

TGSA Board Meeting
Friday, July 21, 2023 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Via Zoom

Minutes

Present: Maureen O., Susan M., Rosemary B., Christine S., Bohdan H.

Absent: Patrick N., Li-Wei L.

1. Prayer/Territorial Acknowledgment. An opening prayer was offered by Maureen, following which Maureen read the territorial acknowledgement.
2. Approval of Agenda and May 23, 2023 Ratification Meeting Minutes –
The approval of the agenda and the Ratification Meeting minutes was moved by Rosemary and seconded Susan. Passed
3. Reports:

A. President:

The following board positions are currently vacant:

Treasurer (Priority)
VP Communications
Emmanuel Rep
Knox Rep
Trinity Rep
Wycliffe Rep
DMin Rep
Master of Theology Rep
Master of Arts Rep
Library Rep

Maureen will be in contact with the various colleges when she receives a list of enrolled students from Diane Henson (TST Registrar), in order to identify potential candidates for each position. It is hopeful that we will have candidates for all these positions by September.

She also emphasized the necessity of having active college reps and will make the filling of these positions, as well as the treasurer position, a priority. The college reps serve as intermediaries between TGSA and the colleges and help foster the ecumenical element of the TST. The other members of the executive will endeavour to help in filling the ranks of our board as well.

Conference Awards: Maureen was unable to meet with John Sampson prior to this meeting. In the past TGSA have offered three awards per term in Fall, Winter/Spring and Summer, but TST only adjudicates the awards twice a year, in October and April. Maureen asked whether we would like to continue with three awards with \$325 per recipient each term, or reduce this to two, with \$540 per recipient each term. Rosemary emphasized that we need to make sure we have the ability to cover awards for attendance at summer conferences. Susan noted that whatever decision is taken we need to make this information widely available, and we need to coordinate this with the timelines of paper proposals and acceptance. The matter of the number of applications was also discussed, as we do not have a large number of applications. Rosemary suggested that in order to address the timeline problem identified by Susan perhaps we could also incorporate retroactive applications for those who have missed a deadline through no fault of their own might also be able to apply. Maureen will speak with John Sampson about this, and we will take a final decision when we have a fuller board meeting.

Moved by Rosemary, seconded by Susan to accept the President's report. Passed.

B. VP Academic. No report.

C. VP External – Susan is “getting her sea-legs” and thanked Maureen and Morgan for their help in getting her up to speed. She will continue to determine what types of benefits we might be able to advocate for on behalf of the Theology students.

Acceptance of Susan's report moved by Christine, seconded by Rosemary. Passed.

D. VP Conference – No report

E. College Representatives:

St. Mikes – Rosemary reported that federation is still underway, professors and classrooms are being moved, “things seem to be going well.”

Acceptance of these reports was moved by Susan, Seconded by Christine. Passed.

4. Events/Workshops

A. Orientation (September 8): Rosemary's idea of including the second, third, and fourth year students in the orientation was positively received. It was suggested that special sessions for the 2nd and 3rd/4th year groups on the same day as the first year orientation would be beneficial. Maureen will propose this idea to TST.

As regard to a pizza lunch vs. a pub night the consensus was that TGSA sponsor a pizza lunch on the afternoon of Thursday, the 14th of September. Maureen will follow-up regarding the possibility of having the pizza lunch outdoors.

- B. SSHRC Grant Writing Workshop: Christine will reach out to Xenia to determine details, Susan also offered to help. This will be an in-person event. Maureen will confirm the date and time with John Sampson.
- C. Cohort Cohesion: We will continue with the same pattern, on the afternoon of the first Thursday of each month.
- D. Other socials or events.

Christine suggested that we might sponsor workshops for writers in regard to footnoting, bibliographic tools, etc., but noted that a) it is important to promote such workshops broadly and well in advance, and b) if such workshops are already available through other colleges we might advertise and support them.

Susan suggested that workshops in regard to the specific skills needed for prospectus writing, proposal writing, general exams, etc. would be very helpful. It was agreed that having students as presenters would be most beneficial. Maureen suggested that we organize such a workshop in the winter (end of January/beginning of February), and Christine confirmed that she would do so.

Christine also noted the we should also prepare a calendar so as to be able to promote the dates/times of our workshops well in advance.

Susan suggested that a workshop on learning about conferences in the various fields would be helpful as well.

It was agreed that if we had college representatives to liaise with both the TGSA, TST, and their individual college in regard to all these matters it would be extremely beneficial to all students.

Moved by Rosemary/Christine to approve the above items regarding events and workshops. Passed

- 5. Questions/Concerns/New Business. None were raised.
- 6. Date of next meeting: Pending.
- 7. Moved by Christine, seconded by Susan to adjourn.

Minutes submitted by Bohdan Hladio