

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

Minutes

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

Regrets: David R., Sileen P.

1. Prayer/Territorial Acknowledgment. The meeting was opened with a prayer by Maureen, following which Maureen read the Territorial Acknowledgement.

2. Approval of Agenda and February 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Moved by Marina, Seconded by Rosemary to approve today's agenda and the minutes of our February 20th meeting. Passed.

3. Reports

A. President

- i. Board Membership. Call for Nominations for board positions will be sent out next month. Maureen asked that anyone planning to leave the board at the end of this session inform her of same within the coming weeks.
- ii. TST Board of Trustees. In regard to the Board of Trustees meeting: a) the U of T code of conduct is to be adopted by all colleges, b) UTQAP proposes reduction in number of courses across TST colleges in order to reduce duplication, c) provincial regulations regarding international students have been changed, while the changes mostly impacts the undergrad level, this may require some adjustment at the graduate level in terms of housing, d) the financial implications for students regarding the MOA's with other institutions are minimal, there may be some implication to the supervisory committee, e) the North American Academy of Ecumenists conference will be hosted by the TST this fall. It is an Opportunity for TST to solidify its claim as an ecumenical institution. The meeting will open with a panel and a presentation on the TST, f) TST is receiving more applications (getting to pre-COVID levels) and they are very strong candidates, though the MA program is lacking in terms of number of applicants. The first round of admissions has been sent out.

- iii. Conference Awards. Currently TGSA offers \$1,000 per semester/\$325 per person for three students per semester (autumn, spring, summer). GCTS has suggested that the spring and summer awards not be segregated, in other words, that we offer six awards during the spring/summer, from January to August. Following discussion, the following motion was made:
Motion: to offer six awards for the spring and the summer combined, rather than three for the spring term and three for the summer. Moved by Christine/Seconded by Hye-Lim. Passed.

Moved by Christine/Seconded by Rosemary to receive Maureen's report.
Passed

B. Treasurer / Student Financial Aid Committee. No report

- C. VP Academic. Christine reported that discussions are being held within TST regarding having a native knowledge keeper present at the defense as an expert in order to determine what the exact requirements and process would be. This is already done within the U of T.

Moved by Matteo/Seconded by Li-Wei to receive Christine's report. Passed

- D. VP External. Susan noted that the UTSU newsletter contained a link related to scholarships which are available for professional faculties, including the TST, specifically three scholarships for \$15,000 apiece. She believes that these are available to BD students. It was suggested that the College Reps could inform their college administrations so they might circulate this information to their entry-level students.

Susan also reported that according to the GSU by-laws TGSA cannot join that organization, therefore without a GSU by-law change it would be impossible for TGSA to transfer from UTSU to GSU. In regard to the use of athletic facilities, Hart House, etc., it appears that according to regulations individual opt-in by students is impossible.

Matteo raised the question of whether TST graduate students would pay the same incidental / student life fees compared other U of T graduate students, if were to opt into the fees. Maureen requested that Susan determine what the incidental / Student Life fees paid by BD students are (in relation to graduate students' Student Life fees), compared to that of U of T graduate students in other faculties.

Moved by Hye-Lim/Seconded by Matteo to receive Susan's report. Passed

E. VP Conference

Li-Wei reported that the conference committee met today, information from this meeting was circulated to the executive members, and this report is attached to these minutes.

In regard to conference organization, Li-Wei asked for volunteers to assist. Anyone wishing or able to assist is asked to contact Li-Wei directly to volunteer.

Moved by Christine/Seconded by Marina to receive Li-Wei's report. Passed

F. VP Communications / Library.

Matteo reported that he has been circulating our information on various platforms; he has been receiving constructive comments from students regarding the newsletter, which he plans to prepare on a monthly basis. He is exploring various options in regard to expanding content and presentation, and everyone is very happy with the way the newsletter is developing.

He also asked about the possibility of changing the name of the Cohort Cohesion Gathering. Anyone with suggestions is asked to contact Matteo.

Moved by Rosemary/Seconded by Christian to receive Matteo's report. Passed

G. College Representatives

- i. Emmanuel – A pizza gathering will be held on March 21st.
- ii. Knox – no report.
- iii. St. Mike's – A solar eclipse gathering is being organized; St. Michael's is in the final stages of hiring an eastern patristics professor.
- iv. Trinity – The Trinity College elections have begun; there are some summer employment opportunities as well.
- v. Wycliffe – A search is on for a new WJS coordinator for WJS; Christian will offer a presentation at 1 PM on 27 March regarding TGSA and extended an invitation to TGSA members to attend. A talk entitled "Cosmos, Consciousness, and Christ" will be offered. March 23rd from 9:30 to 11:30 AM.

Moved by Christine/Seconded by Matteo to receive the college representatives' reports. Passed.

H. Program Reps

- i. DMin Rep – no report

- ii. MA Rep – Everyone is doing well.

Moved by Rosemary/Seconded by Matteo to receive the program representatives' report. Passed.

4. Events/Workshops

Maureen is still attempting to arrange a workshop sponsored by the Career Exploration & Education University of Toronto, on transitioning, transferable skills, or some other type of other professional development skill or topic. The centre requires a minimum of 20 participants in order to offer this. The concern is that we will not be able to achieve this number of participants. Maureen will continue to pursue this.

5. Questions/Concerns/New Business? None

- 6.** Moved by Christian, Matteo to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 1:55 PM.

Minutes prepared by Bohdan Hladio