'YES' and 'NO' Positions

[CURRENT] TGSA Constitution (2015): 4.2.1 Executives elected by and from the TGSA: a President, Treasurer, Vice-President Academic, Vice-President Conferences, and Vice-President External.

[PROPOSED] TGSA Constitution (2022): 4.2.1 Executives elected by and from the TGSA: a President, Treasurer, Vice-President Academic, Vice-President Conferences, and Vice-President External, and Vice-President Communications.

ADD: Vice-President Communications role to the Executive.

Against: There is not a need for an additional member of the executive. The communications role can be filled by the Secretary or by other board members based on need. Assigning communication responsibilities to non-voting members of the TGSA mitigates against partisan communication of issues in which they would play an active and shaping role. Assigning communications to a member of the executive creates a possibility for biased communication.

For*:* As we have seen over the past two years with remote learning, online events, and digital workshops, TGSA struggles to engage the student body which it serves. This is reflected in the low attendance ratings at planned events, for example. While this may be attributable to a variety of reasons beyond TGSA's control, the establishment of a VP Communications role would create an identified point of contact between the student body and the TGSA board. Moreover, communications would be assigned to one *accountable* officer rather than leave communications to any and all TGSA board members. As such, a VP Communications would introduce a measure of accountability and regularity in communications and strengthen TGSA's relationship with its members.

[CURRENT] TGSA Constitution (2015): 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.

[PROPOSED] TGSA Constitution (2022): 4.2.2 Program representatives elected by the TGSA, one from each of TST's other programs with graduate students.

REMOVE: Area Representative positions *(i.e., "distinct concentrations within TST's doctoral research programs" such as Bible, history, pastoral, theology and contextual representatives)*

Against*:* While the areas of study are no longer reflected in TST's departmental structure, striving to include members that represent a cross-section of the different programs of study can only strengthen TGSA's work and representation. Irrespective of TST structure, the conscious inclusion of area representatives should remain in place.

***For**:* While the TGSA represents students in all graduate streams of study, area representatives are redundant because the departmental structures of TST no longer exist to support them (i.e., TST does not have specific departments in Bible, history, pastoral studies, theology or contextual theology). The area representative positions belonged to the old ThD program and do not reflect the new conjoint PhD program which is much more interdisciplinary. As these departments no longer exist, it does not make sense to have members dedicated to advocating and working within the area representative positions. Furthermore, the TGSA Board almost always includes members from every steam of study, and much of the TGSA's work comes down to advocating within concrete institutional structures (i.e., between the member colleges, TST and the GCTS) instead of between specific departments as they no longer exist.

NEW ADDITION:

4.2.4 At the discretion of the TGSA, two at-large representatives may be chosen.

*NB: This will follow 4.2.3 which the TGSA is not proposing changes to. The TGSA is proposing two at-large representatives as an **alternative** to the Area Representative positions.*

***Against**:* Given that college representatives represent their colleges, it would be understandable if we had other representatives such as those from marginalized members of the student community whose voices should be heard on the TGSA. However, since the TGSA board already has many members, its board make-up is regularly and naturally diverse. As such, there is no pressing need to add this clause. Moreover, to add members based on the TGSA's discretion introduced a danger that the executive could appoint members to the board in order to curry voting and governance support in their favour. It is an easily manipulated clause.

***For**:* The addition of two discretionary members-at-large affords TGSA an opportunity to cultivate wider and more diverse student participation. Just as the creation of a VP Communications would better represent TGSA's activities and initiatives to the wider student body, so two voting members at-large would represent wider perspectives and experiences to the TGSA board. Having members at-large allows TGSA to garner perspectives beyond those related to college and program, and to seek greater parity of the TGSA board makeup up by seeking a more diverse membership.

[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

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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.**

4.2.2 Program representatives elected by the TGSA, one from each of TST's other programs with graduate students. **REMOVE: Area Representative positions** ***(i.e., "distinct concentrations within TST's doctoral research programs" such as Bible, history, pastoral, theology and contextual representatives).***

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

NEW ADDITION **4.2.4 At the discretion of the TGSA, two at-large representatives may be chosen.**