

TGSA Board Meeting
Tuesday, Jan 16, 2024 @ 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Via Zoom

Minutes

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

Regrets: Matthew F.

1. **Prayer/Territorial Acknowledgment** A prayer was offered by David, following which Maureen read the Territorial Acknowledgement, wished everyone a blessed new year and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Approval of the Agenda and December 12, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Moved by Christian/Seconded by Rosemary to approve the agenda and accept the minutes of the November 12th meeting. Passed.

3. **Reports**

A. President

i. Board Membership:

- a. Ratification of David Ross as Treasurer and Students' Financial Aid Committee Rep

Moved by Marina, seconded by Susan to ratify David Ross as Treasurer and Financial Aid Committee Rep. Passed.

ii. Referendum

All Referenda must be set up by the December meeting, therefore it is impossible for us to organize a referendum by the end of this school year. We will work towards deciding about whether a referendum will be held in time for the December 2024 meeting.

Rosemary noted that all our college reps should speak to their respective college administrations in advance regarding the possibility of the colleges covering the benefits which might not be covered by the new package.

It was also noted that the U of T has very strict guidelines in regard to referenda which must be strictly adhered to.

- iii. Maureen also asked that if anyone is unable to attend an external committee meeting they let her know so that another person might be seconded to attend in their place.
- iv. The Knox representative has not been able to attend meetings this year, and Maureen asked whether the board feels that we need to find a different representative from Knox. The board decided that it would be good to contact the Knox representative to ask if he would be able to either send a report or find another Knox student who might substitute for him.

Moved by Li-Wei, seconded by Marina to approve Maureen's report.
Passed.

B. Treasurer's Report

No report yet.

C. VP Academic

Nothing to report.

D. VP External

Susan's report (both PP and PDF) were very well prepared and very well received, and will be available to the administration of the member colleges for information purposes in regard to the financial implications of any changes, but will not be generally circulated to the student body. For questions regarding what services are available to students the information in the pdf can be shared, and will be posted on the TGSA web-site. Susan is following up with discussions regarding questions raised by the UTSU and will report on the results of these discussions at an upcoming meeting.

Moved by David, seconded by Rosemary to approve Susan's report. Passed.

E. VP Conference

Li-Wei forwarded the information regarding the conference in advance and is attached to these minutes. Sileen has volunteered to prepare a poster, promotional materials as well as the call for papers will be circulated ASAP.

It was decided that the honourarium for the keynote speaker will be \$500.

Moved by Sam, seconded by Christine to approve Li-Wei's report. Passed.

F. VP Communications / Library

Matteo reported that the library committee would like to host more educational seminars for the TST students. What would students like to know about? What resources would students like to learn about? TST will be asking professors to submit their most recent book for a display at Regis/St. Michael's, and would like to alternate this with poster presentations on students' research every second year. This will be held after the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Possibilities for workshops included an "ask the librarian" workshop; a "refresher" of the September introduction workshop to be offered in January; workshops in regard to research/handbooks/bibliographies; identifying journals which might be fruitful for publishing; reading strategies; note-taking strategies; citation organizing software.

The next TGSA newsletter will come out in February.

Moved by Sileen, seconded by Marina to approve Matteo's report. Passed.

G. College Representatives

- i. Emmanuel – The Graduate Director Thomas Reynolds is on leave this semester, Swee Hong Lim is the interim director. Talked to the principle about the college funding for paying the student incidental fees but since the college is providing enough stipend students to cover it, and since the college is also struggling with financial difficulties, it won't be possible for the college to support students financially in paying the fees.
- ii. Knox – Sileen reported that Knox College is pleased to announce we are launching a PhD Fellowship Program and MDiv Fellowship Program. Starting in fall 2024, we will be awarding up to two PhD fellowships each valued at \$40,000 per year in stipend and teaching assistantship funding for four years and two MDiv fellowships each valued at \$27,000 per year in stipend funding for six semesters over three years. These fellowships will continue to be awarded each year to support the education of our graduate students and certified PCC candidates for ministry. Application to the PhD program must be made through the Toronto School of Theology, with "Knox College" selected as the home college. All applicants to the MDiv program at Knox College who are certified candidates for ministry with the PCC will be considered. Application to the MDiv program must be made to Knox College's Basic Degree Program Application. For more information: <https://knox.utoronto.ca/fellowshipprogram/>
- iii. St. Mike's – Rosemary reported that activities for the winter semester have begun and that things are going well.

- iv. Trinity – some concerns in regard to facilities, integration with other students.
- v. Wycliffe – Christian noted that everything is starting up again, the café is now open and suggested that this is a good option if we are looking for event facilities or catering.

Moved by Marina, seconded by Li-Wei to approve the college rep reports.
Passed.

1. Program Reps

- i. DMin Rep – Sileen reported that the DMin cohort has finalized day and time for cohort meetings. The applications for DMin applications is 15 February at 12 noon. Last year was the final year for Knox to accept DMin application. Knox will be starting a new Fellowship program for PhD and M.Div. students worth \$40K for one year, though the program may be extended to four years. The chapel service has been changed from 1:15 till 2:00 PM.
- ii. MA Rep – Sam reported that a WhatsApp group has been formed, students are finding it hard to determine which courses will fulfill the methodology requirement, but this is being addressed.

Moved by Susan, seconded by Matteo to approve the program rep reports.
Passed.

4. Events/Workshops

A. Ideas for proposed Proposal and Prospectus workshops in February

Susan, Christine and Rosemary are willing to help with organizing workshops.

B. Other workshop ideas?

Susan suggested that in addition to the proposal and prospectus writing workshop an article writing workshop would be helpful, and to this end identifying faculty members who would be willing to act as readers/mentors for students writing academic articles would be beneficial.

C. Cohort Cohesion – Marina will send out a poll and we will determine the best day/time for this event.

5. Questions/Concerns/New Business?

6. **Date of next meeting?** Does Second Tuesday of the month from 1-2pm, as board meeting time, still work for everyone in the winter/spring session? As it appears that one hour is not enough time for our meetings Maureen will circulate a poll to the executive members to determine which day/time works best and we will proceed from there.

Moved by Susan, seconded by Sileen to adjourn the meeting Passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:20 PM.

Minutes prepared and submitte by Bohdan Hladio