



trent central student association

your student union

The sixth meeting of the Trent Central Student Association occurred on Sunday, 29 November 2009 at 1.04 pm in the AJM Smith Conference Room, Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario.

Present:

- Andrew MacLean, *ex officio* (Board Speaker)
- Brian Kombani (President)
- Rohan Rajpal (Vice President & Corporate Secretary)
- John Paul Nyereka (Vice President Student Issues)
- Sako Khederlarian (Vice President Membership Service)
- Emily Selander (Environmental & Sustainability Commissioner)
- Adam Butz (Otonabee College Commissioner)
- Veronica Armstrong (Lady Eaton College Commissioner)
- James Murphy (Otonabee Senator)
- Cory Humphrey (First Year On-Res)
- Christina Warren (Ethical Standards Commissioner)
- Russell Ferguson (Gzowski College Commissioner)
- Kim Sweeney (Students Disabilities Commissioner)
- Alex Nevin (Traill College Commissioner)
- Ayad Sbeyti (International Students Commissioner)
- Ayesha Asghar (Anti Racism Commissioner)
- Emily Blondin Doan (Women's Commissioner)
- Michelle Hisson (First Year Off-Res)
- Jonathan Alphonsus (Champlain College Commissioner)
- Clayton Powell (Gzowski College Senator)
- Greg Mounteny, *ex officio* (Lady Eaton College Prime Minister)
- Will Dowkes, *ex officio* (Staff employee)
- Laura McKeigue, *ex officio* (Board Secretary)

Absent:

- Scott Brown (Champlain College Commissioner)
- Brea Hutchison (Gender Issues Commissioner)
- Dakota Brant (Indigenous Students Commissioner)
- Simon Wallace (Board of Governors)
- Charlotte Doyle (Queer Students Commissioner)
- Lia Flanders (Gzowski College Senator)
- Steven Nelson (Mature Student Commissioner)

Regrets:

- Michael Bushara (Lady Eaton College Senator)
- Hugh Goldring (Traill College Senator)
- Lisa Marshall (Champlain College Senator)

Open Session

1) Speaker's Remarks

Speaker MacLean advises Board it cannot hold the Board Removal closed session item on the agenda because members up for removal were not informed in a timely manner as to when and where this meeting would be held. MacLean apologizes to Board, as this notice was his responsibility to provide. MacLean welcomes Champlain College Commissioner Alphonsus and Gzowski College Senator Powell.

2) Adoption of Meeting Agenda

TCSA: 11.29.09-01

Motion: Be it resolved that the Executive Reports will be moved to item 7, following item 6. Racial Attacks in Peterborough.

Moved by: Ayad Sbeyti; Seconded by: Adam Butz

Motion Carried.

3) President's Remarks

President Kombani is disappointed that the Board cannot proceed with the motion proposed two weeks ago because technicalities were not followed. He would like to know what needs to be done to proceed with this motion. MacLean advises members up for removal must be notified of the time and place of the meeting. However, the President can call an emergency meeting which can have the sole purpose of addressing this matter, only needs to give 24 hours notice for this. Other option is to have this added as an agenda item for the next meeting in the new year.

4) Approval of Minutes (Sunday, November 15, 2009)

TCSA: 11.29.09-02

Motion: Be it resolved that the Minutes of Sunday November 15 be accepted by the Board.

Moved by: Ayad Sbeyti; Seconded by: Adam Butz

Motion Carried. 1 abstention

5) Issues for Board Discussion

Anti Racism Commissioner Asghar has been working on advocacy cases regarding the various student attacks which have taken place in downtown Peterborough. One student has been to the Trent International Student Program office, has also been working with the Ontario Student Association and the Peterborough police. Asghar is looking for the support of the association to change the bylaws, as currently it states that students attacked off campus are not the Board's concern.

Asghar is disturbed that this meeting was scheduled on the third day of Eid. She believes the Board

should be respectful of members with religions other than Christianity when setting meeting dates. Asghar is also upset by the issue regarding her absence from Board meetings, as she has been doing her work and sending in her regrets. She has issues with executives, and is uncomfortable working with them. Does not believe the Board should act as a monarchy.

