

TGSA Board Meeting
Wednesday, February 24th, 2021 3:00 - 5:00 pm
Via Zoom

In Attendance: Mia Theocharis, Jordan Balint, Patrick Nolin, Morgan Bell, Deborah Lee, James DeGurse, Jordyn Tower, Hannah Scanlon, Nathan Williams, Josefine Leventhal-Noble, Maureen Ononiwu, Gustave Ineza

Regrets: Vincent (Jizhang) Yi, Samuel Needham

Call to order: 3:05 pm

1. Prayer and Territorial Acknowledgement

- Jordan B. offered a prayer; Mia T. acknowledged the territory

2. Approval of Agenda and Meeting Minutes from January 27th, 2021

- Hannah S. motions to approve agenda and meeting minutes; Nathan W. seconds.
- **All approve. Motion carries.**

3. Reports

A. PRESIDENT

- Board of Trustees
 - Not much to report; changing of TST director name to ‘Executive Director’, still keeping the name of the other positions for now
- Referendum for constitution change
 - Let’s hold off until September...turn out has been really low since moving online, I don’t think we will get enough people to vote
 - We are also cutting it close timing wise with the semester ending in April
 - *Motion to move referendum until September 2021, we can introduce it the first week back to let constituents know that voting will take place in November 2021.*
 - Hannah S. motions to move referendum to September 2021, Gustave I. seconds.
 - **All approve. Motions carries.**
- March Event
 - Something around “Stress Management,” “Planning Your Writing,” “Time Management” — Any other ideas?
 - Maybe a combination of the three; I’ve put in a request to Academic Success about this
 - Does anyone want to take the lead on organizing this event?!
 - Hannah S. wondered if a holistic event might be in order which incorporates both academic skills and personal wellness
 - Josefine N. mentioned Sr. Gill Goulding as a possible presenter (sharing, for example, her expertise on Hans Urs von Balthasar and his theology of anxiety)
- Honorarium for Mary McAuliffe (leading our event on Friday)
 - \$25 e-gift card to Starbucks

- *Motion to allow me to give Mary a \$25 Starbucks gift card.*
- Deborah K. motions, Patrick N. seconds.
- **All approve. Motion carries.**
- Facebook Group
 - Maureen finished setting up the new Facebook Group. Thanks Maureen!
 - We will start transitioning people over to the new group next week.
- Fees for 2021/22
 - We have to let U of T know by the end of March
 - This year we lowered them substantially because of COVID; how do we feel about keeping them the same for next year? Hannah what is your opinion as treasurer?
 - I think we have a big enough surplus that if we were to go back onto campus in 2022 there would be enough funds if we wanted to host something on campus.
 - Hannah S. noted the good financial position of TGSA – lowered fees for another year is financially feasible
 - After the pandemic subsides and when regular activities resume, fees **will** be increased to regular levels
 - Patrick N. thinks that fees should be raised regardless – to keep them significantly lowered will make it more difficult to raise them back. When Mia T. noted the significant decrease of the fees, Patrick N. agreed that the fees should remain lowered for another year
 - ~~Motion to keep fees lowered for 2021/22 academic year.~~
 - **Need to re-discuss this in light of campuses opening in September**

Nathan W. motions to accept President’s report, Vincent Y. seconds.
All approve. Motion carries.

B. VP ACADEMIC

- Academic Council Meeting
 - UTQAP report is out
 - Student feedback was well and accurately reflected
 - Concerns included finances, teaching opportunities
- Graduate Studies Committee (2 March)
 - Nathan W., along with Mia T., will attend
 - Student Review Committee, 10 March @ 10:30
 - Hannah S. will attend
 - Dispersal of funds will be brought up
 -

Patrick N. moves to accept the VP Academic’s report; Gustave I. seconds.
All approve. Motion carries.

C. VP EXTERNAL (also Social Chair)

(Offered in absentia by Mia T.)

