

TGSA Board Meeting
Wednesday November 18, 2020 3:00 - 5:00 pm
Via Zoom

In Attendance: Michael Rogers, Hannah Scanlon, Nathan Williams, Mia Theocharis, Deborah Lee, Maureen Ononiwu, James DeGurse, Andrew Youssef, Gustave Ineza, Jordan Balint, Josefine Leventhal-Noble

Regrets: Sam Needham, Jordyn Tower

1. Prayer and Territorial Acknowledgement

- Hannah S. offers prayer. Mia T. offers territorial acknowledgement.

2. Approval of Agenda and Meeting Minutes from October 14, 2020

- Mike R. motions to accept the agenda and meeting minutes from October 14, 2020, Hannah S. seconds.
- **All approve. Motion carries.**

3. Reports

A. PRESIDENT

- The TST librarians are here to answer any questions you have about the libraries and resources. We will be holding Q&A sessions on Friday mornings from 11 AM — 12 PM from Nov 6th to Dec 4th. Feel free to ask any questions related to the libraries and their resources. These sessions will also include information for a resource or research technique each week. Please see the listing attached for Zoom links.
 - Joan answered our questions that came up at the last TGSA meeting:
 - Are students able to browse the stacks if they are studying in the library? **No.** Are they able to access their study carrels? **No.**
 - Will libraries remain open since we've went back to Phase 2? **Yes.**
 - Is there any discussion of them closing again? **There hasn't been any discussion on closing the libraries again. I can't see this happening unless the Ontario government puts us back into phase 1 lockdown.**
 - Do we have access to books that are at Downsview? **Yes. For a list of all libraries offering pickup please see: <https://onesearch.library.utoronto.ca/covid-19/curbside-pickup-service> Downsview appears at the very bottom. Links are provided to the curbside policies of each of the TST libraries on this page.**
- David's farewell — TGSA had a statement read by Diane.
- Letter of concern regarding staffing of the GCTS — brief recap, see attachment in email. Any issues with this? NB: They've just hired David's replacement.
 - Hannah S.: Do they have a plan in place for a new grad director?
 - Mia T.: Unsure at the moment, will add this into the letter.
 - Mike R.: They cut the graduate assistant director role and didn't consult anyone. TST sees itself as potentially restructuring that's why they aren't hiring but we need a graduate director regardless of the restructuring.

- Nathan W.: Was that the role Jesse is now in?
- Mike R.: Yes, he was hired to fill part of the role.
- Gustave I.: Pam is also taking on the DMin grad director role.
- Mike R.: Nobody is capable of doing all three jobs.
- Nathan W.: Agreed. More than capable of taking on TST director but all three jobs doesn't seem possible.
- Jordan B.: It's impossible to do all three jobs.
- Hannah S.: Mia, have you spoken to pam directly?
- Mia T.: No I haven't yet, this will be definitely be something do before the new year or directly after.
- Mike R.: TST needs a graduate director, someone solid to fill the role. TGSA wants a replacement for the graduate director role and this needs to be said.
- Next GSC meeting Dec 1st — we will bring the issue of tuition fee exemption, still need to meet with Colleen to discuss this =
- Maureen and I are meeting this Monday to create a new Facebook group
- Yoga and Wellness Workshop this Friday!! Tell your friends and ppl at your colleges!
- **Motion to allow me to pay Lara Haddad (yoga instructor) \$75 for her services on Friday's event.**
 - Mike R. motions to allow Mia to pay yoga instructor \$75. Deborah L. seconds.
 - **All approve. Motion carries.**
- **Trauma Warning:** Discussion of sexual assault, violence, and abuse in the Wycliffe report. Feel free to leave before our discussion or anytime during.
- Mike R. motions to approve the President's report. Nathan W. seconds.
- **All approve. Motion carries.**