Otonabee Senator Murphy asks for suggestions as to what Board can do to respond to issue of racially motivated attacks. Asghar believes that people need to respond, would like to see some kind of awareness program put in place that says racism is not tolerated. Murphy would like to note that while the important work directors do is not in the Board meetings, absences do count against quorum which means that business cannot get passed. Asghar argues that only two members would be absent due to Eid, should focus on the other members not attending and their reasons.

Vice President & Corporate Secretary Rajpal notes that Vice President Student Issues Nyereka has been working on a statement regarding the attacks which they can send to her if she would like, Asghar states they can work on this without her. Women's Commissioner Blondin Doan supports Asghar, she has been unable to attend meetings as well due to her broken leg, and has not received any support from the Board. International Students Commissioner Sbeyti is concerned with the language being used, while he understands Asghar's frustration, her word choice is making him uncomfortable, this creates more of a barrier. Sbeyti suggests an agenda item be created for next meeting dealing with communication issues and director responsibilities. Nyereka understands Asghar has issues with Executives, but should view the association as a collective organization, not just Executives versus everyone else.

TCSA: 11.29.09-03

Motion: Be it resolved that an agenda item be added for the next Trent Central Student Association meeting to deal with issues of communication, and with messages reaching directors in due notice.

Moved by: Ayad Sbeyti; Seconded by: Ayesha Asghar

Sbeyti volunteers to be in charge of compiling a list of issues that Board members wish to discuss, then MacLean can call on each member to speak on their topic. Board members can email issues to international@trentcsa.ca

Motion Carried. 1 abstention

6) Racial Attacks in Peterborough

Sbeyti advises that these attacks were not racial in his opinion. Concerned with how this is being handled; has not been informed on steps being taken by Asghar or Nyereka. Trent International Student Program Director Dr. Michael Alcott has been in communication with the police, it is problematic that different directors are bringing opposing opinions to same people. Sbeyti believes Board needs a unified position. Most students he has spoken to that were involved in these attacks do not believe they were racially motivated, as a student organization cannot be putting words in students' mouths. Reads email from Dr. Alcott. Association needs to agree on an intelligent, united, politically correct stance. Blondin Doan argues Board cannot oversimplify matter of race; a lot of racism is invisible, institutionalized. It will be hard to come to one united view on the matter.

Students Disabilities Commissioner Sweeney asks if statement should reflect incident as racially motivated, or if it should be directed to entire student body. Murphy believes that even if Board does not know motivations, it can still make a statement saying that it is disturbed by the violence against students and the prospect of racial violence.

TCSA: 11.29.09-04

Motion: Be it resolved that the Trent Central Student Association will issue a statement advising that it does not support any attack of this type in the Peterborough community or elsewhere, regardless of race or gender orientation.

Moved by: Cory Humphrey; Seconded by: Jonathan Alphonsus

Murphy prefers Nyereka's statement, as it acknowledges international students while also saying violence is unacceptable in general. Blondin Doan has an issue with this, as more people are discriminated against outside of the two marginalised groups mentioned in the statement. Vice President Membership Service Khederlarian agrees with this motion, association should support all students, not just some marginalised groups. Environmental & Sustainability Commissioner Selander thinks motion is unproductive because the association being against violence is self-evident, she prefers Nyereka's statement.

Call to question.

Moved by: Ayad Sbeyti; Seconded by: Michelle Hisson

Motion carried. 1 abstention

Motion defeated.

Sbeyti has a drafted statement from Dr. Alcott.

TCSA: 11.29.09-05

Motion: Be it resolved that the Trent Central Student Association condemns attacks in general and will put forth a statement with what they would like to see community to do, as per *Appendix*.

Moved by: Ayad Sbeyti; Seconded by: Veronica Armstrong

Kombani has an issue with some of the suggestions made for community action, cannot demand more police, people already complaining that there are too many police in the downtown area. First Year Off-Res Commissioner Hisson notes there is already a statement in the policy book regarding discriminatory violence, p. 102. She believes this should be making statement on the specific attacks, since already have a general statement.

Sbeyti would like more police presence, as there are currently only six police units active at any point in time. Kombani would like to focus on the subject of concern at this time, not the content.

