Area Reps’ Report:

Biblical - Deborah

Pastoral - N/A

Systematics - Ethan

Historical - M.J.

Contextual - N/A

DMin - Barbara

MA - N/A

ThM - N/A

College Reps’ Reports:

Emmanuel - Gina

Knox - Mike

* I have been advocating for GD study space at Knox, since our former space was lost when ICS moved into the Knox ~~dungeon~~ basement.  I pointed out that we are the only TST college which doesn’t have dedicated study space for GD students, and that seems to have motivated them to remedy the situation.  As I’ve mentioned in the past, I believe the colleges should move toward a common standard for GD students, and study space would be one of the main components of this (funding & TA opportunities being the others).

Regis - Liam

* Regis College’s Governing Council has approved the five year strategic plan which will begin to be implemented next academic year. We are currently searching for a new dean to begin a five year term in the 2019-2020 academic year.

St. Mike’s - N/A

Trinity - Robbie

Wycliffe - Carolyn

* Nothing to report at this time

VP-Academic Report - Emma

VP-Academic Report – Emma

Wednesday, December 12th, 2018

**Academic Council — Monday, November 26th, 2018**

1. MTS stream in Theology, Spirituality, and the Arts
   * No new details
2. TST affiliated membership of NAIITS: An Indigenous Learning Community (formerly North American Institute for Indigenous Theological Studies)
   * No new details
3. Graduate Status for Professional Teaching Staff
   * No new details
4. Post-Baccalaureate in Theology and Interreligious Engagement [DISCUSSION ONLY]
   * See Appendix A
5. Hiring Process for new TST Director
   * The committee will begin to review applications starting January 14th, 2019.
6. Research on Human Subjects in Basic Degree Courses [DISCUSSION ONLY]
   * See Appendix B

**Graduate Studies Council — Tuesday, December 4th, 2018**

(Emma and Ethan were unable to attend the meeting, but I spoke with Colleen Shantz about what was discussed.)

1.    AAR/SBL

o   There were 9 graduate students who presented.

o   The reception was a success. Both graduate students and alumni attended.

2.    ThD/ PhD(SMC)/ MA(SMC) Degree Closure

o   GCTS met with the Provost’s Office. It was confirmed that students who have relapsed will have the option to be reinstated and graduate with a ThM (option 2) instead.

3.    Training for Ethics Review for Graduate Students & Faculty

o   The training will be on February 12th, 2019 from 10:00am to 1:00pm at the TST Building.

o   Please email DMin Director, Sarah Travis in order to register for this event (dmin.director@utoronto.ca).

4.    Graduate Applications for Fall 2019

o   The online application will close soon.

**QUESTIONS/FOLLOW-UP:**

* **Academic Council**
  + 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
* **Graduate Studies Council**
  + Follow-up with ThD/PhD (SMC)/MA (SMC) Degree Closure
  + Follow-up with Ethics Review Training

APPENDIX A

**Post-Baccalaureate in Theology and Interreligious Engagement**

**Faculty Involved**

o   Dorcas Gordon

o   Darren Dias

o   Tom Reynolds

o   Michael Stoeber

o   Michelle Voss Roberts

**Summary**

“The proposed TST Post-Baccalaureate Conjoint Certificate in Theology and Interreligious Engagement is intended to provide university graduates with a general university-level foundation in theological and practice-based approaches to religious pluralism and interreligious engagement through the exploration of religious texts and histories, spiritualities and practices, and theologies and theories of religions.

It would require seven semester courses (3.5 FCE) and could be taken on a full-time or part-time basis. The focus of the conjoint certificate is to provide the necessary academic foundation for those working in multi-faith contexts as well as those who are interested in developing this area for professional development. For example, hospital or school chaplains, social workers, etc.

A second focus is to provide necessary background in the area of religious texts and histories, theologies of religion and contextual practices for those interested in applying to various conjoint professional degrees such as the Master in Pastoral Studies, Master of Religious Education, Master of Divinity and general and research-oriented programs such as the Master of Theological Studies and MA in Theological Studies.

It will be offered by all seven-member institutions of the Toronto School of Theology (Emmanuel College, Knox College, Regis College, St. Augustine’s Seminary, St. Michael's College, Trinity College, Wycliffe College).”

**Effective Date**

(TBD)

**Academic Rationale**

“The general purpose of the Post-Baccalaureate Conjoint Certificate in Theology and Interreligious Engagement is to provide university graduates with a means to understand and to appreciate religious diversity and to explore practices of fruitful dialogue between religious differences in the academy (through research) and in ministry and spiritual leadership contexts.

Achieved through the completion of a limited sequence of courses, the certificate is intended for people who are involved professionally in ministerial and leadership setting as well as for those for whom the issue is pressing (for example, with the increased religious diversity in families).

It is also intended for university graduates who are interested in applying for admission to TST’s conjoint programs such as the MPS, MRE, MDiv, MA (or a similar program elsewhere).

Very few Canadian universities offer such a Certificate.”

