**Appendix: Submitted Written Reports**

**Reports from Boards and Standing Committees**

*Area Reps’ Report:*

Pastoral - Amy

I sent out an email to all of the pastoral students who came to the BBQ to introduce myself. I also asked if anyone would be interested in having a get-together before Christmas or in the New Year. I heard back from 2 students who would like to attend an event. I am wondering if having something in the New Year would be easier on everyone. I will send out a follow-up email (maybe with a Doodle poll ?) soon.

Other than that, there is nothing to report.

Systematics - Ethan

The Systematic Theology group email list is currently around 35 or 40 people. We met for the first time on Monday, October 15th for a sort of hybrid social/planning together. 10 people were in attendance, and there were a lot of good ideas for discussion topics suggested. We had our first discussion group on Friday, November 9th in the Regis Atrium. 4 people came to discuss the relevance or Kenosis and/or Death of God theology in contemporary studies. Many more extended their regrets. Going forward, we will meet every other week, alternating between evening socials and daytime formal discussions. The next social will probably be the first week of December, as I am out of town until then.

Historical - M.J.

An email went out to Students who have a historical focus in their research to announce a meeting in October. As this was the first such event for these students since the establishment of the conjoint degree programme, and the notice was somewhat short, I was quite pleased to have six people attend, including one faculty member. As well, there were several email responses from students to indicate appreciation for an attempt to bring students together and from faculty who are happy to support such an event and who have a desire to attend in the future.

The agenda contained a significant amount of time for introductions since few of us knew one another. This was followed by a planning session, which was the major part of the agenda. People expressed a desire to meet more than twice a year and it is necessary to figure out the best way to do this. Currently, we are continuing to meet on Wednesday afternoons when there are supposedly no classes.

We discussed whether we should  focus on professional development, information sharing, discussion of emergent research issues, socializing, or presentation of our work. Whether or not to continue to include faculty was also discussed.

Decisions that were made:

1. The next event would be for a presentation on Historical Methodology with an invitation to be issued to Alan Hayes to present. (He has since accepted for December 5th.)
2. Events would continue to be a combination of social and formal.
3. An invitation would be issued to students with a history focus, inviting those who plan to present a paper at a conference, an opportunity to practice by presenting it in our meeting.
4. 10-15 minutes at the gatherings will be assigned for sharing research discoveries and problems.
5. Other topics for presentation will be solicited at the December meeting.

*College Reps’ Reports:*

Knox - Mike

* As TGSA rep, I have a seat on the Knox Theological Community Council. It is a staff-faculty-student committee. This gives me a chance to represent Knox grad student interests at our college. I recently attended the Fall meeting, and currently I am advocating mainly for dedicated study space for Knox GD students, as we’re the only TST college that doesn’t provide such.
* I had one inquiry from a student wondering why TST students can’t use Hart House etc.  I think we will endlessly face questions about why we are U of T students...but not quite U of T students. I know efforts have been made in the past, and I pointed the student towards past referenda on these matters. My own feeling is that we should continually be advocating for full inclusion in the U of T community, though I am aware of the great challenges of this and past failures to close the gaps.

Regis - Liam  
  
The Annual Lonergan Lecture, mentioned in my last report, occured, co-hosted by the LRI. Prof. Michael Vertin, emeritus of St. Michael’s College delivered the lecture. On Saturday Nov 3, Regis’ student council hosted our a “Retreat in the Streets.” It was well received by participants. Student Council will be hosting a Triviokee night on Thursday November 15. Beer will be available and Pizza will be sold for $2 a slice. Students from all TST colleges are welcome. You can register either individually or in teams of six by emailing our co-president Chris Grodecki at [chris.grodecki@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:chris.grodecki@mail.utoronto.ca). Fr. Thomas Rosica, CSB is delivering our Chancellor’s Lecture on Friday Nov 23 entitled “Doing Theology in the City.” All are welcome, please register at regiscollege.ca/events. Finally the Regis College Convocation, where Fr. Rosica will receive an honorary doctorate, and our patronal Mass will be held on Nov 24, the Vigil of the Solemnity of Christ the King.

*VP-Academic Report - Emma*

**Academic Council Meeting on Monday, October 29th, 2018**

1. There will be a new MTS stream in Theology, Spirituality, and the Arts. More details will be available at the next AC meeting.
   * Emma followed up, but there were no new details.
2. NAIITS (formerly Native American Institute for Indigenous Theological Studies) has officially become an affiliate member of TST.
   * Emma followed up, but there were no new details.
3. The policy has been approved for the Graduate Status for Professional Teaching Staff. (This means that professionals who qualify will be able to teach at the graduate level.)
   * Emma followed up, but there were no new details.
4. There is a new Post-doctoral Fellowship in Christian-Jewish relations.

***(There was no meeting for Graduate Studies Council prior to the November TGSA meeting.)***

**UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

* **Academic Council Meeting on Monday, November 26th, 2018**
  + Questions/Follow-Up:
    - Follow-up with new MTS Stream
    - Follow-up with affiliate membership of NAIITS
    - Follow-up on policy for the Graduate Status for Professional Teaching Staff
    - What is TST’s relationship and responsibility with TGSA? (E.g. reserving spaces for student events)
* **Graduate Studies Council Meeting on Tuesday, December 4th, 2018**
  + Questions/Follow-Up:
    - Follow-up on ThD and PhD (USMC) degree closure

*VP-Conference Report - Liam*

NB: The meeting of the conference committee took place prior to Fiona receiving the proposed *in camera* correspondence from Peter Noteboom, and therefore the report reflects this.

