

TGSA Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 19, 2022 @ 3:00pm - 5:00pm
Via Zoom

In Attendance: Morgan Bell, David Kennedy, Nathan Williams, Patrick Nolin, Maureen Ononiwu, Vincent Yi, Gustave Ineza, Mia Theocharis, Hannah Ferguson

Regrets: Hannah Scanlon, Deborah Ko

Convene 3:10pm

1. Prayer/Territorial Acknowledgment

- Morgan B. offers prayer; Mia T. offers territorial acknowledgment.

2. Approval of Agenda and Meeting Minutes from December 10, 2021

- Hannah F. motions to approve the agenda and meeting minutes from December 10, 2021; Nathan W. seconds.
- **All approve. Motion carries.**

3. Reports

A. *President*

1. Referendum

- The Referendum Committee will draft a *Notice of Referendum* which will include:
 1. A short description of the referendum issue and process
 2. A list of the Committee members (Morgan, Patrick and Gustave)
 3. An open call for comments, questions, and additional Yes or No representatives.
- The Notice will then be distributed through the TGSA website and email list. Please have this to me by **Monday, February 7th, 2022.**
- Mindful of feedback received, the Referendum Committee will organize a [virtual] town hall that includes short presentations with relevant information (essentially what the Notice says). Returning Officer will moderate, ensure equal time for presentations, and a recording of the town hall will be available to students who cannot attend. Proposed date: **Friday, February 25th, 2022**
- After the town hall, the Referendum Committee will prepare the ballot for the referendum (write clear, neutral, and short questions with only two possible outcomes (yes and no)). The final wording of the ballot must be approved by a majority of the TGSA Board as well as two-thirds of the Referendum Committee. Proposed date: **We will approve this at our March board meeting, during the week of March 7-11th)**
 - Once the ballot is approved, the Referendum Committee will set a voting period of at least 14 days (no later than the last day of

class in the winter term or the TGSA AGM, whichever is first).

Proposed voting period: **March 18th-31st.**

- THEN the Referendum Committee will draft a second Notice of Referendum that includes the voting method, dates, question(s), and brief statements from the Yes and No representatives on each issue. Please have this to me by: **the week of our March meeting, so March 7-11th.**
- The Notice will be distributed through the email list twice, once before the voting period and once during it. Proposed dates: **I will send out 1st email on Monday, March 14th and then the second on Friday, March 25th.**
 - ▶ **NB:** The Returning Officer will work with an online voting system and the TST Registrar to ensure a fair and secure vote online. Quorum (25 students) and the support of 2/3 majority of those voting is required to pass any referendum question.

2. Search Committee for Executive Director

- Next meeting will be February 10th to review applications (last I checked there were about 6 applications on the Quercus site, a few seemed like good candidates)
- Maureen O.: Is the Executive Director search internal or external?
- Mia T.: Preference would be someone internal who understands TST but we are considering external candidates as well.

3. Committee for Graduate Student Funding (UTQAP)

- Have not received an email about this yet to set up a meeting time... Will reach out to Pam to ask the status.

4. TGSA Board (2022/23)

- We need to start thinking about what the board is going to look like next year. In April, the term ends for the following:
 - Mia Theocharis, President
 - Hannah Scanlon, Treasurer & Wycliffe Rep
 - Nathan Williams, VP Academic
 - Gustave Ineza, St. Mike's Rep
 - Deborah Ko, Knox Rep
 - Maureen Ononiwu, Communications Rep (this position will turn into VP Communications)
- Please let me know ASAP if you plan on leaving the board before your term ends.
- Morgan B. Motions to accept the President's report. Patrick N. seconds.
- **All approve. Motion carries.**

B. VP Academic

• **Graduate Studies Council:**

- December 14th
- Discussed admissions cycles, considered its future context, as well as the difference between a pool/waitlist
- Nothing has changed for in-person requirements
- Difficulty finding faculty to teach the PhD cohort classes — this turned into a good conversations about cohort classes in general. Do we need to reassess the outcomes that they intend to fulfill?

• **Academic Council:**

- January 17th
- Jesse Billet made a report on the graduate admissions cycle (2021) — it was low this year in comparison to previous years
- Hoping that the Microsoft teams format will help with adjudicating admission applications this year
- Curriculum Revision Committee also spoke during Academic Council — looking at how to revise the committee; the proposed revisions to this would make it that course approval and reducing the redundancy of courses would be discussed within smaller RTA's (research and teaching areas). We don't have RTA's right now. Questions were raised about how the roles would be filled? Would it be informal or formal? This was just the start of the conversation, nothing resolved.
- MoA with U of T — the renewal will be in 5 years as opposed to 7. So far only corresponding/aligning language and academic freedom have been discussed, nothing yet about funding.
- Adding non-standard admissions requirements (ex. Someone with a philosophy degree) to be welcomed in the admissions process.