External: Since we agreed about delaying the constitutional referendum vote until next term, nothing new to report. UTSU and UTGSU affiliation question is held until that time; our UTSU affiliation will continue into 2021-2022.

Social: No concrete plans at the moment. Suggestions for social events and times:

- Online games night: a Zoom session with parlor games (charades, pictionary, etc) and/or video games (skribbl.io, Among Us, Fall Guys, etc). Prime dates may include: Friday, March 5, Friday, March 12, or related dates, around 7pm or so
- In-person on-campus walks as the weather improves: Possible times include early afternoons on Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays beginning in March. Could be a recurring event (eg every Monday at 2pm, etc)

Jordan B. moves to accept the VP External's report, Nathan W. seconds.

All approve. Motion carries.

D. VP CONFERENCE

- CFP pre-distributed
- Patrick N., Nathan W., and Morgan B. have been meeting as a steering committee
- Theme title: "Traditioning Sources for Contemporary Theological Engagement"
- Patrick N. read through the CFP
- The CFP will be sent out on 1 March. Responses are due by 5 April.
 - Conference will be held on 11 June
- Jordan B. appreciated the ecumenicity of the proposal
- Gustave I. wondered how it would be advertised
 - Large mailing list for conferences at major theology faculties across North America
 - Gustave noted that Boston College
 - Purely dedicated portion of TGSA website for conference (archive of past presentations, etc.)
- Motion to approve CFP and give committee the authority moving forward with planning, honorariums, communications etc...
- Gustave I. motions to approve CFP and give committee the authority moving forward with planning, honorariums, communications. Maureen O. seconds.
- **All approve. Motion carries.**

Nathan W. motions to accept VP Conference report, Gustave I. seconds.

All approve. Motion carries.

E. TREASURER

- Nothing new to report; as Mia T. mentioned, fees to be submitted at the end of March for next year.

Patrick N. motions to accept Treasurer's report, Deborah K. seconds.

All approve. Motion carries.

F. COLLEGE REP'S: *Tuition Fee Exemption Update*

- a) Emmanuel: Seems likely that this will happen; making sure students know about access to this moving forward.
- b) St. Mike's: SGS decision is not a blanket waiver, college will discuss on a case by case basis; they will extend to those in general exams.
- c) Knox: Bursaries are given to Knox students already, no blanket exemption when it comes to the SGS decision, open to students on a case by case basis
- d) Wycliffe: Bursaries for undergraduate or graduate students are addressed by Wycliffe on a case-by-case basis. Wycliffe College has limited available emergency funds for students who experience a financial crisis due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This has not been linked to extending students' academic programs.
- e) Regis: Has not been able to set up a meeting to discuss things further.
- f) Trinity: The information below is a response from the Dean of Faculty of Divinity at Trinity College. "TST has agreed that any tuition fee exemptions or extensions for graduate students would be addressed by the individual colleges on a case-by-case basis. Trinity College has available emergency funds for students who experience a financial crisis due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This has not been linked to extending one's academic program."

Nathan W. motions to accept the College Rep reports, Gustave I. seconds.

All approve. Motions carries.

G. AREA REP'S:

- AREA REP'S:
 - I. Master of Arts (MA)
 - II. Master of Theology (ThM)
 - III. Contextual
- NON-VOTING CHAIRS
 - I. Communications

Nathan W. motions to accept Area Rep reports, Hannah S. seconds.

All approve. Motions carries.

4. Events/Workshops

- **Friday, February 26th, 10:00-11:00am** — **"Building on Online Presence through LinkedIn"** with Mary McAuliffe from Career Exploration & Education

5. Questions/Concerns/New Business?

- **Next meeting(s):**
 - Wednesday, **March 17th** from 3:00 - 5:00 pm
 - Wednesday, **April 7th** from 3:00 - 5:00 pm

Motion to Adjourn at 4:20pm

*Respectfully submitted by Morgan Bell, Secretary
March 16th, 2021*