Area Reps report:

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| Area and Rep’s Name | Content of report: |
| Biblical - Paul |  |
| Pastoral - Beth Anne |  |
| Systematics - Sam | Weekly Tuesday gatherings of systematics students, usually at Regis Solarium. 4pm. Typical attendance, six students or so. Always slightly different makeup. Yesterday (Oct 29), we switched it up and did a 6pm social at Firkin on Bay. Very successful, saw a dozen or so systematicians there. In need of ideas for good academic events--paper talks, faculty engagement, etc. |
| Historical - M.J. | January 15 - Allison MurrayConversation about Melancthon in May |
| Contextual - Maureen | Potential meeting in November |
| DMin - N/A |  |
| MA - Hannah |  |
| ThM - N/A |  |

College Reps’ Report:

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| College and Rep’s name | Content of Report: |
| Emmanuel - Jordan | Oct 1 we held a grad student event.  |
| Knox - Mike A. | Purple and proud, grad life at Knox carries on. A few items to bring to the board’s attention:* One student asked whether we could reconsider paying the (Student Life?) fee for use of athletic facilities, etc., now that students would have an opportunity to opt out. My questions: Is this fee on the ‘opt out’ list for U of T students? Would U of T allow us to join in on this, knowing that half of our students would probably opt out?
* I would like to gather information from the other colleges on two matters:
1. What does your college have in terms of a graduate student society/group, formal or informal, and what is its relationship to TGSA? Knox is processing this matter (we have nothing formal), and it would help to know what other colleges have in place.
2. Does your college provide writing assistance to grad students (e.g. in the form of writing tutors whom the college pays to help the students)?
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| Regis - Meghan  |  |
| St. Mikes - Mariia |  |
| Trinity - N/A |  |
| Wycliffe - Carolyn  |  |

President’s Report:

Just a couple of things to follow up with you all:

1. I checked with TST with regards to the conference travel awards and an issue that a couple of Board members noted last year about repeated winners (i.e. someone winning the award twice in a row). David has confirmed with me in an email correspondence (dated May 27, 2019) that at least for the TGSA awards there had been no repeats. There was one repeat in the TST awards, but that incident was separated by 3 years in between.
2. TST Directorship: As you all know there was a failed search last year, and so the search committee was disbanded. At a recent Board of Trustees meeting, it was revealed that a group of CORMS members have been looking at potential internal candidates.

VP-Academic’s report

Academic Council has met twice and the Graduate Studies Council has met once since our last meeting. Here are relevant points from those meetings.

* Curriculum Committee
	+ There are concerns about the make-up and functioning of the curriculum committee, especially as it pertains to course approvals. The council passed a motion mandating: “That the College Representatives appointed to the TST Curriculum Committee be those who have direct responsibility for/participation in the course approval process at their own college.” This is intended to streamline the course approval process and leave the committee more time to fulfill its mandate in particular where the ad hoc committee reviewing it found it was not meeting minimum expectations in regard to:
		- ecumenical cooperation encouraged
		- communication on duplication of courses
		- review of breadth of offerings
		- norms for grading practices (not sure what this means)
		- reviewing grading practices
		- overall quality assurance
	+ A new course approval form is also being floated which may or may not help address some of the issues above. The motion, as it was passed, likely means that deans will now also be sitting on the curriculum committee for the whole of TST, as opposed to simply the committees in their colleges.
* Admissions update:
	+ 31 new PhD’s 17 domestic and 14 international. Of the international group, the largest number are Korean followed by students from the US
	+ 16 MA 9 domestic 5 international..
	+ The admissions portal is open. Come one, come all.
* ThD Closure
	+ 56% of the lapsed students have responded to an invitation to finish before final closure. 10% have responded that they are withdrawing, 20% have asked for the ThM. The rest want to finish (23 students)
		- The primary question that I have is if an influx of 23 students who had previously lapsed in their program is going to have an effect on the availability of supervisory committees.
* PhD requirements
	+ It was noted at GSC that people are having trouble passing the language exams, and there is some question as to whether the TST is going to clap down on the granting of language fulfillments to incoming students from institutions where the standards on languages, particularly biblical languages, might not be up to U of T standards. There may be movement towards exams for everyone, regardless of past transcripts.
	+ There is also a concern that the requirements for the Comprehensive PhD exams are too lax. Perhaps this might mean increasing the number of pages read, areas covered, etc.
* New Form for conjoint PhD students:
	+ There is already a handbook provision covering such a form, so it can be imposed on current students. This is just for students before General exam, though there will be one for students who are writing the dissertation forthcoming.
* Research ethics:
	+ There is a new committee being formed internal to TST to assess “low risk” human subject research, but it is still not clear exactly how the “low risk” will be assessed.
* SHRCC:
	+ SHRCC applications have been adjudicated, there is some concern that too much technical jargon is being used in TST applications that give them less appeal to the broader committee. There is conversation around revising the Grant Application Workshop to do more around issues of using more general language. I added to that conversation that timelines are things that need to be considered, given that the SHRCC deadline is fairly close to the beginning of the school year.

Respectfully Submitted, Michael Rogers, SJ Academic Vice President.

VP-Conference’s Report

VP-External’s Report

VP attended a second-entry students’ union event by UTSU on Oct. 9. The president of UTSU, our second-entry (professional) faculties rep, and the reps of the dental, nursing, medical, law, and theology faculties. Talked about the need for better information about health insurance and mental health resources, among other issues. Good rapport.

Treasurer’s Report-- In October we spent $137.55 to support the TST event on becoming a productive writer. I have spoken with Diane Hanson at TST regarding TGSA’s budget. The enrollment numbers will be taken in the week following November 1. The budget check will be given to TGSA from TST during late November/early December. Future treasurer’s might consider a conversation with Sandeep, the TST financial person for receiving our budget earlier. Diane mentioned the idea of having a check released in September that is for half of the amount, and then once final numbers are taken in November another check is given with the remaining amount. Also, since non-mandatory fees are collected each term, we will likely receive more budget money later in the winter term after those enrollment numbers are confirmed and monies collected.

Respectfully submitted, Leanne Ketcham, Treasurer

TST- Library Report

Non-Voting Social Chair’s Report

We are always looking for new and better ways to connect with the community! We’ve been having Tuesday lunches after the cohort classes, which usually have something like five or six students show up. On Oct. 1, we had an all-grad-TST lunch during that time with pizza and salad. Some 30 students present.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Facebook Group Concern
2. Google Calendar