Area Reps report:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Area and Rep’s Name | Content of report: |
| Biblical - Paul |  |
| Pastoral - Beth Anne |  |
| Systematics - Sam | for the last two weeks, no meetings--willing to entertain ideas for a year end event! Otherwise, weekly Tuesday gatherings have been successful, ~7 students per gathering |
| Historical - M.J. | No Report |
| Contextual - Maureen |  |
| DMin - N/A |  |
| MA - Hannah | No Report |
| ThM - N/A |  |
| Library - MJ | No Report |

College Reps’ Report:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| College and Rep’s name | Content of Report: |
| Emmanuel - Jordan |  |
| Knox - Mike A. |  |
| Regis - Meghan | Nov. 21 - Lecture by Dr. Tamara Grdzelidze, “Creation and Ecological Issues in Modern Orthodox Theology,” presented jointly by the Fraser Centre for Practical Theology (Regis) and the Sheptytsky Institute (USMC).  Nov. 22 - The 2019 Chancellor’s Lecture by Fr. Francis X. Clooney, SJ, “Constantine Beschi SJ (1680-1747): Inventing a South Indian Catholicism with the Help of St. Joseph.”  Nov. 23 - Regis College Convocation and the celebration of the titular feast of the college.  Nov. 28 - Lecture by Dr. Tamara Grdzelidze, “The Crisis of Borders: National Territories and Orthodox Unity,” presented jointly by the Orthodox School of Theology (Trinity), the Sheptytsky Institute (USMC), and Regis.  Nov. 29 – Lecture by Fr. P. Adam Hincks, SJ, “The Vatican Observatory: From Early Modernity to Modern Research.”  Dec. 3 – Advent Lessons and Carols, evening service; welcome to everyone on campus, hope to grow to a more popular campus-wide annual event  Dec. 7 – Regis College Advent Retreat, led by Mary Jo Leddy; day-long event  Dec. 14 – Jan. 6 - college closed for Christmas break |
| St. Mikes - Mariia |  |
| Trinity - N/A |  |
| Wycliffe - Carolyn | WGS had a fun Christmas party for AD students last Friday.  I had one student ask me about additional resources for mental health funding via UTSU - thanks to Sam for his help with that.  A few students (including myself) are drafting a letter with some concerns for the administration. One issue that is perhaps more of a TST-wide issue than just a Wycliffe issue is that our faculty do not seem to be equipped or motivated to assist with SSHRC and other grant applications. I would be interested to hear from students at other schools to know if this is the experience across TST. I am wondering if TST would consider a training session for faculty on how to write SSHRC’s and how/why to coach students better through this process. |

VP-Academic’s report

* There were three major issues which came up at the last GSC meeting:

1. The elimination of the Graduate coordinator position by the board of trustees.
   * + The text of the materials considered reads: “In the spring of 2019 the TST Board, without broad consultation with the Graduate Centre for Theological Studies and the Graduate Studies Council, nor the Academic Council, unilaterally eliminated the position of the GCTS Graduate Coordinator. In doing so, the TST Board diminished the capacity of the Graduate Centre to ensure academic excellence in its programs and excellence in student experience. As a serious corollary of that action, the contractual secondment arrangement of the GCTS Director as well as the workload of the GCTS Director and GCTS staff was significantly and adversely affected.

*Motion: That the GSC request that the TST Board reinstate the position of GCTS Graduate Coordinator and immediately begin a search process to fill that position in order to further foster academic excellence in TST’s programs and excellence in student experience.*

* Among the main concerns are that it is too much of a workload on Colleen and that it may be in contravention of TST by-laws, since they specifically mention a graduate coordinator from the opening of the Conjoint programs. It seems in any event, because it puts too much work on Colleen and David, to be a change in the nature of their contracts.
* Having spoken with trustees about this, while they are sympathetic to the GSC’s request, for largely budgetary considerations, this seems to be a non-starter. In other words, they would love to restore the role, but the money simply isn’t there.

