

Board of Directors 2015-2016

TRENT CENTRAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION WINTER SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

January 27, 2016 1:00 PM
Lecture Hall, Sadlier House

The Winter Semi-Annual General Meeting of the Trent Central Student Association occurred on 27 January 2016 at 2:00pm in the Lecture Hall in Sadlier House, Trent University, Peterborough, ON.

1) Call to Order

Board Chair Natalie Muller calls the meeting to order at 1:05pm.

2) Land Acknowledgement

Board Chair Natalie Muller reads aloud the Land Acknowledgment as an expression of gratitude to the First People's House of Learning for allowing the Association to use the room. The Trent Central Student Association wishes to acknowledge the Anishnaabe and Mississauga peoples and their traditional territory, in which this meeting is taking place.

3) Chairs Remarks

Board Chair Natalie Muller welcomes all attendees, and advises all attendees on the procedure of the speakers list. The meeting will follow Robert's Rules of Order, and a gender parity. First time speakers get priority on the floor.

4) Approval of the Agenda

MOTION: Be it resolved that the 2015.01.27 Winter Semi-Annual General Meeting Agenda be adopted as presented.

Moved by: 8; Seconded by: 2.

Carried

5) Approval of the Minutes

MOTION: Be it resolved that the Minutes of the 2015.09.25 Annual General Meeting be approved.

Moved by: 18; Seconded by: 24.

6) Financial Statements

MOTION: Be it resolved that the Fiscal 2015 Financial Statements be approved.

Moved by: 11; Seconded by: 18.

Operations Manager Tracey Milne says that these are the Association's financial statements from 1 September 2014 to 31 August 2015. The majority of the Association's investments are for GIC (health benefits). This money is put aside so that, hopefully, the Association can be self-insured next year. Last year, there was \$150,000 more in the Association's accounts. This year, that number is \$81,248. The majority of this sits in benefits. It costs about \$400,000 to be self-insured. However, it will save the Association money in the future. They will be able to increase coverage or lower premiums. \$1000 out of \$6000 was given away to the Community Support Fund and special funding requests. They will adjust this budget line, as it was not fully utilized by the student body. The association has 6 accounts, including Student Centre, Benefits, Operations, Transit and Shinerama. It appears that there is a huge discrepancy in the Health & Dental Plan student levy. In 2014 it was 1.6 million, and in 2015 it was only \$900,000. This is because last year, Finance gave the Association all of the opt-out funds. Then those funds were directed toward CNC, who did the opt-out through direct deposit. The accountant who reconciles the TCSA's accounts is happy with the Association's standing. The TCSA is semi-audited. An audited report would cost \$6000.

16 asks what Community Outreach is. Milne responds that it is for campaigns, CFS, Board expenses and anything under the VPCE position.

Carried.

7) Board of Directors Reports

MOTION: Be it resolved that the Board of Directors 2016.01.27 Reports be approved as presented.

Moved by: 18; Seconded by: 24.

President Alaine Spiwak says the TCSA mobile app has been very successful. It's free, and has information on health and dental benefits, clubs & groups, transit and other services. There have been over 1500 registrations. This year, directors have been focusing on student outreach initiatives. She has been sitting down with students to discuss their concerns and questions at tabling events. She has been taking their feedback to the Board of Directors, who then take that information to their committees and cabinets. Spiwak has spent much of her efforts challenging International Student tuition fee increases. She has been talking to the Board of Governors and the Finance committee to regulate tuition increases. It is currently unregulated, and the University can increase the fee by any amount. Students can't predict how much they will have to pay every year. This can prohibit students' access to education. Unfortunately she has not received much support from Trent. Thus she has launched the International Student Task Force. The task force will gather student voice. She has also begun the Board of Governors student caucus initiative. President Spiwak cannot sit in their closed session. This is problematic because there are two student seats on the Board of Governors that are elected by students. However, they do not have a formal connection with the student body and are

not necessarily accountable to students. In the student caucus, the two student seats will sit down with the TCSA, TDSA and TGSA presidents before all Board of Governor meetings. This way, student voice will be presented. Finally, the final drawings of the Student Centre are being made this week. Once the Association is within budget, they will select a construction company. Construction will start at the end of April. She will try to have the drawings published in the Student Centre.