***(VP ACADEMIC NOTE: Under “Academic Rationale” it states that “Very few Canadian universities offer such a Certificate.” Are there other universities in other countries, such as the United States, that offer a similar certificate? If so, are you examining these other programs in order to better inform this potential program? Darren Dias said that they had examined universities both in Canada, the United States, and Latin America with similar programs. One university that they used as an example was Claremont University in California. However, he also said that they would make sure to create a TST-specific program for students living in Toronto/Ontario.)***

**Need and Demand**

“The Certificate will have both full-time and part-time students. A cohort experience is not intended. We expect many students will have full or part time employment as the Certificate will be of value and interest to people already working in religiously diverse settings such as hospitals, schools, prison chaplains, etc.

We expect few, if any, international students. There is no intrinsic reason why international students could not enter and benefit from the program, but we think that few international students will want to navigate the logistics of study permits and foreign living arrangements for an educational experience barely more than a semester in length.

Students will be taking existing second-entry undergraduate courses in the same classes as Master of Divinity, Master of Theological Studies, and other SEUG students. As they will be meeting the same admission requirements and course entry requirements as SEUG students, we expect that they will enrich the educational experience of the classroom and benefit from the collegiality of students in established programs.”

**Admission Requirements**

“Certificate students will be taking second-entry undergraduate courses (which TST calls “basic degree courses”), and therefore admission requirements for the Certificate will be the same as for admission into basic degree programs. Applicants must have a bachelor’s degree from a recognized university, college, or Indigenous Institute with a CGPA of 2.7 for the entire degree.

Normally this should be a Bachelor of Arts degree with a concentration in a field of the humanities or social sciences. Where applicants have a different post-secondary background, TST may require them to begin their conjoint Certificate with courses that will build their skills of research, critical thinking, and expository writing.

All TST students register in one of its seven-member colleges; TST itself does not register students. Each college will administer admissions according to its procedures and deadlines for second-entry undergraduate programs (which TST calls “basic degree programs”). These practices vary somewhat from college to college, but always according to the policies agreed on by all colleges and published in the TST *Basic Degree Handbook*.”

**Program Requirements**

“1. *Number of courses to be taken.* The Certificate requires seven courses.

2. *Distribution of courses.* One course must be taken from each of the groupings of courses:

o   i) Texts and Histories

o   ii) Spiritualities and Practices

o   iii) Theologies and Theories of Religion

3. Course selections must explore 2 different religions.

4. At least one course that includes practices of inter-religious engagement.

5. *Non-course requirements.* The conjoint Certificate can be earned through coursework alone.

The conjoint Certificate will not require full-time residency, since it is intended to be flexible and accessible to students in full-time employment.

It will not require placement experiences, since it will not be a professional certification.

It will not require comprehensive or summative exams, since it is designed not as a program but as studies qualifying the student for entry into a program.

For the same reasons, it will not require extracurricular commitments and will not have a formative component.

Nevertheless, students in the conjoint Certificate will be welcome to participate in the community life of their college of registration and the TST at large.

6. *Completion within four academic years.* Full-time students will be able to complete all requirements within two semesters, since a full-time course load in basic degree programs at TST is five courses a semester.

However, we also wish to provide for working students who can only take one course at a time, fall and winter. Since students will benefit educationally from a consistent trajectory towards the academic goal, we do not wish to provide for students taking fewer than two courses a year. (Students who have compassionate or human rights reasons for leaves of absence will be accommodated on a case-by-case basis.)

7. *Marking.* Students will be marked according to TST’s policy for basic degree (second-entry undergraduate) studies, which is adapted from the University of Toronto grading policy.”

**Consultation**

(TBD)

**Resources**

“TST students register in a member college. For basic degree (second-entry undergraduate degree) programs at TST, each member college has the authority, within the agreed standards common to all colleges as published in TST’s *Basic Degree Handbook,* to offer admission, administer course registrations, monitor student progress, enforce academic and non-academic discipline, and certify for graduation. The conjoint Certificate in Theology and Interreligious Engagement will be administered in the same way. Students will also have access to the academic counsel of the TST Graduate Coordinator at TST, who can advise them on the courses that might prepare students for their prospective area of study in one of the conjoint programs.

Conjoint Certificate students will take second-entry undergraduate courses offered by TST. Consequently, no additional faculty resources, library resources, college or University services, or space will be required.

The proposed conjoint Certificate has no implications for existing agreements with other institutions.”

**Oversight and Accountability: Review**

“The conjoint Certificate will be added to Schedule “B” of TST’s Memorandum of Agreement with the University of Toronto. It will be added to TST’s *Basic Degree Handbook* with a description of its learning outcomes, scope, and standards, and with regulations establishing its curricular parameters and admission and graduation requirements. As indicated above, within the requirements commonly agreed by all the TST member colleges, each member TST college will be responsible for administering the conjoint Certificate for its own students.

Under TST’s Memorandum of Agreement with the University, TST is responsible to the Provost’s office for the quality assurance of all conjoint TST programs. The next cyclical review of TST’s programs under the U of T Quality Assurance Process is scheduled for 2019–2020. Thus, if the conjoint Certificate admits its first students in September 2018, we will have a year’s experience with it when we move into the next UTQAP cyclical review. This will be an ideal time to take account of the educational effectiveness of the conjoint Certificate.”