1. Admission and Language requirements:
   1. There is a movement afoot to make all students applying take language exams upon entry to prove the quality of the previous study. There is a question also, however, of how people would get through if they failed their exams. Evidence of a U of T Language course within 4 years would seem to be sufficient to the cause.
   2. There is also a question of admission of students to the conjoint PhD program who come from terminal degrees that might not have demonstrated their ability to do research. Would they need to all go to the conjoint MA first, or perhaps take four courses on the 3000 level. This would apply mostly to students from MDiv Programs, etc.
   3. Colleen noted that it may be time to revisit the cohort courses to make sure that they match overall program outcomes. If you have any ideas on that, please email me since that could be several meetings unto itself.
2. General admissions stuff.
   1. As of last tuesday, there were 56 applications for the conjoint programs, which is up from 48 at the same time last year. Admissions closes Friday the 13th, so more applications are expected.
   2. There is a question of privacy concerns in the process. Some TST professors would like applications to be shared across the College, Diane Henson, the Registrar, seems to be clear that that would be a violation of privacy laws. While TST is not actually subject to FIPA like the rest of U of T (We are not specifically named in the legislation) it does have to meet the standard of “need to know.” The question is basically one of whether you need to know something in order to do you job. Diane argues that, for most professors outside of the colleges that students might be applying to the answer would be no.

Respectfully submitted, Michael Rogers, SJ Academic Vice President.

VP-Conference’s Report

* Nothing to report. As it is end-of-term time and everyone is busy, I have deferred a meeting to next term. Ideally a meeting near the beginning of January could take place

VP-External’s Report

* Some health insurance issues continue to come to my attention. Most recently I directed a TGSA member advocating for a student to get in touch with Dermot, the UTSU VP for professional faculties.

Treasurer’s Report--

We received our budget check from TST at the start of December. It’s total is $4376.12. Our Fall travel grant award is being given to John Sampson of St. Mike’s and will be awarded in the coming week when I hear back from him about e-transfer information. The total is $200. In this past month we have spent $53.66 on November event costs and bank fees.

Non-Voting Social Chair’s Report

* Our “pop-up” (so named because I advertised it late!) study session on Dec. 10 was a success! Many thanks to Meghan Bowen for booking the space at Regis. Shall we hold another one on Friday? Would people show up?
* Spent ~$60 on the study session

President’s Report -

1. Board of Trustees Meeting - Monday December 9, 2019.
   1. Correspondence from chair of GSC → Result: The chair of the Board of Trustees and the new **interim** director will meet with the GSC director and discuss this issue and see if there is a way forward.
   2. UTQAP delayed until March 2021 → rationale given to Utoronto: we need more time to review our current structure and put into place a new one.
   3. ATS 2021 process has begun → Dorcas and other Board of Trustees received the drafts of new standards of ATS that will most likely be used to judge TST if the standards are approved at the next ATS AGM.
   4. Memorandum of Understanding (an internal doc regarding the colleges and their relationship with TST and with one another): the MOU committee drafted a new document that outlines what should be a shared vision of TST, such as students should take courses outside their own college, etc. This was a highly contentious document and was discussed greatly.
2. Schedule for the upcoming events is as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Event | January | February | March | April |
| ACADEMIC |  |  | **March 11, 2020**  **Book Review Workshop** |  |
| CAREER | **Jan. 22, 2020**  **Book and Article Publishing Workshop** |  | **March 25, 2020**  **Shifting Pedagogy - Online Teaching** |  |
| HEALTH |  | **February 12, 2020**  **Post-Doctoral Avenues**  **Snacks**  **Mental Health for Scholars, part 2**  **2 hour event** |  |  |
| SOCIAL |  |  |  | *April 1, 2020*  *AGM and Reception* |

Legend:

**Bolded Events = Mandatory, Students paid for these events.**

*Italicized Events = Not Mandatory, Students had the choice to opt-in or out of such events.*

So far, I have the following members lined up for organizing the following activities:

Mike Rogers on for January 22, 2020.

No one for February 12, 2020.

Mike Anderson for March 11, 2020.

Leanne for March 18, 2020.

No one for April 1, 2020.

It would be very helpful if I can get someone for the February 12, 2020. I can organize the April 1, 2020 event.

1. Speaking of 2020, I would like to remind take this time and space to remind the following people that their tenure is almost over:
   1. Myself as President
   2. Leanne as Treasurer
   3. M.J., as history rep.
   4. Mike Anderson as Knox Rep.
   5. Carolyn Mackie as Wycliffe Rep.
2. Elections Process:

It would be best if we can get a CRO appointed at our January meeting. As the policies indicate that the CRO should be appointed at least 6 weeks in advance of the elections, if it comes down to it, the earliest time we can have this election would be March 4. Thus, I think a CRO for the January meeting would be great. Then the CRO and the Exec committee can work together to establish a timeline for the elections, and have it presented to the group at the next meeting or via email correspondence.

Anyone who is not interested in a new position next year, please put forth your name.

NEW BUSINESS: