

TGSA Board Meeting
Tuesday, Feb 20 2024 @ 12:30 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., Hyelim Y.

Regrets: Matteo C.

1. Prayer/Territorial Acknowledgment. David opened the meeting with a prayer, following which Maureen read the territorial acknowledgement.

2. Approval of Agenda and January 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Moved by Marina/seconded by Christine to approve the agenda for today's meeting and approve the minutes of the January 16th meeting. Passed.

3. Reports

A. President

i. Board Membership:

- a. Ratification of Sileen Phillips as Knox Rep. Matthew is unable to continue as Knox Representative. Sileen has volunteered to fill this role.

Moved by Marina, Seconded by Rosemary to ratify Sileen as the Knox Representative. Passed.

B. Treasurer / Student Financial Aid Committee

- i. TGSA Fees. David and Maureen have been in contact with the TST administration in regard to a 50 cent increase per year. It was suggested by TST administration that it is better to do incremental increases rather than one large increase from time to time.

At present Full-time students are paying \$9.50 per semester (\$19 per year), and Part-time students \$4.75 per semester (9.50 per year). If passed, the new fees would be \$19.50 per year for full-time students and \$9.76 per year for part-time students.

Moved by Susan/seconded by Rosemary to approve this TGSA fee increase for this year only. Passed.

David participated in the Graduate Funding meeting with TST, and as a result of the external review it was noted that the level of funding for graduate students is problematic. Attempts will be made to increase the amount of funding for graduate students at TST. Susan noted that it appears some colleges are holding back money from their own funds to students who have received OGS scholarships. David also noted that there was a desire to better equip students to access SSHRC and OGS (as well as other) grants. One other issue which was raised at this meeting was the matter of other supports or benefits to students which might be available here.

Moved by Marina/seconded by Sileen to approve the Treasurer's report

C. VP Academic

Christine reported that a considerable amount of discussion took place about being collaborative in regard to scheduling. The issue of international students was also discussed, but the directives from the government are unclear. There will be more conversations in regard to this matter.

Moved by Sileen/seconded by Marina to approve the VP Academic report

D. VP External

Susan reported that a letter was received in regard to "professional head-shot day" for the external faculty, and doing a survey to see what day and time would be best for us. Susan responded but has not heard back yet.

Maureen asked that Susan pass on her report regarding fees to Matteo for posting on the web-site.

As to athletics and recreation, it appears that it will be impossible for students to register without hold the referendum, as per our previous discussions of this matter.

Moved by Li-Wei/seconded by Rosemary to approve the VP External report

E. VP Conference

- i. Conference preparation. The conference will be held at the Charbonnel lounge of St. Michael's College, the cost will be \$200 for the entire day, we will be able to bring our own refreshments or to purchase them from the caterers there. The space will comfortably fit sixty people. We need to spread the word and encourage students to submit proposals. Once we have received all proposals we will need to set the

schedule. Regarding registration – do we want it to be free or should there be a charge? Li-Wei suggests that there be no registration fee – what is the consensus?

Maureen suggested that there is no need to charge, as we have not had any conferences for several years, and the TGSA finances are in good shape. David noted that this would be an added incentive for students to participate.

We need to promote this event more aggressively both within and without the TST, especially among the TST faculty and encourage them to promote this event, as well as through our own personal contacts with other students we know.

Moved by Susan/seconded by Marina to approve the VP Conference report. Passed.

F. VP Communications / Library

Matteo is preparing a newsletter which should be ready for distribution this week. Anyone with information for inclusion is asked to send this information on to Matteo.

G. College Representatives

- i. Emmanuel – HyeLim reported that on March 21st a gathering for graduate students will be held. Many events are taking place, including a recent Lunar New Year celebration.
- ii. Knox – Sileen reported that next week, on the 26th, a hybrid event will be held, it is the Scripture, Scholarship and Faith Symposium, beginning at 7 PM. Chapel days are on Tuesdays at 1:15 PM.
- iii. St. Mike's - Rosemary reported that the Shrove Tuesday pancake event went well and a St. Patrick's day event is being planned. Town hall with Regis/St. Mike's students went well.
- iv. Trinity – Marina reported that the co-heads at Trinity have begun a drop-in on Thursdays.
- v. Wycliffe – Christian reported that several events are coming up, Preaching Day this Saturday, the Jocz presentation in March, etc. Information has been circulated and will be shared with Matteo. Christian will be speaking to the Wycliffe graduate students re: TGSA, access to resources, etc. on March 27th. Everyone is welcome. David noted that he is coordinating an event at Wycliffe, he has already shared the details with Matteo.

Moved by Li-Wei, Seconded by David, to approve the College Representative's reports. Passed.

H. Program Reps

- i. DMin Rep – Sileen reported that the DMin cohort group is meeting regularly, every other Friday at 9 AM. The DMin summer cohort courses will begin on May 6th for entry and second year, and this year's course will be Theology of Ministry, and the third year course is Qualitative Research and Design. Sileen also reported that she has not been able to find anything new in regard to scholarships or bursaries.
- ii. MA Rep – no report.

Moved by Christian/Seconded by Hye-Lim to accept Sileen's report. Passed.

4. Events/Workshops

A. Proposal and Prospectus workshop

Rosemary reported that everything for the prospectus/proposal writing workshop has been finalized, it will be held next Tuesday, the 27th, from 10 AM till noon in the Multipurpose room at the Kelly Library. John Sampson and some professors will be present, and examples of successful proposals and prospecti will be presented as well.

It was suggested that all of us reach out to students who are at the prospectus or proposal stage to encourage them to attend, as well as to share their prospectus or proposal (anyone who is able to share a prospectus or proposal please forward them to one of the committee members).

Rosemary suggested that we have a drop-in "OGS writing party" in preparation for the application deadline. This idea was received positively, Rosemary will reserve a room at the Regis library for the evenings of the 22nd, 23rd, and 26th of February from 11 AM till 3 PM and we will advertise this through the list serve.

Maureen suggested that we consider sponsoring a workshop by the **Career Exploration & Education University of Toronto**. Maureen will communicate with the centre and we will tentatively look at a date in April or May.

Moved by David/seconded by Li-Wei to approve the Rosemary's report

5. Questions/Concerns/New Business?

- A. Bohdan suggested that it would be good for us to start identifying who is planning to remain on the executive for the coming year as well as start recruiting to fill vacant positions for the coming year.
 - B. Bohdan also informed the members of the executive about the joint initiative of the Canadian Council of Churches, the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, and the Peace and Reconciliation Network in regard to the pastoral letter which they published asking the Christians of Canada to pray for and work towards an end to the war in Ukraine. He also asked that if possible the prayers prepared on the occasion of the 2nd anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion be offered this coming weekend. Both the letter as well as the associated prayers can be accessed at: <https://councilofchurches.ca/news/church-and-christian-leaders-of-canada-call-for-peace-as-war-in-ukraine-enters-its-second-year/>
6. Moved by Susan and seconded by Sileen to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 1:55 PM.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Bohdan Hladio