B. VP ACADEMIC

- Academic Council meeting — they want a faculty senate (deliberative body); we might not have access to deans/heads of colleges which is important regarding student issues. Do we want to request there are two voices on Academic Council? More representation? Academic Council we get access to 3 heads of colleges, we could ask to be an observer at SEC? Real decisions are made there.
- **Motion Mike R. to get TGSA a non-voting seat at SEC — we want to hear from heads of colleges.**
 - Deborah L. motions to give Mike R. go through with getting TGSA a non-voting seat at SEC. Hannah S. seconds.
 - **All approve. Motion carries.**
- ***Important*** Mike R. is looking to step down from his role as VP Academic in the next month or two. **Someone currently on the board has to be the one to fill this role.**
- Hannah S. motions to accept Mike R.'s report, Deborah L. seconds.
- **All approve. Motion carries.**

C. VP EXTERNAL

- See Sam N.'s email with his full report and comments on today's discussion points.

- Nathan W. motions to accept Sam N.'s report, Gustave I. seconds.
- **All approve. Motion carries.**

D. VP CONFERENCE

- See google doc for full report.
- Dr. Connor Wood, our keynote speaker, posted the zoom presentation on his blog.
- What's next for conferences? Nathan W. already thinking of the next conference which would be in the spring-time.
- Mike R.: Would it be online? This would give us a wider reach.
- Nathan W.: Yes, most likely would be online. Easy submission process, outreach will be really good for both TGSA and TST, more people than if it were in person.
- **Motion to empower Nathan W. to form a committee for this conference, reach out to Pam etc...**
 - Gustave I. motions to empower to Nathan W. to form a committee for the spring conference, Maureen O. seconds.
 - **All approve. Motion carries.**
- Mike R. motions to approve Nathan W.'s report. Hannah S. seconds.
- **All approve. Motion carries.**

E. TREASURER

- Mike R. motions to accept Hannah S.'s report. Gustave I. seconds.
- **All approve. Motion carries.**

F. COLLEGE REP'S:

- I. Emmanuel
- II. St. Mike's
- III. Knox
- IV. Regis
- V. Trinity

- **Motion to accept all reports other than Wycliffe's.**
- Mike R. motions to accept all the other reports, Gustave I. seconds.
- **All approve. Motion carries.**

VI. Wycliffe

- Trauma Warning: Sexual assault, abuse and violence. Sensitive material discussed during this report.
- What can TGSA do in a situation like this?
- Andrew Y.: We could offer resources, financial support for people seeking pastoral care outside of their colleges?
- Jordan B.: The issue also stems from pastoral care given to the student, which was not adequate at all.
- Hannah S.: We could put on our TGSA website resources for help, highlight how our health coverage can offer assistance in this area.
- Nathan W.: All colleges need to have adequate policies and pastoral care — there are clear discrepancies in the institutional structure of TST and the colleges; we should push for something uniform amongst TST and the colleges.

- Jordan B.: There are a lot of things that structurally make these types of situations particularly difficult when it comes to students needing help — there needs to be an independent body to look into this, to protect students. Also, students who are not conjoint don't get access to U of T resources.
- Gustave I.: Silence is a very big issue, and also the lack of power students have.
- Hannah S.: The victim at Wycliffe was not part of TGSA, but this has opened a conversation and alerted us to the fact that this could happen in the future to any AD graduate student, it's not isolated to BD students.
- Gustave I.: Should we write a statement of support from TGSA, in support of BD students as well?
- Nathan W. motions to accept Wycliffe report, Jordan B. seconds.
- **All approve. Motion carries.**

G. AREA REP'S:

- I. Master of Arts (MA)
- II. Master of Theology (ThM)
- III. Contextual

H. NON-VOTING CHAIRS

- I. Social Chair
- II. Communications

- Nathan W. motions to accept area rep and non-voting chair reports, Gustave I. seconds.
- **All approve. Motion carries.**

4. Events/Workshops

- Friday November 20th from 1-2 pm, Yoga and Wellness Workshop — tell students at your colleges and in your cohorts.
- Is there anything we can do for December?

5. Questions/Concerns/New Business?

- Next meeting? **December 9 @ 3:00pm.**

Motion to Adjourn at 4:55 pm

*Respectfully submitted by Mia Theocharis
November 23, 2020*