

TGSA Board Meeting
Wednesday, April 7th, 2021 3:00 - 5:00 pm
Via Zoom

Present: Mia Theocharis, Patrick Nolin, Nathan Williams, Jordyn Tower, Samuel Needham, Morgan Bell, Hannah Scanlon, James DeGurse, Deborah K, Jordan Balint, Gustave Ineza

Regrets: Maureen Ononiwu, Josefina Noble, Vincent Jizhang Yi

1. Prayer and Territorial Acknowledgement

- Mia T. called the meeting to order at 3:04.
- Sam N. opened the meeting with a prayer.
- Mia T. acknowledged the traditional territory upon which we gather

2. Approval of Agenda and Meeting Minutes from March 17th, 2021

- Nathan W. motioned to approve the agenda and approve the meeting minutes from 17 March 2021
- Sam N. seconded
 - **All approve. Motion carries.**

3. Reports

A. PRESIDENT

Chief Returning Officer

- Fiona Li, immediate past-president of TGSA, has expressed interest in serving as the CRO for TGSA's upcoming election
- Patrick N. moved to appoint Fiona Li as the CRO for TGSA's 2021 election
 - Gustave I. seconded
 - **All approve. Motion carries.**

Nomination Period

- Per TGSA's constitution, there must be six weeks between choosing a CRO and the opening of the nomination period
- As the nomination period is slated to begin on 12 April 2021, this would have to be delayed
- Sam N. moved to suspend this waiting period for the 2021 Spring TGSA election
 - Nathan W. seconded
 - **All approve. Motion carries.**

TGSA Student Levees

- At the meeting of 17 March 2021, the TGSA Board voted to increase student levees to their pre-pandemic level.
- Mia T. has learned that, if for whatever, in-person instruction does not resume in Fall 2021, the University of Toronto will ask if TGSA would like to adjust its fees (i.e. to keep them at the current adjusted rate given the pandemic)
- Patrick N. moved that TGSA authorize Mia T. to lower its student levees in the event that in-person instruction does not resume in Fall 2021
 - Hannah S. seconded
 - **All approve. Motion carries.**

TGSA Annual General Meeting (AGM)

- Given the low attendance at TGSA events throughout the pandemic and acknowledging the reality of ‘Zoom fatigue,’ Mia T. wondered if forgoing a virtual AGM would be a wise decision – instead sending a memorandum to the constituents of all the information which would be communicated at the AGM
- Jordan B. wondered about the constitutionality of not holding an AGM
 - Sam N. noted that there does not appear to be any constitutional requirement that an AGM be held
- Nathan W. suggested holding a streamlined AGM followed up by sending a memorandum to students detailing the relevant information
- Nathan W. moved that Mia T. be authorized to draft a memorandum to be sent to students detailing the information that will be shared at the AGM; and to design and execute a streamlined, virtual version of an AGM
 - Seconded by Gustave I.
 - **All approve. Motion carries.**

Gratitude

- On behalf of TGSA, Mia T. thanked Jordan B., Sam N., and Jordyn T. for their service on the TGSA board as they transition out of their roles
- Nathan W. moved to accept the President’s report.
 - Hannah S. seconded.
 - **All approve. Motion carries.**

B. VP ACADEMIC

Academic Council

- Nathan W. related that at the last Academic Council, members debriefed the UTQAP experience together
 - He noted that some faculty expressed concern that examiners did not always appear to have a full grasp of how TST and its member colleges function
- At that meeting, Pam Couture (in her capacity as GCTS Director) informed those present that 12 applicants had been accepted for PhD work at TST at that time

- She further noted that more admissions are likely in the second round
- It was unclear as to whether that was due to admissions decisions by the member colleges or to a reduction in applications received

Regis/St. Mike's Townhall

- The deans of St. Michael's College and Regis College co-hosted an open-floor town hall for students to ask any questions about the proposed institutional alliance between both schools
 - Nathan W. noted that there were few concrete details shared about what the alliance will look like
 - Referring to a recent article in the National Catholic Register, he said that what was described sounded like a merger despite insistence to the contrary throughout the process
 - Nathan W. wondered that if there were fewer courses being offered by each college, would opportunities for graduate teaching assistants be reduced?
 - Patrick N. asked if any timeline had been announced regarding the institutional alliance
 - Nathan W. replied that there was limited information available on both Regis' and St. Mike's websites
 - Gustave I. noted that this is part of a global trend in Catholic theological education where many institutions are banding together
 - Sam N. moved to accept the report of the VP Academic
 - Gustave I. seconded
 - **All approve. Motion carries.**

