

TGSA Board Meeting
Tuesday, April 9, 2024 @ 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm
Via Zoom
Minutes

Present: Maureen O., Susan M., Sileen P. Rosemary B., Sam A., Christian C-S., Li-Wei L., Hyelim Y. Bohdan H., David R., Christine W. S., Beth Anne Fisher (guest)

Regrets: Marina G., Matteo C.,

1. Prayer/Territorial Acknowledgment. The prayer was led by Maureen, following which she read the Territorial Acknowledgement.

2. Approval of Agenda and March 12, 2024, Meeting Minutes.

Moved by HyeLim/Seconded by Rosemary to approve today's agenda and the minutes from the March 12th meeting. Passed

3. Reports

A. *President*

i.**Motion #1:** Rosemary Boissonneau as CRO for the 2024 Elections.
Moved by David/Seconded by Christian. Passed

ii.**Motion #2:** As per the constitution, you are supposed to allow 6-weeks in between choosing a CRO and starting the nomination period. I would like to get a motion to forgo this 6-week period so that we don't have any delays with the incoming board. (Nomination Period: April 12-30th/Ratification Meeting: Friday, May 14th)

Moved by David/Seconded by Christian. Passed

iii.TGSA Conference Awards follow up. Maureen reported that after following up with the GCTS administration there cannot be a third adjudication for conference awards, as they only meet twice, nor is it practical or desirable to offer awards retroactively. The suggestion was made that it might be useful going forward to aggregate the summer and fall awards, rather than the spring and summer awards. Rosemary also suggested that there might be a provision for papers submitted which have not to that date been accepted.

Moved by Rosemary/Seconded by Susan to accept Maureen's Report. Passed

4. Beth Anne Fisher – guest presentation regarding guidelines for student/supervisor dynamics and dual roles within a college.

Beth Anne spoke regarding power dynamics in regard to the relationship between students and their supervisor or committee. She noted that through the School of Graduate Studies a handbook is available which relates specifically to power dynamics and dual roles between students and faculty, and proposed that these guidelines be used as a basis for the composition of similar guidelines for the TST. She also suggested that an introductory paragraph might also be included within the TST handbook to encourage the colleges to be aware of this when hiring a graduate student, that this dynamic be brought up and openly discussed prior to hiring, and to perhaps include something to this effect in the annual report. Beth Anne also offered to be a part of a team which might draft such guidelines.

The link to the SGS handbook can be found here:

<https://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/resources-supports/supervision/supervision-guidelines/supervision-guidelines-for-faculty-section-8-when-problems-arise/>

Motion: a) To create and start using guidelines for supervision based upon those of the school of Graduate Studies; b) to add a brief paragraph into the annual report that speaks about power dynamics within dual roles or dual relationships between supervisors/committees and graduate students; c) to include a paragraph about power dynamics within the TST student handbook as well, and d) that this proposal be presented at the next Academic Council meeting.

Moved by Susan/Seconded by Rosemary. Passed

Related to the above, Beth Anne suggested that a town hall type meeting be organized during which the issue of power dynamics might be discussed.

5. Treasurer report. David reported that in regard to student funding he will be attending the funding meeting before the end of this month, and that he is preparing a budget with Li-Wei in regard to the student conference.

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

6. VP Academic. There is nothing to report as the next meeting will be happening later this afternoon.

7. VP External. Susan reported that there was a referendum about joining GSU in 2016 but that joining the GSU actually cannot be done without the GSU changing its constitution and giving its consent, so it is impossible to have a referendum about

joining GSU when the GSU's constitution does not permit this. The reason is that the University of Toronto cannot confer theological degrees. The question of leaving UTSU to joining GSU is for all practical purposes moot.

- i.Plans towards potential Student Life Fees Referendum. It appears that the only option would be to opt in to pay these student life fees.

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

8. VP Conference

- i.Conference preparation. Li-Wei reported that arrangements are moving forward, promotional materials and venue reservation are done. Anyone wishing to serve as a moderator or help in any other way is asked to contact Li-Wei, and Li-Wei also asked that we encourage people to register for the conference so we have a head-count in regard to refreshments, etc. Maureen acknowledged the work of Sileen, Rosemary and Matteo in regard to preparing and publicising the event. It was suggested that we ask the college reps to ask their college administration to send the poster out by e-mail to all their students and include the information in their own college newsletters.

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

9. VP Communications / Library. No report.

10.College Representatives

- i.Emmanuel. HyeLim announced that Prof. Nestor Medina will be the new graduate director as of July 1st, and that the most recent college meeting was very productive.

ii.Knox. Sileen reported that:

- Alumni Reunion jointly with UfT, May 29 – June 2
- 180th Convocation May 25th, 2024
- This year they will be introducing the Alumni Achievement Award
- Knox is calling for TAs and RAs for the upcoming academic year

- iii.St. Mike's. Rosemary reported that things are wrapping up for the semester and a commissioning mass was celebrated for those who are graduating. A pub night was held, and personal communication between and among students and faculty of both Regis and St. Michael's is being encouraged in order to facilitate the successful amalgamation of the colleges. A successful eclipse party was also held.

iv.Trinity. No report.

v.Wycliffe. Christian reported that the search for a chaplain continues; the principal plans to retire in 2025; Christian made a presentation about TGSA to the WGS, which was greatly appreciated and he offered the thanks of the Wycliffe students to TGSA for our work. Susan's PDF summary regarding student life fees, access to GSU, etc. was presented and elicited questions in regard to access to Hart House on a personal basis; the GSU relationship (which was discussed earlier during today's meeting); issues regarding the MOA; and the question of whether student life fees, were they to be accepted, be paid from bursaries which would then cut into the amount of bursary money students would receive.

Susan noted that in regard to Hart House she will meet with a representative to determine if any possibility exists whereby students might be able opt-in to the Hart House facilities on a personal basis.

Sileen raised an issue in regard to parking. In the past there was a discount for students which has apparently been cancelled. Is it possible to have such a discount reinstated? Christine reported that there is a discounted rate of \$150 per month, which is only helpful if you park at least two – three times a week. Rosemary will check with St. Mike's to see if some type of discount might be reinstated.

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

11.Program Reps

i.DMin Rep. Sileen reported the following info/events/news:

- This afternoon at 3pm – Graduate Studies Council* Meeting, TST Boardroom, 2nd Floor and via Zoom
- Last cohort meeting will be next Wednesday, April 16 @7:30 via Zoom. We will meet in person for class in May
- Summer course registration for DMin is now open.

Registration deadline is April 19:

- First/second year: Theology of Ministry
TSM5021HF
 - INSTRUCTOR(S): Fortin, Jean-Pierre
- Second/Third year: Qualitative Research and Design TSM5022HF
 - INSTRUCTOR(S): Travis, Sarah

- COLLEGE: Toronto School of Theology
- This afternoon @ 3pm is Graduate Studies Council Meeting
 - TST Boardroom, 2nd Floor and via Zoom
- April 15 is the last day to apply for scholarship and bursary
- April 19 is the last day to submit doctoral thesis for Fall 2024 or May 2025 Convocation
- April 22 is the deadline for DMin and ThM students to submit Thesis for examination to avoid tuition fees for summer 2024
- April 23 is DMin Orientation at TST

**Academic advisory and approval body responsible for developing and implementing academic policy and regulations for SGS and for graduate studies at the University of Toronto.*

ii.MA Rep. Sam reported that one concern is that there seem to be less pastoral courses available, and that everyone is gearing up for the summer courses or for writing.

Moved by Christine/Seconded by Susan to accept the program rep reports. Passed

12. Events/Workshops

A. End of Year Event. We will consider an event towards the end of April. Cohort Cohesion will not take place this week due to finals.

B. TGSA Conference: Doing Theology in a Canadian Context – May 14, 2024. Li-Wei will be in communication with the board in regard to needs, and anyone who is able to help out in any way (moderating, registration, etc.) is asked to contact Li-Wei.

Moved by Sam/Seconded by Christian to accept the Events/Workshops reports.
Passed

13. Questions/Concerns/New Business? None.

14. Maureen thanked everyone for their service on the board this year.

15. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 2 PM.

Minutes prepared by Bohdan Hladio