November 14, 2018 Meeting 3:30pm-5pm

Present: MJ Perry, Mike Anderson, Leanne Ketcham, Liam Farrer, Sam Needham, Fiona Li, Emma CW Ceruti

Regrets: Gina Jungyeon Bae, Ethan Rector, Carolyn Mackie, Robbie Walker, Barbara Helms

Informal discussions started at 3:31 p.m.

-prayer happened

-Guest: Sam Needham, TST director from UTSU.

-Reminder that attendance at other colleges’ events would be much appreciated.

-Concerns that we have as students about the removal of the departments are things that the faculty are concerned as well.

-Better commitment amongst the Board members to go to other people’s events.

-New business proposed is Sam Needham as a non-voting member on Board.

Looking at Reports:

October 15 Systematic Theology’s first meeting with students 🡪 commend Ethan for his organization.

-historical rep: poster will be sent out very soon to college reps; M.J. has the talk’s title from Alan Hayes.

-Liam will be pursuing avenues for conference locations.

-Larkin is “technically” accessible

Further discussion ensued

Emma in light of time, moved on to her report.

Liam raised a question about academic rigour of professional teachers.

Emma does not know the complete details of the professional teachers outline, such as the ratio for teachers and professors.

Leanne entered the meeting at 4:17 p.m. Quorum established.

1. Liam motion to approve agenda. Mike seconds.
   1. Discussion: add into New Business motion to move Sam Needham as a nonvoting member on board at Director for TST at UTSU. Unanimous approval with addition.
   2. Liam moves to add Sam Needham up in the agenda to New Business. Carries unanimously.
2. Approval of Sam as nonvoting member of board: Liam moves. Leanne seconds. Unanimously carries. Welcome Sam!
3. Approval of minutes from October meeting: Leanne moves. Liam seconds.Discussion: edits made. Carries Unanimously
4. Treasurer Report: Liam moves. Mike seconded. Unanimous
5. VP Academic: Liam moved to accept report as previously reported in the October 10. MJ approved. Carries unanimously.
6. Library Council Meeting: Did not meet
7. Conference Committee: Finances and location in process.
   1. Professor Nuscia is unable to speak due to prior engagements. Liam to pursue other options.
   2. Conference committee meeting TBA
   3. Should we charge for the conference? $8 on eventbrite, or $5/day at the door. Presenters and board members don’t have to pay.
   4. See report in appendix.
   5. Future budgets need to be reassessed to allocate adequate funds for a conference— renting building space alone is twice the current budget.
   6. Next steps: Liam to talk to Dorcas asking her to advocate; Liam to talk to college presidents; Liam to get in touch with AAR. Mike suggested that TGSA ask the TST directors to advocate on our behalf.
   7. Emma to follow up with Academic Council to inquire about the relationship between TST and TGSA and TST’s responsibility to TGSA.
   8. Call for Papers: three formats
   9. Liam moves to edit and send CFP to Fiona for distribution. Emma seconds. Unanimously approved.
   10. Leanne moves to accept conference committee report. Emma seconds. Unanimously approved.
8. Area Reps
   1. Liam moves to accept area rep reports. Leanne seconds. Discussion: MJ to add that history profs are keen. Unanimously carried.
9. College Reps
   1. Leanne moves to accept college rep reports. Emma seconds. Unanimously approved.
10. TST director report included. Liam moves to accept. Mike seconds. Unanimously carried
11. Fiona moves to defer PD and Social Planning and TGSA Merch to next meeting. Liam seconds. Unanimously carried
12. New business: MJ asks record to reflect her gratitude at the card received.

Adjourn at 5:01

Area Reps’ Report:

Biblical - Deborah

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:

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.)

Events would continue to be a combination of social and formal.

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.

10-15 minutes at the gatherings will be assigned for sharing research discoveries and problems.

Other topics for presentation will be solicited at the December meeting.

Contextual - N/A

DMin - Barbara

MA - N/A

ThM - N/A

College Reps’ Reports:

Emmanuel - Gina

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. 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.

St. Mike’s - N/A

Trinity - Robbie

Wycliffe - Carolyn

VP-Academic Report - Emma

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.

VP - External - Ethan

Treasurer's Report - Leanne

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

Library Council’s Report

TST- Director’s Search Report

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

Appeal’s Committee Report

New Business

The Canadian Council of Churches’ General Secretary has gotten back to us about our proposal for a nation-wide conference. Below is the correspondence, which I move that it NOT be included in the meeting minutes/package and will not be posted on the website.

--------------------------------------------------------------------

Fiona Li - TGSA President <tgsa@utoronto.ca>

Fri 2018-11-02, 11:25 AM

Hi Peter,

Thank you for the update! We would be delighted to keep in touch! Please let us know when you would like to meet again.

Many thanks,

Fiona

Fiona Li

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President

TST Graduate Students' Association

47 Queen's Park Crescent East, Toronto Ontario M5S 2C3, Canada

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/tstgsa/

Web: https://tgsa.sa.utoronto.ca/

Email: tgsa@utoronto.ca

Twitter: @tstgsa

From: Peter Noteboom <noteboom@councilofchurches.ca>

Sent: October 30, 2018 10:29 AM

To: Fiona Li - TGSA President

Cc: emmacw.ceruti@mail.utoronto.ca; Ethan Wayne Rector; Leanne Ketcham; Liam Farrer

Subject: RE: TGSA's response and proposal

Thank you so much, Fiona and the TGSA Executive, for the proposal.

The Commission on Faith and Witness has seen the proposal and would like to stay in touch as we proceed.

I plan to attend an upcoming meeting of the heads of the TST schools where I will also be asking for help and guidance.

Can we stay in touch about this proposal? May I suggest that we connect again toward the end of November or early December to compare notes once again?

Thanks!

Peter

Peter Noteboom

General Secretary

The Canadian Council of Churches

Phone: +1 416 939 3595

Email: noteboom@councilofchurches.ca.

From: Fiona Li - TGSA President <torontotheology@outlook.com> On Behalf Of Fiona Li - TGSA President

Sent: October 10, 2018 10:02 PM

To: Peter Noteboom <noteboom@councilofchurches.ca>

Cc: emmacw.ceruti@mail.utoronto.ca; Ethan Wayne Rector <ethan.rector@mail.utoronto.ca>; Leanne Ketcham <leanne.ketcham@gmail.com>; Liam Farrer <liam.farrer@mail.utoronto.ca>

Subject: TGSA's response and proposal

Hello Peter!

Thank you once again for meeting with me last week! Last week, the TGSA exec met and came up with a proposal to bring forward to the Board, and the entire Board approved of it at today's meeting.

Attached is a formal letter from TGSA's VP-conference, Liam Farrrer, stating what we believe would be the best way to gather theological students across the nation. We hope that this is an idea you can bring forward to the Theological Education meeting in Montreal.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact us at this email address or our VP-conference directly.

We hope to hear from you soon, and wish you a good and productive meeting.

Peace,

Fiona, on behalf of TGSA

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.