APPENDIX B

**Research on Human Subjects in Basic Degree Courses**

“This is how the Faculty of Arts and Science deals with it in their Academic Handbook:

o   If you are an undergraduate course instructor with an assignment that involves human participants (surveys, interviews, etc.), policy requires that you get ethics clearance before students begin the assignment. This includes assignments where other students, even in the same course, are the human participants.

o   You will need to complete an Undergraduate Review Course Template Form and submit it to the appropriate Delegated Ethics Review Committee. This is an expedited process and many academic units have their own such committee. Ask your UG Coordinator for further details and see the Research & Innovation website under “Undergraduate Research.”

This is what is on the UofT Research and Ethicswebsite in relation to Course-based Research:

o   Course-based research involving human participants is a valuable part of students’ research experience. Course-based research may include undergraduate student-initiated projects, and undergraduate or graduate course template protocols. It is vital that such projects be designed and conducted with the same level of professionalism as graduate and faculty research.

o   The University is responsible for reviewing all course-based research involving human participants. Ethics review of these projects must adhere to the principles outlined in the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans, 2nd Edition (TCPS2). It is the responsibility of both the student and the supervisor/instructor to understand and comply with federal and University policies governing research involving humans and to submit an ethics protocol.

o   If you are an undergraduate or graduate course instructor with an assignment that involves human participants, you will need to submit a course template for review. If you are an undergraduate student conducting an independent research project for a course, you and your supervisor will need to submit an undergraduate ethics review application.

o   The process for submission and review depends on whether your department or faculty has a Delegated Ethics Review Committee (DERC) to review course-based protocols*.*

o   The DERC list and contact information are below. If your department or faculty has a DERC, please submit to them directly, using the appropriate form.

o   If your department or faculty does NOT have a DERC, please create and submit your protocol through MRHP.

o   Please note, course-based research reviewed through a DERC must be minimal risk. In exceptional circumstances if a unit supports higher risk course-based research, protocols must be submitted for ethics review through the appropriate Research Ethics Board (REB).

*[We know that TST does not have its own DERC and we also know that it doesn’t fit into its new process as it is based on the UofT HR system, which TST is not part of.]* ”

VP-Conference Report - Liam

I contacted Bishop Andrews to request to meet in order to ask him personally about donating space at Wycliffe College. I have not heard back from him or his office. At least two student groups (Women in Theology and the History Students Cohort) have informally spoke to me about submitting panels. I have approached Brian Butcher, an Eastern Catholic systematician to be the third voice on our panel, pending board approval, he seems eager to assist. He recently spoke at Wycliffe’s Colloquium on scripture so he has been actively thinking about this kind of thing recently. I’ve also received some feedback on the Submissions guidelines so I’m considering editing them for clarity with the board’s permission. With Amy’s resignation I would like to replace her on the committee and if possible would prefer another member so we have an odd number during the paper adjudication process.

VP - External - Ethan

Treasurer's Report - Leanne

In November I was finally able to track down our budget from TST and deposits have been made. We ran into another issue with setting up our online banking, but it was rectified on 12/12/18. Reimbursements have finally been made to Emma CW Ceruti and Gord Brown for the September SSHRC workshop and welcome back BBQ. My apologies and thanks for your patience!!

So far this year we have spent $485.04. Our current bank total is: $4510.81

Library Council’s Report

TST- Director’s Search Report

The committee has scheduled a conference call for Thursday December 13 in the morning.

Appeals Committee Report

New Business

Inquiries received:

1. Cohort for Mothers with young children: This was brought to my attention by a PhD student at Wycliffe. She is also a mother with young children, and was wondering if we can help form “some kind of cohort of doctoral students who were also mothers of young children (aged 5 and under) in order to share, support, and encourage each other during this challenging road” (taken from her email received on December 6). I told her this is an interesting idea and that I would bring it to the Board for further discussion.
2. Lenten activity: This is an activity suggested by a PhD student, and it is basically a re-enactment of the trial of Jesus under Canadian law, based on the claims and actions he made in the different Gospels. He suggested getting a group of lawyers, and even a judge to play those roles, but I wonder if it would be easier, that is if we decide to help organize this event, if those roles can be played by TST students.
3. Regalia: This was brought to my attention by a PhD student from Knox. She was interested in participating in the design process for the new conjoint PhD convocation regalia. However, the answers she has been getting were not helpful and vague. I sent an email to David about this, and he got back to me recently. He asked the Director, and she told him that , “all design takes place at the college-level” (taken from his email received on December 11). As such, the student will have to speak with either her Dean/Principal about this.

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.

**Appendix C: Fall Travel Grants**

The 2018 Fall TGSA conference award winners have been determined (both $500):

Eser Kim

Sheng Ping Guo

Details to how this transaction will be done, will be brought back to the Board at our January Meeting.

**Appendix D: Discussion with Colleen about booking rooms**

She will bring this up to CORMS.

**Appendix E: History Colloquium**

Course that existed on a Wednesday → this should not have existed .

→ David Neelands = Robbie

→ David Wagschall = Fiona

Appendix F: Under-represented group

→ Women in Theology group