

Toronto School of Theology Graduate Students' Association
Board Meeting Minutes
November 7, 2016-11-07

Present: Allison Murray (President), Fiona Li (VP Academic), Marie Green (VP External), Melanie Kampen (VP Conferences), Trent Voth (Biblical), Steve Hewko (Wycliffe), Matthew Bowman (Trinity), Sheng Peng Guo (Historical)

Regrets: Lindsay Ann Cox (Emmanuel),

1. Housekeeping

MOTION: Matthew/Shen Peng
The minutes be accepted.

It was pointed out that there was no record of vote for the motion to offer compensation to the proposed CRO/secretary position. The motion was carried and the past minutes will be corrected.

The minutes be accepted as amended.

Carried.

The TGSA private group on One Drive has been working well to share information between Board Members until today. It is hoped that it is just a glitch.

2. Event Debrief

The TGSA Oktoberfest Pub Night occurred on October 21 at the Duke of York Pub and Restaurant. There were approximately 20 students present representing all of the colleges except Trinity. It was agreed that it was a good evening and we had a good turnout.

3. Event Planning

The Mental Health workshop will be rescheduled for the winter term. Catherine Green McWright, author of a recent book on academics and mental health, will be visiting Wycliffe at that time so it may be advantageous to connect her presentation with the workshop.

November Third Thursday (Nov 17th) Winter Term Events? Was intended to be a movie night. There are several options available.

- a. Screen a movie in a TST room
- b. go to Hot Docs
- c. go Tiff Bell Lightbox (a student discount is available)

Matthew has agreed to work with Allison to plan and advertise this event.

All Board Members were asked to begin thinking about events for the winter term, especially professional development events. Some PD events suggested include:

- a. Option B (if not an academic career then what)
- b. Preparing submissions for articles and presentations at conferences.

4. College Updates

November 26th Wycliffe will be hosting [A Night with Inx Choi](#), creator of *Kim's Convenience*. The event will include a Q&A about art, faith, etc.

Trinity has had a slow start and most of the events are in the winter term.

Knox First Thursday events have happened twice. In total seven people have attended but not at the same time. A good venue has not yet been discovered, and so different places are being tried. The college has also seen the need to develop collegiality. Therefore the college has begun a monthly colloquium. November 23 is the next colloquium and will be presented by Glenn McCullough on dreams and theology using the work of Jung.

The issue about the inability to withdraw from the extended health benefits is being investigated by Orvin Lao.

5. Area Updates

The Biblical seminar continues today at Cody Library at Wycliffe.

The Canadian Society of Church History has issued a Call for papers for its Conference at Ryerson University May 31-June 2, 2017. The theme for the congress is "Far and Wide" although papers do not need to address the theme.

The annual Winter Meeting of the American Society of Church History will be held from Thursday to Sunday, January 5-8, 2017, in Denver, Colorado, at the 131st Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association

The liturgy seminar is November 9, and the theme is "Baptising the Dead and Burying the Baptised: Life and Death in Sacraments"

6. VP Conference Update

The TGSA Conference will be March 17th 2017 in the TST building. The theme is "Power and Knowledge in Theological Education" with both paper and panel proposals being accepted. The entire building has been reserved for the event. The schedule of the event is yet to be determined. The Call for Papers will be issued this week and the deadline for submissions is January 13th, 2017.

M.J. volunteered to assist with adjudicating and selecting papers. Additional help will be required at various phases of preparation. Dr. McLean will be approached for financial assistance from TST.

7. VP External Update

Marie was unable to attend because of poor health. She is awaiting some briefing notes and an update from Jasmine. There was a police presence at the meeting and this is typical.

The Board was reminded that Orvin Lau is the TST rep on UTSU and Marie is the TGSA rep.

The BD students are trying to establish a TST wide organization equivalent to TGSA. Discussion is taking place as to what the relationship between TST Roundtable (the BD committee name) and TGSA will be. November 22 will be the inaugural meeting of TST Roundtable during the lunch hour. Allison is planning to attend.

8. Treasurer's Report

Gord will send me an electronic copy of the Treasurer's Report to attach as an appendix. The Treasurer's report was distributed. (see Appendix)

9. VP Academic Report

The report was quite extensive and so I have asked Fiona to scan and send me her notes. This is a very rough draft of what I could get.

TST with SSHRC deadline but they have already pushed it to the latest date possible because of the process for selection. Flyers are doable for the welcome passages, it's just some information may not yet be available, but patters can be included.

We could have a spring seminar but that would cancel out all the first year students.

The cohort courses are still being reviewed as are the GPA situation and so Academic Appeal is being recommended for those who have an A- with a GPA lower than a 3.7.

The Latin exam needs to be made equal to Hebrew and Greek.

TST language approved courses ensure competency. If you've studied at TST then you don't need to do the exam.

Handbook ambiguities will be fixed in the handbook.

M.J. will be on the TST library committee.

The outcome workshop has been distributed to all advanced degree student.

Appeals policy has had a training session.

Other items were listed.

Membership GCTS everyone will be temporarily put in.

There is one case in situ that we have been made aware of in case advocacy needed in the future.

There are still complaints about the R&S course.

Students in the class will be asked to contact Allison or Fiona if they have concerns, TGSA will ask if the evaluations will be shared with TGSA.

Everyone has agreed with the increased flexibility, but ensuring that the shape of the essays is clear to ensure that there is equity between the essay and the exam. Be sure it is the student's prerogative to choose what they will do.

MOTION: Allison/Trent.

Recommend the amendment to the policy pertaining to General Exams with the provisions that the student has input in the process of deciding a format, that equity of grading between exam and essay formats is maintained, and that there is clarity of the expectations should the essay process be selected.

Carried.

10. Referendum Update

There has been no response to CRO job posting

Concerns were raised as to the TST staff editorializing about TGSA issues at orientation this year, Specific Concern was raised about staff's editorializing on the upcoming referendum. TGSA will inform TST that staff comments about TGSA issues are not appreciated and that TGSA would prefer TST Administrators remain neutral regarding the referendum.

There was a lengthy discussion about the referendum policy and the mechanism for triggering referenda. The current policy has no direction, guidelines or procedure about triggering a referendum, including the current proposed referendum on student fees.

UofT will be approached about the possibility of current students being allowed to opt in or out, and establishing a firm date by which all new students will need to pay the fees.

An email will be prepared and distributed to all AD students that will link to a single question survey about whether or not people wish to have a referendum on this issue.

A video will be prepared to inform the students of the issue.

11. Student Survey

Deferred

12. Requests Received

Deferred.

13. Adjourned 4:08

Amended and approved – Dec 7th, 2016