

TGSA Board Meeting
Tuesday, October 10, 2023 @ 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Via Zoom

Minutes

Present: Maureen O., Bohdan H., Sam A., Christian C-S., Rosemary B., Sileen P., Christine S., Marina G., Li-Wei L., Susan M.

Regrets: Matthew F.

1. Prayer/Territorial Acknowledgment: Prayer was led by Sileen, following which Maureen read the Territorial Acknowledgment.
2. Approval of Agenda and September 12, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Approval of the Agenda and the September 12th meeting minutes was moved by Christine/Seconded by Sam. Passed.

3. Reports

A. President

- i. Board Membership
 - a. Ratification of Sileen Phillips as DMin Rep
Moved by Sam/Seconded by Christine. Passed
 - b. Ratification of Marina Ghebrial as Trinity Rep
Moved by Sam/Seconded by Li-Wei. Passed
 - c. Vacant positions – several positions are available, we especially need to find someone to take on the treasurer’s and the communication director’s duties, Maureen asked that we all try to find candidates to fulfill these and the other unfilled positions.
- ii. TST Board of Trustees Meeting Report – Maureen attended the board of trustees meeting and reported that a) the TST community was encouraged to pledge to become a “blue community,” regarding water as a human right, not use bottled water, etc., b) a discussion of how to implement a streamlined system for all the TST colleges, c) exploration of more ways for the TST to develop its ecumenical mission.

- iii. Conference Awards Status – Award applications have been posted. We are awarding \$325 for three candidates to attend autumn conferences.

Moved by Rosemary/Seconded by Marina to accept Maureen's report. Passed

- B. VP Academic –Christine reported that the SSHRC workshop offered by TGSA was held, it was well attended. Three presenters spoke of their experience applying for the award. It was done in an informal manner and was very successful. She also reported that there had been significant issues with the SSHRC application process this year. First of all, GCTS had announced the due date as being October 17th and then, on September 18th, an email was sent announcing that this had been an error and that the actual date was September 27th. Students were quite upset as this presented them with very little time to complete the application. Student anxiety was compounded by the fact that the SSHRC website went down a day before the due date. TST students were notified that once the site was functioning again, they had less than 24 hours to upload their application. Since there was dissatisfaction among students on this matter, Christine spoke with Maureen and they agreed that Christine would write an email to D. Dias, M. Attridge and J. Sampson asking that this extension be extended for 24 hours. The extension was given but we are not sure if the letter from TGSA was a factor. Christine also recommended to J. Sampson that students be alerted to the early SSHRC deadline in the spring/early summer.

Moved by Christine/Seconded by Susan to accept Christine's report. Passed

- C. VP External – Susan has not had any inquiries from students, has been in touch with the UTSU and will be meeting with them in the near future. Maureen suggested that Susan explore the opportunities for workshops or workshop leaders with the Schol of Graduate Studies.

Christian noted that it would be good to make students aware of other opportunities for jobs, such as examination vigilator, etc.

Moved by Sam/Seconded by Sileen to accept Susan's report. Passed

- D. VP Conference – Li-Wei reported that a meeting was held earlier today, and a draft of the call for papers has been prepared which he shared. He asked that any suggestions be shared with him, Rosemary, or Bohdan, especially in regard to how the conference might be made most welcoming and interesting for students. Li-Wei will endeavor to prepare a flyer with the call for papers by November, and will follow up to make sure that the date will not be conflict with other conferences. Tentatively we are looking at either the second or the fourth Saturday of May at one of the TST colleges. A keynote speaker will be invited, someone familiar with “doing theology in a Canadian context,” and if anyone has any suggestions to this end please contact Li-Wei.

Maureen suggested that the topics might be aggregated into panels.

Rosemary suggested that it might be appropriate to invite one of the professors who will be retiring from the TST.

The call for papers will be circulated to the students of other theological faculties in Canada as well.

Moved by Christine/Seconded by Susan to accept Li-Wei's report. Passed

E. College Representatives

- i. Knox – No report
- ii. St. Mike's – Rosemary reported that the Michaelmas festivities took place and was well attended; A reading group regarding the Pope's latest encyclical was organized and was very successful; a joint St. Mike's/Regis faculty meeting will be held tomorrow; joint liturgies are going well; St. Mike's is still looking for a treasurer. The student bodies and faculty councils are still separate, but joint meetings are also held. Integration is going slowly but surely.
- iii. Trinity – Marina reported that she would like to form a face-book or what's app group for the PhD students.
- iv. Wycliffe – Christian reported that not much has happened since last meeting; the semester has started well and the student groups and activities are up and running. Upcoming events include the scripture colloquium, and then the head of the PAOC will be speaking during the coming month as well. Christian is striving to maintain contact with the student body.

Moved by Sam/Seconded by Susan to accept the college rep reports. Passed

F. Program Reps

- i. DMin Rep – No report, as Sileen was only appointed today. She noted that efforts are being made in regard to bringing the DMin students together on site.
- ii. MA Rep – Sam reported on the activities of the MA students in regard to cultivating community and mutual support. Everything is going well.

Moved by Christine/Seconded by Marina to accept the college rep reports. Passed

4. Events/Workshops

- A. SSHRC Grant Writing Workshop – Christine reported on this earlier in the meeting.
- B. Ideas for proposed Proposal and Prospectus workshops in February – Maureen asked that anyone who has ideas share them with either herself or Christine.

Based upon Christine's earlier observation Susan suggested that we want to keep such workshops more informal and student led.

Christian suggested that proposal and prospectus writing is very important, but added that workshops offering practical information in regard to how one relates to a supervisor, how committees are formed and work, etc. would be useful, especially on a more informal level.

Marina noted that Trinity scheduled their orientation the same day as the TST orientation, and asked if it would not be possible to hold such a workshop to review all the TST information which Trinity (and other) students may have missed. The goal would be to "bring the handbook to life" for AD students.

C. Other workshop ideas?

Moved by Christine/Seconded by Sileen to accept the Events/Workshops reports. Passed

5. Questions/Concerns/New Business?

None.

6. Date of next meeting. Next meeting will be held on the second Tuesday of November.

7. Meeting was adjourned at 1:56 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Bohdan Hladio