Vice President Campaigns and Equity Hilary Stafford says that the Trent Votes campaign model will be used in the future to promote student involvement in politics. Leave the Pack Behind is a tobacco control program run out of Brock University. There are three staff members who promote this program on campus. Tenant Rights is a campaign about students' rights as a tenant. The Hike Stops Here and Debt Sentence are the two tuition campaigns. One of the larger campaigns she has been doing is Mental Wellbeing. One of the biggest events relating to Mental Wellbeing is the upcoming Post Secret event. Draw the Line is a consent campaign that she has facilitated this year. She also sits on the executive of the Presidential committee. She sits on the Breast-Feeding, Equity, and Human Rights, Equity, and Accessibility subcommittees. At Wellness committee meetings, she gives recommendations to the Wellness Centre. She also sits on the Mental Health Policy Committee, the Grocery Assistance committee, the Executive committee for CFS Ontario. She plans many of her events through CFS. She recently spoke to the Ontario Legislature about Bill C-132, a sexual violence bill. The majority of the discussion was about Universities having a policy toward sexual violence on campuses.

Vice President University & College Affairs Pippa O'Brien says that 64 clubs & groups have been approved. This is on par with the registration rate of last year. Half of the club funding has been given out. There is still \$17,000 of funding left. The TCSA and the University has been working on a new Risk Management policy. A new, effective and more flexible policy may be ready by the end of the semester. She was involved in several Orientation week this year. O'Brien and Stafford were the co-chairs of the TCSA Orientation Week committee. She also helped to plan Frost Week in January. She has also been working with the Student Senator caucus, the Trent Votes Campaign, and Indigenous Students Commissioner Brendan Campbell to create a mandatory indigenous studies department. The student caucus' focus has been turned to the Traill Review. Spiwak spoke with the President about Traill. She has been organizing a student response. She also sits on CASSC. The most recent discussion was about the increase of ancillary fees which did not follow the ancillary fee policy. Fees were only \$0.71 more than they should have been according to policy.

Environment & Sustainability Commissioner Anastasia Kaschenko is working on the Green Your Campus competition. The Green Team has secured about \$5000 to give to students for sustainability-related projects. This can include land, social services, rainwater collection and the like. This competition will provide the funding to implement the winning students' project. They have been collaborating with Physical Resources to ensure the projects' implementation.

First Year Off-Campus Representative Elora Tarlo wants to ensure that this position is well-known to first year students. This is the first time that it has been occupied in years. Indigenous Students Commissioner Brendan Campbell established an Undergraduate working group. It is open to all Trent students and groups. It will discuss if a mandatory

indigenous students credit will empower indigenous students, if it will create positive relationships between indigenous and non-indigenous students, and how indigenous perspectives can be harmonized with the different faculties of Trent. He has reached out to the college cabinets. He will also reach out to the regional groups and the student senators. He will be hosting a Valentines Indigenous event as a part of Self-Love Week. There will be a blanket exercise, Valentines cards in Indigenous events and other related activities. The Racialized & Indigenous Student Space event will likely happen in March. Queer Students Commissioner Andrew Clark says Self-Love Week is approaching. The Centre for Gender and Social Justice will also be running events. Many different events will be happening. The We're Here and We're Here event will be happening in March. Part-Time Students Commissioner Larissa Ngwe created a survey to see which issues Part-Time students are facing at Trent. The survey is available online. LEC and Otonabee has added the survey to their newsletters. It will also be on the TCSA newsletter. Next, there will be an event for Part-Time students in early march. Anyone is welcome. The event will provide information on the resources available to Part-Time students. There will also be a movie shown after the information session.

Lady Eaton College Commissioner Brandon Rummelgas sits on the Senate Special Appeals committee and the IT Steering committee. Because he is a Don, he has been abstaining from any votes that might constitute a conflict of interest.

Carried.

8) Executive Submitted Motion: By-Law Amendments

MOTION: Be it resolved that the amended By-Laws be adopted as recommended by the Organizational Review and Development Committee.

Moved by: 11; Seconded by: 1.

