**Special TGSA Board Meeting**

January 17th, 2017 10:00am – 11:00

**Agenda**

1. Review, amend, and approve the ballot for the upcoming TGSA referendum on Student Life fees.

Meeting convened at 10:10am

**Present:** Fiona Li, Melanie Kampen, Trent Voth, Benjamin Lujan, Robyn Boeré, Marie Green, Matthew Bowman, Allison Murray

**Minutes**

The referendum committee submitted a version of the ballot question language and a description of the referendum. The language in the ballot had the unanimous approval of the referendum committee. The committee also recommended that that the board allow for the randomization of the voting options, but not permit a spoil ballot option on the electronic voting system.

The board reviewed the ballot as presented by the committee and made a few alterations to improve clarity but not amend the ballot substantially.

MOTION - Melanie put forward a motion, seconded by Benjamin, to approve the preamble and the question as follows:

**Title:** TGSA Student Life Fees Referendum

**Description:**

Currently TST Graduate Students' Association (TGSA) members do not pay University of Toronto non-academic incidental fees and do not have access to corresponding services. Due to Ontario Law we cannot be compelled by TST or U of T to pay these fees, but conjoint students can as a group opt to begin paying them. Paying these fees would enable access to Athletics, Hart House, and 12 Student Life offices. This vote will not impact access to Student Residences, Accessibility Services, or Crisis Response. 2016-2017 fees were: $416.17 per session for full time students, and $83.25 per session for part time students. These fees are governed by student majority boards and historically have had marginal annual increases. Quorum for this referendum is 50 votes and requires a two-thirds majority to pass. The outcome of the referendum is binding on the TGSA Board. TGSA will forward the voting results as well as official student feedback to the University Affairs Board at U of T for ratification.

**Question:**

The choice in this referendum concerns whether TGSA members enrolled in conjoint programs (MA, ThM, DMin, ThD, PhD) will pay the U of T non-academic incidental fees and receive full access to the corresponding services, or continue to not pay these fees and decline access to these services.

\_\_ Students SHOULD pay the non-academic incidental fees

\_\_ Students SHOULD NOT pay the non-academic incidental fees

Unanimously approved. Motion carried.

MOTION – Robyn put forward a motion, seconded by Melanie, that the board accept the recommendations of the referendum committee regarding the vote spoil option and the randomization of vote choices on the electronic voting system.

Unanimously approved. Motion carried.

To prepare paper ballots for contingency purposes, the board discussed in what order the “should” and “should not” options should appear. Robyn pointed out that standard practice in a referendum is to have the non-status quo option presented first. The board moved to randomly assign the order using a computerized random number generator. From this “should” was randomly selected to take precedence on the paper ballot.

Allison commissioned board members to be speaking to their colleagues and reminding them to vote.

Robyn, Matthew, & Allison discussed recording & distribution of campaign videos; time to co-ordinate over the next two days.

ADJOURNMENT – 10:45am.