 Toronto School of Theology Graduate Students’ Association

Board Meeting – March 7th , 2017 – 10:00am - 12:00pm

Meeting Minutes

1. **Opening**

* Meeting Convened – 10:03am
* Expected Guests: Brieanne Berry-Crossfield & Shain Dhalla from UTGSU

Michael Buttrey & Liam Farrer, Regis Students

* Board Attendees: Allison (President), Fiona (VP Academic), Gord (Treasurer), Marie (VP External), Melanie (VP Conference), Trent (Biblical Rep), Robyn (Regis Rep), Benjamin (St Mike’s Rep), MJ (Knox Rep, via Skype)

**2) GSU Presentation**

* Brieanne presented on the structure and mandate of UTGSU (slideshow to be made available to the board).
* Shain delivered information on GSU’s Health & Dental Plans (handouts available).
* Clarified process for joining (internal TGSA referendum, followed by a motion at a UTGSU Council meeting that would need to pass with a two third majority.
* Health & Dental plans cost more than with UTSU, but the plan is designed to be a primary plan & covers more. Also the option of keeping on the plan for 12 months after you are out of school.
* GSU works on a Head Grant system, giving funds based on enrolment in a departmental or division union (such as TGSA would be). Head grants work out to about $15 per student, based on the previous winter’s enrolment.
* Fee currently $66 for full time and \_\_\_\_\_ for part time. Health plan is $468 per year
* The Board thanked Brieanne and Shain for their presentation, committed to keeping lines of communication open.

**3) Housekeeping**

* Minutes from February 7th: With minor adjustments, the minutes from Feb 7th were approved by consensus.
* Event Debrief: February Third Thursday had about 8 people in attendance for a movie and pub night. Emmanuel College well represented. Would consider this format again
* Upcoming Events:
  + March Third Thursday will not be planned, as it is only the day before the conference, which will have a social component.
  + Mental Health Event – scheduled for Wednesday March 22nd, 1pm in the jay Boardroom at TST. The board discussed increasing the budget for this event and consensus was that since we have not spent much on PD this year, raising the budget to $200 was agreeable. Funds to be spent on lunch for those who attend, a small honorarium for the guest speaker, and compensation for mileage, parking or TTC fare for the speaker.
  + Since we are providing lunch, an RSVP will be requested from students.

**4) College Updates**

* St Mike’s:.
  + Event on Indigenous Issues & Catholicism not taking place in May, likely October instead.
  + There is a CFP out for the Dominican Institute – an excellent opportunity for students.
* Regis:
  + The Lonergan Research Institute hosted its first international research conference in February. It was a success.
  + March 22nd at 7:30 Regis is hosting a public lecture with Blair Stonechild on Indigenous Spirituality in the Regis Chapel. Free to attend, but pre-registration is required.
* Knox:
  + Quiet on the event front, as search for a new principal has taken much of people’s attention.
  + Josh Vissers, one of the candidates for the position, is giving a lecture on March 16th, followed by a meet and greet for all interested.

**5) Department Updates**

* Bible:
  + Biblical department seminar cancelled in February, so no substantial update

**6) VP External Update**

* Nominations for the UTSU rep were open from February 27th until March 3rd; as far we are aware no one put themself forward. TST seat on UTSU will be vacant but it can be filled by a by-election (with a similar nomination process) in October.

**7) VP Conference Update**

* Conference schedule is set, looking forward to the day
* Sign-up sheet passed around for Board members to commit to certain tasks throughout the day
* Difficult to work through accessibility issues in the building; whole conference planned for the main floor. Might be worth looking into other venues in future.

**8) VP Academic Update**

* Only Academic Council has met since our last meeting. Main issues impacted TGSA students include the upcoming removal of non-conjoint students from ACORN/ROSI and the library system. AC has plans for an alternate student repository and the registrar’s will have access to the legacy records. This impacts approximately 100 students as of May 1st.
* New MA letters of acceptance have gone out
* U of T wants TST to bring any Field Ed happening in conjoin programs under its Placement Agreement framework – that will need to be phased in through TST
* Doctoral acceptances have gone out. There was a drop in applications this year and also a drop in the number of acceptances. This is due to multiple factors.
* GSC is taking place tonight. What issues should Fiona bring forward?
  + Clarify TA opportunities and how it works at each college
  + Continue discussing the GPA calculation issue.
  + Propose adding Spanish as a language class.

**9) Treasurer Update**

TGSA Financial Report – March 7, 2017

Budget: $7000.00

Disbursements: $2617.52

Per cent disbursed: 37.4%

* Major expenses to come. Conference March 17. (about $1000 budgeted)
* Travel Grants for second term ($1500 budgeted)

Major expenses to come. Conference March 17. Travel Grants for second term.

**10) Letters Received**

* The Trinity representative tendered a letter of resignation to the VP Academic last week.
  + MOTION, moved by MJ and seconded by Marie, to accept the resignation. Carried, unanimously.

**11) Petition**

* Michael Buttrey and Liam Farrer, both Regis students, submitted a petition to the board with 28 student signatures. The petition highlighted concerns with the conduct of a former board member.
* Concerns now mostly alleviated by the member no longer sitting on TGSA’s Board
* Still concerns about the TGSA Facebook group and how it has been used.
* Board discussed the possibility of a statement from the Exec in the Facebook group expressing disapproval of discriminatory statements made in the group and that comments of that nature are not welcome in that space.
  + Such a statement will be composed in Sharepoint and, with Board approval, posted in the Facebook group. The turn around time on this is one week.
* Questions about changing the approval settings for all posts
  + Given time constraints at this meeting, further discussion of Facebook policy is tabled until the April 4th meeting
  + Revision of policy will be the focus of the April 4th meeting. Board members are expected to read over our P&P and we will make adjustments as needed. We will also follow up on developing a Code of Ethics for the Board.

Meeting Adjourned – 12:10pm