with my Social Innovation & Leadership course for my master's degree. However, I read the minutes from the last meeting and followed up with Loretta Durst afterward, requesting the minutes of this meeting. She mentioned she would share them during this week.

Events Organized or Attended.

I attended the following events:

- Joined the Meet & Greet activity for Graduate students on October 1st.
- Joined the Head of the Trent Regatta on October 4th and connected with some graduate students.
- Just Get Over it Microcredential program, on October 9th
- Had headshots taken for the TGSA website on October 14th and participated in a brief induction session with the new members of the TGSA led by the President of the TGSA.A
- Served as a Judge for the Symons Seminar Series 2025-2026, attended the first meeting on October 16th.

Ideas related to your role:

- Follow up on the Collegiate mentor bank initiative for Graduate Students
- Follow up on the email list or communication channel for graduate international students in collaboration with the Trent International Students Office.

Pertinent student communications:

- Shared the VP of Internal Affairs position with a couple of graduate students
- I followed up with the International Students Office to have a meeting to explore collaboration and co-implementation of events that support international graduate students. The meeting will take place on October 28th at 2:30 pm.

Other pertinent activities:

- On October 8th, I met with Najah Wardat, the former International Student Commissioner, for a handover of the role.
- I read the TGSA Bylaws.

### Jamie (Environmental Commissioner)

Zero Waste Working Group (Sustainable Trent)

- Education efforts

o At-bin education (In place of OSCAR AI) successful

Move-in, orientation, food truck event, Trent International Fair, Volunteer Expo, and Clubs & Groups Day

\$10,000 to hire six ambassadors

- 2025 waste audit

o Sept. 29 to Oct. 3

- Zero waste challenge

o Oct. 6 to Oct. 17

o Dining hall audit to determine winner (one of the colleges or Durham)

- Paper towel

o Most bathrooms fully transitioned to hand dryers

o Feedback has mostly been concerned with door opening; foot handles being installed

o Single unit washrooms remain with paper towel

- Skip the dishes waste issue

o Poor waste sorting by students living in residence

o Education flyer to be developed

- Training needs

o Gap in training or staff and faculty

o Sustainability now being implemented into onboarding

o New 2026 system will standardize recycling province-wide and expand accepted materials to include most packaging and packaging-like products.

Health science research grant subcommittees

- Been contacted to schedule meeting for 2026

Events Organized or Attended:

- Graduate student meet and greet (OC Commons)

- Symons Seminar Series (Traill College)

- Headshots at Sadleir from Jaz with new members (Thanks Jaz!)

Ideas related to your role:

- Event

o Clothing/item swap

o Craft 'café' – seasoned spoon? Sadleir house?

o Early in second semester or around springtime

Pertinent student communications:

Almat (Science Representative—PhD)

**Committee Work:** I attended the Graduate Studies Committee meeting, where we reviewed updates to graduate programs across several departments. These included the introduction of new courses and streams, modifications to existing programs, and the removal of outdated courses or

streams. Changes were also made to examination structures and degree requirements to better align with current academic standards. The committee also proposed changes to academic regulations, including the acceptance of two new tests as proof of English language proficiency. The next GSC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 20, 2025.

**Events Organized or Attended:** I attended Sunday Dinners for graduate students organized by Traill College on October 5th and 26th, where TGSA is one of the donors.

**Ideas related to your role:** Advocating for transparent policies and the recognition of graduate students' achievements.

**Pertinent student communications:** During the Sunday Dinners, I engaged with graduate students and invited them to attend the Fall General Meeting (FGM) scheduled for November 12th.

### Kristin (Arts Representative – PhD)

#### Committee Work:

I joined the Accomodation Policy Committee and attended my first meeting today, although I did miss their first meeting so there will be a bit of catch up. They've divided into 3 working groups and today was a bit of a review of their work. There is not much to report, but I've been added to a working group and they're scheduling a meeting in the next few weeks to be able to complete a document to report to the senate in the winter semester.

#### Events Organized or Attended:

I attended a Traill College dinner yesterday and had the chance to socialize with a few other members of the board here as well as a few grad students, to let them know who I am and that I'm available to help. I'm looking forward to the Islamic History Month event tomorrow.

#### Ideas related to your role:

Most of my work has been in my role on the CUPE executive, training and recruiting stewards for different departments. I'd love to find ways to help more and more grad students to be aware of their rights as workers and to let it be easier for stewards to be known to their colleagues. When something comes up, its easier to go to someone closer to you for help. I don't have any ideas, and while I do think that its outside of my purview (or ability to influence) as lead steward, I think it very much aligns with my work here and the more the two groups collaborate and intersect, the better it will be for all grad students.

Pertinent student communications:

Nothing to report.

Jordan (Science Representative—MSc)

Committee Work:

Animal Care Committee

- Reviewed some protocols
- Discussed some potential structural adjustments to the committee meetings/review process
- Conducting an audit this afternoon

Graduate Studies Committee

- Had to send my regrets as the meeting was scheduled while I was out of town for a presentation and remote attendance was not possible
- Planning to discuss the events of the meeting with Almat

Events Organized or Attended:

- I had planned to attend the pride walk, the knowledge and network event, and to help serve pancakes at HOCO, however, I didn't recover from my cold until after the first weekend of October so I couldn't make it.
- As far as I've been aware, there haven't really been any other events

Ideas related to your role:

Do we know how the financial aid office decides what qualifies as financial need for bursaries? I was deemed not in financial need and I'm curious about how this is decided.

Jonathan (Arts Representative – MA)

Events Organized or Attended:

Ashley Lecture with Tom Muclair, Two college dinners at Traill College, Ottonabee Community Cleanup, Truth and Reconciliation Day with FPHL and Trent, FPHL Midweek Munchies, Coffee and Conversations, the weekly Community Lunches (starting on the 27th), and Head of the Trent and GSA Photo Shoot at Sandeir

Ideas related to your role: mainly developing relationships with students in MA Arts programs via social media and email

Pertinent student communications: mainly via Instagram and email

### Yuchen (CUPE Representative)

CUPE updates

- Unit 2 recruited 6 new Stewards from 6 different departments. Still looking for a DUR campus steward to help with monitoring DUR campus.
- CUPE AGM is on the Nov 11<sup>th</sup>, door open at 6:15 pm. All welcome