

TGSA Board Meeting
Friday, February 11, 2022 @ 10:00am - 12:00pm
Via Zoom

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

1. Guest: Faraz Alidina – Three-Minute Thesis Competition (3MT)

- Pam Couture would like to have a TST 3MT and Faraz will speaking to the board to gage student interest, explain how the competition works and answer any questions we may have.
- TGSA will handle the expressions of student interests and signups.
 - ◆ *Notes from TGSA's discussion with Faraz:*
 - Graduate students come together from different academic disciplines to describe their research in 3 minutes or less, using one static presentation slide.
 - TST would hold it's own 3MT, separate from U of T; Faraz would assist TST with the logistics of the event.
 - The number of U of T participants would be larger than TST (we are thinking 20-30 students?)
 - You would start with a preliminary heat, stick to 10 people pre heat (so about 2 or 3 heats for TST); and then the top three from those heats go onto the finals; there will also be a people's choice award
 - Judging criteria – you are judged on the presentation (communication, comprehension and engagement); the panel of judges must be diverse. TST will take care of who the judges are; approximately 2-3 judges per heat.
 - Eligibility requirements are customizable; same with judgment criteria (best to follow the U of T website on this) – one thing to note is that understanding the scholarly merits of the presentation is not needed, judges are looking at the way the presentation is being communicated.
 - How do we want the finals to look like? This is the crown jewel.
 - ◆ *Questions/concerns from TGSA:*
 - Morgan B.: Is the timeframe feasible? 30 students sounds ambitious.
 - Gustave I.: It is short notice for TST in terms of logistics but not so much for students.

- Mia T.: What should the eligibility requirements be for this? They have to be a candidate (submitted their thesis proposal)?
- Vincent Y., and Gustave I.: If we want more students to attend and sign-up we should include those preparing for comprehensive exams.
- Deborah K.: This competition could really help students with their proposals as well, something to drive their motivation.
- Patrick N.: The prize money for this event may not have the best optics (i.e., TST is easily able to provide funds for this event while graduate students across the colleges struggle with funding). Also, there is more fruitful ways to show the Board of Trustees what students are doing.
- Nathan W.: Agrees with the concern re: money aspect. What are the optics of distributing funds so easily?
- Gustave I.: If TST wants to do this, we shouldn't be the ones to throw it out.

2. Prayer/Territorial Acknowledgment

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

3. Approval of Agenda and Meeting Minutes from January 19, 2022

- Morgan B. motions to approve the agenda and meeting minutes from January 19, 2022. Vincent Y. seconds.
- **All approve. Motion carries.**

4. Reports

A. President

- *Referendum*
 - Notice of Referendum will be sent out later this afternoon to students.
 - Town Hall will be March 4th @ 10:00am. Do we want to attach coffee-hour to this? **Discuss.**
- *TGSA Fees (MOTION #1)*
 - Do we want to keep them the same for next year? We lowered them during COVID and then recently raised them back up to where they were pre-COVID. **Discuss.**
 - **Motion to keep the TGSA fees the same for the 2022/2023 academic year.**
 - Patrick N. motions to keep the TGSA fees the same for the 2022/23 academic year. David K. seconds.
 - **All approve. Motion carries.**

- *Transferable Skills Workshop/Reimbursement (MOTION #2)*
 - Our workshop with Mary from Career Exploration & Education was great! Very well attended, about 20 students.
 - I provided her with a \$25 gift card to Starbucks to say thank you from TGSA.
 - **Motion to reimburse Mia T. from the TGSA account for the \$25 Starbucks gift card purchased as an honorarium for Mary McAuliffe.**
 - Morgan B. motions to reimburse Mia T. from the TGSA account for the \$25 Starbucks gift card purchased as an honorarium for Mary McAuliffe. Patrick N. seconds.
 - **All approve. Motion carries.**
- *GSC Meeting (MOTION #3)*
 - GCTS is busy with admission currently; we discussed dates for second round admissions and whether to include DMin students in that. The decision was to include them.
 - **IMPORTANT** Area Studies and Course Design; full-year instead of a semester course because Matthew Dougherty cannot teach in the first semester and no one else is willing to teach pedagogy (Marion Taylor will be teaching the Area Studies section)
 - In 2018, TGSA fought to have the course in the 2nd year, first semester of the PhD program so that student's could progress in their program. This will have very negative consequences for students. Ex. The Handbook requires that coursework is completed before you can begin working on your prospectus.
 - Letter of Concern to Pam and SEC (VP Academic).
 - **Motion for VP Academic to draft a Letter of Concern to Pam and SEC which will have final approval from the TGSA Execs.**
 - Hanna S. motions for Nathan Williams, VP Academic to draft a Letter of Concern to Pam and SEC which will have final approval from the TGSA Execs. David K. seconds.
 - **All approve. Motion carries.**
- *Meeting with Diane Henson, TST Registrar (Motion #4 and #5)*
 - Hannah and I met with Diane Henson yesterday to go over the TGSA Conference Awards for Spring 2022. GCTS will handle all the advertising and adjudication of applicants and TGSA will handle disbursement of award money.