C. VP EXTERNAL (also Social Chair)

- Sam N. noted that the recent Zoom games night was a success
- As pertains UTSU, he relayed that a new director is needed and that body is undergoing a recruitment process
- Sam N. also confirmed that the constitutional referendum scheduled for Fall 2021 is still going ahead
- Gustave I. moved to accept the report of the VP External
 - Hannah S. seconded
 - **All approve. Motion carries.**

D. VP CONFERENCE

TGSA Conference

- Patrick N. informed the board that he received 25 proposals for the June conference

- He will connect with Nathan W. and Morgan B. to sift through these proposals and choose the successful applicants
- Patrick N. will then send out acceptances by the end of April 2021

Convocation Fees

- Patrick N. communicated that degree parchments still have not been delivered to students who graduated in spring 2020
 - Students paid \$100 in convocation fees, and he was informed that those fees went toward parchments and their delivery
 - He has accepted TST Director Pamela Couture if there will be any reimbursement, as he found the lack of communication about the situation unacceptable
 - Mia T. noted that she had only heard this grievance from Patrick N. If there are any more students who come forward, TGSA can get involved
- Sam N. moved to accept the report of the VP Conference
 - Nathan W. seconded
 - **All approve. Motion carries.**

E. TREASURER

- Hannah S. reported that there was no new financial activity
- She expects expenses for the upcoming conference (i.e. an honorarium for the keynote speaker) and will inform the board when those details have been confirmed
- Hannah S. will also prepare a description of the yearly expenditures to share at the AGM and in the subsequent memorandum
- Patrick N. moved to accept the Treasurer's report.
- Gustave I. seconded
 - **All approve. Motion carries.**

F. COLLEGE REP'S:

I. Emmanuel

- Jordan B. informed the board that a meeting with Emmanuel College leadership regarding tuition fee exemptions still has not taken place
 - He is happy to work with his successor on the matter
- Jordan B. expressed gratitude for his tenure with TGSA and wished the board the best in the future

II. St. Mike's

- Gustave I. reported that St. Mike's hosted a successful conference on anti-Asian racism which was well attended by participants from across the TST
- There will be a Commissioning Mass held on Friday, April 9 @ 6:00, followed by a social event

III. Knox

- Deborah reported that Knox continues to host regular lunch meetings and weekly chapel
- IV. Wycliffe
- Hannah S. informed that board that she has received further pushback from the Principal of Wycliffe College regarding tuition fee exemption
 - Bishop Andrews does not believe that there is room in the budget to provide such assistance
 - Hannah S. will continue to emphasize that tuition fee exemption is an issue of justice – accommodations must be made
- Hannah S. also related that Wycliffe continues to host chapel services and a weekly theology pub on Zoom
- Wycliffe is concluding a hiring process for a new position in systematic theology
 - The three final candidates have all completed a public lecture and the final deliberations rest with the search committee

V. Regis

- James D. informed the board that monies have been disbursed by Regis

VI. Trinity

N/A

- Patrick N. moved to accept the College Representatives' reports
 - Hannah S. seconded
 - **All approve. Motion carries.**

G. AREA REP'S:

I. Master of Arts (MA)

Nothing to report.

II. Master of Theology (ThM)

N/A

III. Contextual

N/A

- Nathan moved to accept the reports of the Area Representatives.
 - Patrick N. seconded
 - **All approved. Motion carries.**

H. NON-VOTING POSITIONS

I. Communications —

- Given the creation of a new TGSA Facebook group, Mia T. asked for the wisdom of the board as to what to do with the old group – perhaps turning it into an alumni group or deleting it

- Gustave I. believed that some students may still want to be involved and it should not be deleted without notice
- Mia T. replied that notice has already been given about the creation of the new group
- Nathan W. moved to authorize Mia T. and Maureen O. to delete the old Facebook group
 - Gustave I. seconded
 - **All approve. Motion carries.**

II. Library Rep — Updates?

- Nothing to report

4. Events/Workshops

- “Time Management and Writing Workshop” via Academic Success — **Friday, April 16th @ 1-2 pm**
- TGSA Conference: Traditioning Sources for Contemporary Theological Engagement — **June 11, 2021**

5. Questions/Concerns/New Business?

Patrick N. moved to adjourn at 4:11.

*Respectfully submitted by Morgan Bell
7 April 2021*