Prof A. Robert Nuscia of St. Augustine’s Seminary is unable to speak due to prior engagements in the United States. He recommended asking Prof. Fred Chung. Second name discussed was Prof. Walter Werbylo. Upon the minimal research I’ve done I think Prof. Werbylo might be the better choice as he’s more scholarly.

The Committee has discussed the idea of charging for the conference, especially in light  of our likely holding a larger conference next year. Due to the fact that things such as group rates, early bird specials, and price differentiations cause the fees of eventbrite to increase greatly we’ve decided to forgo those for this year and propose instead to charge $8 on eventbrite for pre-registration or $5 a day at the door. We do not think that presenters or TGSA Board Members who are volunteering at the conference should have to pay.

We have reached out to OISI, TST’s Korean Student’s Association and the Interfaith Centre to discuss the conference. We’ve also planned to reach out to the Asian-Canadian Student’s Association, the Philosophy and Literature departments and any other student groups that board member feel would be interested. The committee agreed that it would be best to cast a wide net not only to promote TGSA but to ensure that the conference lineup represents as many voices as possible. Gina is also going to get in touch with TST’s social media contact

We need three rooms for the conference, including one that can host keynote events. We had at the time of the meeting hoped for Emmanuel, however after getting in touch with them it seems that their fees may be to steep. Liam has looked at all the TST colleges rental prices and found that this is unfortunately a recurring theme. He is going to reach out to the presidents of TST colleges directly. Liam has asked members of last year’s conference committee if they can find any documentation wherein Knox mentions donating their space given that this may help convince other colleges that this is a good idea/investment.

As it stands without help from the member colleges the costs at the most conservative estimate for a two day conference, without the safe space room the committee is recommending would be the following:   
  
St Michael’s College: $3150

Emmanuel College: $2120 ($1908 if we get the 10% discount which I think the email Amy got back mentioned)

Regis College: $2590 + service rates + 270.00 for Emmanuel Chapel on Day 2

Wycliffe College: In Progress

Trinity College: In Progress

Knox College: In Progress

Total Conference Budget: $950

So clearly there is an issue here. I would add that even with our plans to charge admission and the diy lunches we will still have other expenses, programs, thanks you’s for panelists etc. Respectfully I disagreed with and still disagree with the immediate past treasurer’s note that a conference, even a one day one which we had already decided against when the budget was approved last year is doable, and hope that next year we can re-look at the amount of funds allotted for what really is our main event of the year.

The committee proposes the following for the CFP

In his Commentary on Isaiah, the Church Father Jerome famously insisted that “ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ.” In the intervening centuries, however, the discipline we call Theology has persistently agonized over its relationship to the Bible. Some theologians are content with a simple approach—often critically referred to as “proof-texting”—while others seem to be so committed to philosophical systems that the Bible is rendered functionally irrelevant.  Moreover, within Biblical studies there are those so attendant on the ‘world of the text’ that engagement with other theological sub-disciplines has become unnecessary— in some cases even leading to the loss of the texts ‘sacred’ status. In recent times, however, a renewed interest in the relationship between the Bible and Theology seems to be emerging.

TGSA invites papers examining this relationship, be it systematic, historical, contextual, or practical.  Participants are also invited to address the intersections of these considerations and/or how this conversation can be enriched through interdisciplinary dialogue.  Students from other faith traditions are welcome to submit papers pertaining to the theme of their own sacred texts and the discipline of Theology.

Any registered TST Graduate Degree student or students in equivalent programs at other institutions may submit their work.  All are welcome to attend. Please see Submission Details for further information.

The Conference committee would also like the boards input on what type of presentations we should look for. In addition to the idea of individual paper proposals and panel session proposals containing two to three papers, Amy had an idea about papers with respondents which she can speak to during the discussion. Once this is settled we can formally write up the submission guidelines and release the CFP.

Upon the acceptance of this report by the board, and after the aforementioned pending discussions I would like to propose the following resolutions:  
  
1) That the board agrees to i) charge an admissions fee for the 2019 Conference of either $8 in advance for both days or $5 a day at the door; ii) use the website eventbrite to collect the admissions fees for advance registration and iii) exempt both presenters and board members who are volunteering from the fee.

2) That the Call for Papers be accepted as presented.

3) That the current submission guidelines be modified by Liam based on the discussion and submitted to the conference committee within the next week and that upon approval from the conference committee they be posted online and the CFP sent out.

*Treasurer's Report - Leanne*

Nothing new to report. Bank account fully set up at BMO and TD closed.

*TST- Director’s Search Report - Fiona*

The committee met on October 17, 2018. Timelines have been determined. Earlier I have sent to you all an email regarding potential interview questions to submit to the committee. Only M.J. got back to me with questions. The next meeting date has not been determined. The approved job posting is on the TST webpage: https://www.tst.edu/about/jobs/director-toronto-school-theology

**New Business**

*TGSA Merch-*   
  
I spoke to my colleague at CLAMPS and she told me that they dealt with a company called Artik Toronto. They have a minimum number of 100 lanyards per order so I don’t think they’ll suit our business needs. I found a website called customlanyard.ca that sells them in quantities of 10 and 20. We could look at that.

*BYOL-*   
  
BYOL was not well attended this month. It was Fiona and myself.

*UTSU Director-*   
  
Per Fiona’s request, I informed the BD Round Table of Sam’s election, and with his permission, passed on his contact info.