

NOTICE OF REFERENDUM

TST graduate students,

My name is Morgan Bell. I am a PhD student at Emmanuel College, the Vice-President External Affairs for the Toronto Graduate Students' Association (TGSA), and the Returning Officer for TGSA's upcoming referendum. Below, you will find some preliminary information about that upcoming referendum.

Referendum Issues

The exact wording of the proposed changes to the TGSA constitution is attached to this email. In essence, the referendum concerns three proposed changes to the existing constitution:

1. the addition of a Vice-President Communications role to the TGSA executive;
2. removal of the now-defunct "area representative" positions (i.e., Bible, history, pastoral, theology and contextual) because they belonged to the old ThD program and no longer reflect the new conjoint PhD program.
3. the addition of two at-large representatives that may be appointed at the discretion of the TGSA board.

Referendum Committee

As indicated above, I serve on the referendum committee as Returning Officer. Gustave Ineza (University of St. Michael's College) represents the dissenting ("No") position on the proposed changes. Patrick Nolin (Regis College) represents the supportive ("Yes") position on the proposed changes.

Referendum Feedback and Deliberation

Your feedback on the proposed changes is welcome. **To express your feedback or to ask questions**, you may email Gustave Ineza (gustave.ineza@mail.utoronto.ca), Patrick Nolin (patrick.nolin@mail.utoronto.ca), or myself (morgan.bell@mail.utoronto.ca). **If any student should like to join the "yes" or "no" side as an official representative, they are encouraged to email me directly.**

Town Hall Meeting & Coffee Hour

On **Friday, March 4, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**, the Referendum Committee will host a virtual town hall that includes short presentations about the nature of the proposed constitutional changes. Patrick Nolin will argue in favour of the changes and Gustave Ineza will argue against. As Returning Officer, I will moderate this discussion. A recording of this town hall will be available to students who cannot attend. Following the town hall, TGSA will host a coffee hour beginning at **10:30 a.m.** where students can sip their favourite

beverage, socialize with old friends, and meet new ones! All are welcome to either or both events.

Sign-Up

If you are interested in attending the “Town Hall & Coffee Hour” (via Zoom) please sign-up here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OHtXLqd7zamKxk3XbfMlGNno5sT1hwaCeqOyG5a4HFA/edit?usp=sharing>.

Everyone, however, will be sent a ZOOM link closer to the date.

Voting Period

A second Notice of Referendum will be communicated to students prior to the voting period, which will be March 18-31, 2022. This notice will include further information about the voting method, voting dates, the referendum questions, and brief statements from the “yes” and “no” representatives on each issue. Voting will take place electronically and be overseen by the Returning Officer and the TST Registrar. Quorum (25 students) must be met and the referendum question must receive the support of a 2/3 majority of voters in order to pass.

Once more, if you have any questions, concerns, or wish to become involved in the referendum in an official capacity, you are encouraged to reach out to members of the referendum committee.

Sincerely,

Morgan Bell
Returning Officer, TGSA

[CURRENT] TGSA Constitution (2015)

Section 4. Board of Representatives

4.1 The TGSA Board is the governing body of the TGSA.

4.2 The voting members of the TGSA Board are as follows:

4.2.1 Executives elected by and from the TGSA: a President, Treasurer, Vice-President Academic, Vice-President Conferences, and Vice-President External.

4.2.2 Program representatives elected by the TGSA, one from each distinct concentration within TST's doctoral research programs and one from each of TST's other programs with graduate students.

4.2.3 College representatives elected by the colleges, one from each TST member college with graduate students.

[PROPOSED] TGSA Constitution (2022)

Section 4. Board of Representatives

4.1 The TGSA Board is the governing body of the TGSA.

4.2 The voting members of the TGSA Board are as follows:

4.2.1 Executives elected by and from the TGSA: a President, Treasurer, Vice-President Academic, Vice-President Conferences, Vice-President External, and Vice-President Communications. **(ADD: Vice-President Communications role to the Executive Board)**

4.2.2 Program representatives elected by the TGSA, one from each of TST's other programs with graduate students. **(REMOVE: Area Rep positions)**

4.2.3 College representatives elected by the colleges, one from each TST member college with graduate students.

4.2.4 At the discretion of the TGSA, two at-large representatives may be chosen. (NEW ADDITION: Two at-large representatives at the discretion of the Board)