- We decided that the award would be a reimbursement to students pending on confirmation that they attended the conference. Once we receive that confirmation (hotel and flight bookings for example) the funds will be sent to them.
- As a board we need to decide on how we want the prize money to allocated.
 - Suggestions: 2 x \$500 or 3 x \$325. **Discuss.**
 - It was put to a vote — 9 votes for 3 x \$325 and 2 votes for 2 x \$500.
 - **Motion to offer 3 conference awards at \$325 each.**
 - Gustave I. motions to offer 3 conference awards at \$325 each. David K. seconds.
 - **All approve. Motion carries.**
- Two other general points about TGSA came up in our meeting with Diane.
 1. About finances, whether TGSA would need to be audited as part of our membership with ULife. And also whether we're allowed to spend funds from the previous year (some organizations like TST for example are capped on how much they can carry over from the previous academic year).
 2. TGSA's annual renewal process with ULife.
- Both Hannah and I were unfamiliar with these issues that Diane raised because we had not been told about them from the previous board members.
- I dug a little bit more into the issues brought up:
 1. No where in TGSA's policies and procedures do they mention potential auditing/cap on spending or anything regarding an annual renewal process for our membership.
 2. I had a feeling our membership was active because I receive emails from ULife and UTSU all the time, and we have been able to host workshops with U of T which I book through ULife. If we didn't have club status we wouldn't be able to do that.
 3. Also, just to be clear and so it's in the minutes. ULife is a central website for listings for campus organizations and opportunities on all three campuses of the University of

Toronto. The thousands of entries include film appreciation clubs, debating societies, sports teams, social activism, drop-in classes, and research opportunities and awards.

- There are five or six student unions that make up ULife and UTSU (which TGSA is part of) is one of them.
- 4. TGSA is considered a program union, and therefore does not have to annually renew. Our recognition expires in 2030 which means the board during that time will have to go through the renewal process.
- 5. As for auditing, Student Groups handling extensive funds may be required to submit audited statements annually to the Office of the Vice-Provost, Students. This most likely does not include TGSA, this would be larger student groups that receive external funding (Ex. Hillel).
 - All the information ULife needs from us is our bank information and who has signing authority which they have. I checked our account yesterday.
- Now, this got me thinking about how we need to be handing off information to new board members. For myself, I know I needed more details about what the role entailed rather than just what the policies and procedures outlined.
- I think moving forward, and this was Morgan's proposal, TGSA board members should be required to hand-in a "Transition Report" when they are stepping down for the new board coming in. Discuss.
- **Motion to assign all TGSA Board Members to hand-in to the President a "Transition Report" (1-3 pages) which includes the duties each member had in their respective positions. This will then be given to the new incoming board member.**
 - Patrick N. motions to assign all TGSA Board Members to hand-in to the President a "Transition Report" (1-3 pages) which includes the duties each member had in their respective positions. Hannah S. seconds.
 - **All approve. Motion carries.**

Morgan B. motions to accept President's report. David K. seconds.

All approve. Motion carries.

B. VP Academic

- Academic Council meeting next week; any questions or suggestions for the Letter of Concern can be sent to Nathan.
- Hannah F. motions to accept VP Academic's report. Hannah. S. seconds.
- **All approve. Motion carries.**

C. VP External

- Discussion of referendum, upcoming Town Hall on March 4th.
- Nathan W. motions to accept VP External's report; Gustave I., seconds.
- **All approve. Motion carries.**

D. VP Conference

- CFP upcoming, will send shortly. Deadline to submit mid-April, April 13th most likely.
- Conference date will be Friday, June 10, 2022.
- Anyone that is interested in reading CFP's and participate in the external review process is to contact Patrick N.
 - Hannah S. and Hannah F. Can assist in reviewing paper proposals.
- Proposed topic: Traversing Schemas of Normativity and Critical Perspectives in Theological Reflection
 - Nathan W.: Possibly too broad.
 - Morgan B. And Hannah F. like the broadness but what would be the CFP look like?
 - Hannah S.: Too broad. We can have a more narrow topic while also having diverse representation.
- Looking into have a panel discussion instead of a keynote speaker — two faculty, two external
 - Mia T.: The only thing I will add is that if you decide to go in the direction of a panel discussion (or a keynote) there needs to be a conscious effort of representation. The last two TGSA conferences had white men as keynotes and I would like to see more diversity, more women, more POC in our selection for this conference.
- Morgan B. motions to accept VP Conference's report. Gustave I., seconds.
- **All approve. Motion carries.**

E. Treasurer

- Mia T. suggests Hannah S. to create a budget for the last two years that can be part of the Treasures transition report.
- Morgan B. motions to accept Treasurer's report; Nathan W. seconds.
- **All approve. Motion carries.**

F. College Representatives

- I. Wycliffe: Some things are back in person, some classes (hybrid);
- II. St. Mike's: following the usual schedules (Wednesday liturgies still online); social after the liturgies; pro-seminars are still ongoing.
- III. Trinity: The Dean of Faculty of Divinity Dr. Chris Brittain will take a leave for the incoming academic year. Dr. Marsha Hewitt will take the role.
- IV. Regis: Not much to report, looking for a new president of Regis College that will replace Tom Worcester. St. Mike's and Regis also looking for a dean.
- V. Emmanuel: N/A.
- VI. Knox: Usual events going on, online chapels and morning meetings/gatherings; Knox is also looking for a principal.

G. Area Representatives

- I. Doctor of Ministry — N/A.

H. Non-Voting Representatives

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

4. Events/Workshops

- **February?** A coffee hour attached to the town-hall for the referendum?
- **March?** 3MT competition will be held in March. Possibility of having a TGSA event geared towards mental health as well?
- **April?** A year end celebration, maybe in-person. After the AGM.

5. Questions/Concerns/New Business?

Motion to Adjourn 12:10pm

*Respectfully submitted by Vincent Jizhang Yi, Trinity College Representative
February 11, 2022*