President Spiwak says that the representatives of the Organizational Review and Development Committee are herself, Alex McKee, Rachel Arsenault, Stephanie Laing MacKay and Pippa O'Brien. ORDC discussed if the by-laws were actually corresponding with the practices of the Associations. There are some substantial changes. Association Resource Manager Stephanie Laing MacKay says that the language surrounding the Student Centre levy fee was amended to state that all members of the Association registered in 3.5 credits or more are charged this fee. The original wording said that all students would be charged. When the TPSA and TCSA merged, there was not an agreement that Part-Time students would pay the fee. They were not a part of the referendum that took place several years ago. Students enrolled in more than 3.5 credits will be charged \$95.1. The next amendment reflects the change of staffing plan at the Board level. The TCSA accepted the staffing plan. The Vice President Clubs & External Affairs position was created. Because the plan was accepted at the Board level, the by-laws need to be amended to include that director. Third, the TCSA has five standing committees. They are ORDC, Finance & Operations, Campaigns & University Affairs, Executive committee, and Transportation. The amendment will replace the Campaigns & University Affairs committee with an events committee. The current committee is not

functioning to the capacity that they would hope. The mandate will focus on events. It will also accommodate the new Vice President position, the Communications Coordinator and the Brand Ambassador Team leads. The fourth amendment concerns the annual Operating budget. The change regards what the actual fiscal year looks like. Before the fiscal year changed in 2013, the TCSA's requirements for 1st, 2nd and 3rd draft budget were on different dates. Now, the fiscal year runs from September 1st to August 31st. The amendments will reflect this change.

MOTION: Be it resolved that the amended By-Laws be adopted as recommended by the Organizational Review and Development Committee with an amendment to motion four to reflect new language stating that the President shall present a revised budget and consultation to the appropriate standing committees no later than the last meeting of the Board of Directors in January and by the end of May.

Moved by: 11; Seconded by: 22.

Carried.

9) Executive Submitted Motion: Policy Resolutions

MOTION: Be it resolved that the amended Policy Resolutions be adopted as recommended by the Organizational Review and Development Committee.

Moved by: 18; Seconded by: 5.

President Alaine Spiwak says most of the changes concern language. As for accessibility, Students with Disabilities Commissioner Calla Durose-Moya proposed language changes which were implemented. Association Resource Manager Stephanie Laing MacKay says that the operating resolutions are best practices (e.g. clubs & groups). Policy resolutions are the opinion of the membership (e.g. accessibility or divestment from fossil fuels). Policy resolutions can come from students or the Board of Directors. The motion to amend is just changing language. One of the changes is to establish scent free zones. Another policy resolution was the renaming of the Accommodations for Students with Special Needs policy to Accommodations for Students with Disabilities.

MOTION: Be it resolved that the amended Policy Resolutions be adopted as recommended by the Organizational Review and Development Committee with the amended change in item three, second paragraph to state “the Association Encourages Trent University Faculty to make teaching materials utilized by instructors accessible to all students with disabilities prior to and after completion of classes.”

Moved by: 23; Seconded by: 4.

23 wants to discuss item five. Under ‘College System’, there is a change proposed under item nine to change “Introductory Seminar Week” to “Orientation Week”. His suggestion

is to amend it back to Introductory Seminar Week to show solidarity with the Colleges who will not be changing the name.

MOTION: Be it resolved that item five, line nine be amended to read “Introductory Seminar Week and Orientation Week activities organized on a collegiate basis”.

Moved by: 23; Seconded by: 18.

2 does not understand 23’s point. 23 says that he has been talking to the Gzowski College Cabinet President. The Colleges decided to preserve the term Introductory Seminar Week and not transition to Orientation week. He says that it would make sense that the TCSA reflect this action of solidarity among college cabinets. President Alaine Spiwak says the policy resolutions are supposed to reflect the proper language. Trent has changed the name of Introductory Seminar Week to Orientation Week. If they refer to it as Introductory Seminar Week, then they may be referring to something that technically doesn’t exist. She does support the idea of showing solidarity with the colleges, but she is worried that the change may cause a technical issue. 21 says that Orientation week is not run by the college cabinets; it is run by the Colleges as a system. Most of the colleges have updated their constitutions to say Orientation Week. 21 thinks it is strange that some constitutions still refer to it as Introductory Seminar Week. 21 supports the idea of keeping “Orientation Week” in the policy resolutions because it is the official title and it is consistent. 1 says that it shouldn’t matter that Introductory Seminar Week is not included in the policy resolutions. 17 asks what issues could arise if the language of the policy resolutions were not consistent with the University’s language. President Spiwak says that students and the TCSA are passionate about the college system. The term “Introductory Seminar Week” resonates with older students. However, new students will be familiar with the term “Orientation Week”. The change, made by Trent, was supposed improve understanding of what that week is supposed to be. The TCSA can relate to the desire to keep the “Introductory Seminar Week”, but the policy resolutions must be changed to Trent’s name. 23’s saws the importance of the College’s decision to continue to use “Introductory Seminar Week” in their constitutions is because the change of the term on the administrative side showed a lack of consultation with students. 23 thinks it is important that the University and the TCSA should consult with the college cabinets. 23 says the move to change Introductory Seminar Week to Orientation week showed a lack of solidarity with the college cabinets. 15 says it should be mentioned that not all the cabinets have kept Introductory Seminar Week in their constitutions. Some has changed it to Orientation Week. President Spiwak says the TCSA stands in solidarity with the Colleges. If this is an issue that should be given further attention, then the TCSA can be approached in a different way so that they can meet with the administration. Changing the language of the Policy resolutions rights now is not the best way to address this issue.