• **Questions?**

- Morgan B.: Why 5 years instead of 7?
 - Nathan W.: Not exactly sure. Will reach out to Pam for explanation.
 - Maureen O.: Why such a low admissions cycle this year? Is it because of COVID?
 - Nathan W.: Not exactly sure what the reason behind the low admissions is, but COVID is definitely a factor.
- Hannah F. motions to accept VP Academic's report. Gustave I. seconds.
- **All approve. Motion carries.**

C. VP External

- Going to look into the voting system for the referendum; and finish the Notice of Referendum to send to students mid-Feb.
- Everything students need to know about their health insurance is on the UofT website; we will updated our health links on TGSA's end.
- We don't have a TGSA meeting place, and people don't know we exist. There's an awareness of seeing people on campus (NB: Do we consider having an office spot in the TST building?).
- Nathan W.: It's helpful to know first-year students, senior students are difficult to track down.
- Morgan B.: This also speaks to problems with collegiality, UTQAP flagged this.
- Christmas social event went well; the February event won't pan out due to cancelations; let's pivot and do a social event? TGSA meet and greet?
- Patrick N. motions to accept VP External's report; Vincent Y., seconds.
- **All approve. Motion carries.**

D. VP Conference

- No updates at the moment; rough timeline for March
- Theme? Will discuss more at our February meeting.
- Morgan B. motions to accept VP Conference's report. Gustave I., seconds.
- **All approve. Motion carries.**

E. Treasurer

- Hannah S. Sends her regrets for this meeting.
- Mia T. gave update re: conference awards — that is, we have yet to hear back from TST to get this moving.
- Nathan W., motions to accept report; David K. seconds.
- **All approve. Motion carries.**

F. College Representatives

- I. Wycliffe: N/A.
- II. St. Mike's: Not much activity with the new term, combined liturgy with Regis College; search committee has been created for the Dean of the combined faculties; AD-Pro Seminars are still happening SEMINAR; Nathan will be presenting Jan 26th 3:00 pm.
 - Nathan W.: Will the Regis-St. Mike's union mean less admissions spots?
 - Gustave I.: Not sure if they would be reducing admissions spots but will look into this.
 - Maureen W.: Has a name been decided for the faculty?

- Gustave I.: Not yet.
 - Mia T.: All the fine details like admissions spots, name changes, etc...are still being discussed. This will be an ongoing discussion.
- III. Trinity: Libraries have closed due to lockdowns; there has been a few new scholarship developed for graduate students.
- IV. Regis: Not much to report. A few upcoming lectures will be hosted online. Search committee established for new Dean of both Regis/St. Mike's.
- V. Emmanuel: Currently interviewing for new principle.
- VI. Knox: N/A.
- Patrick N. motions to accept College Rep reports. Maureen O., seconds.
 - **All approve. Motion carries.**

G. Area Representatives

- I. Doctor of Ministry: Some progress has been made moving the DMin to a professional doctorate with a different designation (different nomenclatures) but this won't happen for a couple of years. The new designation will have two streams, one with a Christian stream and the other with an interfaith stream (primarily responding to Emmanuel College where a number of students are in pastoral studies but are not part of the Christian faith and would like to do some type of a "ministry" work in their respective traditions).
- Morgan B.: This is true and an issue for some TST students at Emmanuel because it is strictly a Christian environment.
 - Other discussions: Moving methods course to the beginning of program; professors that will work with students, determine who is willing to supervise DMin students (this has been difficult); also, how to market the program is important in moving forward — bringing people from other faith traditions will increase the number of students and make the program unique; the name of the program will also change, something on the lines of "Spiritual Practice" or "Spiritual Leadership."
 - Patrick N. motions to accept DMin report. Hannah F. seconds.
 - **All approve. Motions carries.**

H. Non-Voting Representatives

- I. Communications: N/A.
- II. Library Representative: N/A.

4. Events/Workshops

- **Friday, January 21st @ 1-2pm** — “Identifying Your Transferable Skills” workshop with Mary McAuliffe from *Career Exploration and Education. J*
- **February** — panel discussion with a Queer theologian, theologian of colour, a female theologian who can talk about navigating the academy — CANCELLED.
- **March?**
- **April?**
- Any *socials* in mind? Sam Needham recommended doing a Love Feast near to Valentine’s Day — he said it was a kind of non-sacramental Moravian tradition. People could gather outdoors for sharing food and hot drinks. Thoughts?

5. Questions/Concerns/New Business?

Motion to Adjourn 4:15pm.

*Respectfully submitted by Mia Theocharis, President*¹

February 8, 2022

¹ It has been very difficult to find a secretary—whose role is to take meeting minutes—to sit on the TGSA board. Since we do not have a secretary, I have had to ask current board members to volunteer to take the minutes, some have graciously volunteered but overall it is has been difficult to recruit others to help. That is why I have ended up taking the meeting minutes for our last two TGSA board meetings.