Defeated.

8 asks why item four, concerning Millennium Scholarships, is being reviewed. Laing MacKay replies that they do not exist anymore.

23 would like to look at item eight, which concerns University Residences. This motion states the Association's stance against privatized residences on the University's land. He would like to repeal the motion completely.

MOTION: Be it resolved that the policy of University Residences be repealed.
Moved by: 23; Seconded by: 13.

23 says this policy was created in 2001 before the Campus Heights property was created. The policy was reapproved in 2004 when the Champlain Annex on McDonnell Street still existed. The initial intention of the motion was to ensure that the London Property Corporation (LPC) did not harm the College System. When it came up for discussion at a past AGM, someone confused this policy, not referring to the London Property Corporation, to the McDonnell Street Residences. At that time there was a negative feeling about those residences. The policy does not reflect the fact that the McDonnell Street residences do not exist anymore. He would like to repeal this policy because not only to many students live at the Campus Heights complex, but Campus Heights also runs and operates the new Champlain Annex. He does not believe that these residences take away from the College system. This policy is out of date and based on misinformation. 15 asks if 23 wants to scrap the entire policy or just the line about corporations. 23 responds that the TCSA won't support LPC and allow them to hold a booth. One of the changes here is to allow hold a booth. Despite this, the policy as a whole doesn't not reflect the current place of these private residences. The relationship between these residences and the university has changed entirely. The policy was based on the concern that private companies would meddle with the College system. In order to create a better partnership with LPC, the entire policy needs to be restructured. He believes that this sole amendment is not enough. 1 says that the removal of this entire section is to say that the association no longer supports Trent Residences at all. President Spiwak replies that this is why they amended the resolution. She says that the amendment was added because the LPC did want to use the TCSA's vendor program. The changes were meant to demonstrate flexibility, as many students live in the LPC's buildings. She says that in taking out this entire policy resolution, there would be nothing to say that the TCSA doesn't support colleges. President Spiwak says that other private companies could be hired by Trent to building a college that doesn't fit in with the college system, and doesn't abide by any academic supports, social supports and other special features of the College system. 21 would like to second President Spiwak's point that the College system should provide social and academic services. 2 says that although the Annex is owned by LPC, Trent has signed a 10 year lease for that building. It is operated in collaboration with LPC. It is not entirely run by an external corporation. 23 wants to reiterate the main reason why he wants it removed. The only reason the motion is still in existence is because someone misidentified this motion with the Champlain Annex building that existed on McDonnell Street. Their concern was that students were not getting academic and social services. It was created before the LPC buildings were erected as a "pre-emptive strike" of the Association against those buildings. He agrees that there should be a policy showing the Associations' support for Residences. He says that although it named residences, this policy is not for that purpose. He says that it does

not show support for residences owned by the LPC. President Spiwak believes that if ORDC found this policy to be outdated then it would have changed. Regardless of how it was ratified, it does not specifically mention what 23 was mentioned. ORDC does support amending this motion to take the first step in incorporating the LPC buildings. She believes that the language in that item is pertinent to Trent University.

Defeated.

Carried.

10) Any Other Business

8 says that he has attended the last three CFS meetings. A motion passed at the National General meeting to create a space for indigenous and racialized students. It will be hosted in March. It will coincide with the international day to eliminate racism. The event is meant to address lateral violence within those communities, and how they can build solidarity. The event is called the Racialized and Indigenous Students Experience (RISE). Association Resource Manager Stephanie Laing MacKay have three points. First, elections are approaching. Next, the Post-Secret Event is approaching. Lastly, there are prizes to be won upon the adjournment of the meeting.

11) Adjournment

MOTION: Be it resolved that the 2015.09.25 Annual General Meeting be adjourned.

Moved by: 21.

Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Alexander Salton

2015 – 2016 Association Board Secretary