Motion to table.

Moved by: Alex Nevin; Seconded by: Cory Humphrey

Motion carried.

TCSA: 11.29.09-06

Motion: Be it resolved that the Board will move to the next item on the agenda.

Moved by: Rohan Rajpal; Seconded by: James Murphy

Motion carried. 1 abstention

7) Executive Reports

Khederlarian announces the staff holiday party was a success. Has been working on the extended library hours funding with Kombani, and they have received additional donations. Thus, will only be using roughly \$1000 of the \$3000 they were approved.

Rajpal reports that in 2008 the association got \$28,000 in interest from the bank, this year only getting \$1700, this will affect budget. However, he has begun updating the budget to reflect this change.

Kombani continuing to work with bookstore on return policy, they have now purchased a shrink wrap machine. Has also spoken with the store manager about increasing the stock of required texts for students, will be issuing a survey to students to determine what books will be in high demand come the new term. The Operations Resolution Development Committee met for first time last week, resolved to meet every Sunday.

8) United Way

Rajpal reports that Jonathan Pinter, who presented on the United Way campaign a few weeks ago, is looking for student support. Has resolved to recruit volunteers, or create a task force for this initiative, currently looking for volunteers. Nevin, Butz and Armstrong volunteer, will be a two month campaign.

9) Changes to the Staff Plan

Jessica Monteith works in advertising for the office. However, she has been offered another job, which would mean she could only work 10 hours/week for the Central. Requesting the Board to approve that she works 20 hours/week, this will increase revenue. Without increasing her hours the bigger projects being started will become neglected. Murphy states that most organizations make this a full-time position and agrees that there is a lot of potential for additional revenue from increasing the hours.

TCSA: 11.29.09-07

Motion: Be it resolved that the proposal be accepted by the Board.

Moved by: Rohan Rajpal; Seconded by: Sako Khederlarian

Motion carried.

10) Review of Position

MacLean advises Board that due to a change in the bylaws as of April 2009, the Board must review his position as speaker at the mid-way point of the year to decide if they would like to have him continue in the role.

TCSA: 11.29.09-08

Motion: Be it resolved that the Board review and extend Speaker MacLean's appointment for next term.

Moved by: Sako Khederlarian; Seconded by: Rohan Rajpal

Motion carried.

11) Committee Reports

i.

a. Organisational Review and Development

Committee agreed to meet every Sunday, and went through a few sections of bylaws. Changes will first go through the ORDC, and then they will be sent to the rest of the Board.

b. Finance

Tried to call two meetings; one on Thursday and another on Friday. Only two members in attendance will try again.

c. Membership Services

Has a meeting tomorrow at noon.

d. Executive

No report as could not meet this week.

e. Operations

Staff member Dowkes reports that the group discussed amending the standing committee bylaw, as it will be sunsetting. Made two changes to the operations committee: transferred task of discussing appointments to the Executive, and moved discussing how to help Benefits campaigns for student health to student issues. Finally, changed wording on what the committee does with operating policies.

TCSA: 11.29.09-09

Motion: Be it resolved that the changes proposed by the Operations Committee be accepted.

Moved by: James Murphy; Seconded by: Adam Butz

Motion carried. 1 abstention

Also discussed changing the presentation of written material, currently the policy only adheres to people with visual disabilities, would like to strike this to say will make accessible to students with impairments, if appropriate equipment is available.

Sweeney questions why it will say “if equipment available”, this allows for people to give up on finding appropriate resources. Kombani advises this is because money may not be available for equipment if it isn’t already available. Rajpal advises people will have to show that they have made an effort to find the equipment. Murphy advises this go back to the committee for Sweeney to sit in on development as well, meetings on Fridays at 1:30 p.m.

f. Student Issues

Did not meet at Nyereka was at Canadian Federation of Students meeting.

ii. Executive Review

Has not met this week because Commissioner Hutchison was at the Canadian Federation of Students meeting. No report has been seen by Board on retroactive approval for payments yet, a large amount of these are upcoming.

12) Staff Reports

No report.

13) Commissioner Reports

Blondin Doan needs help figuring out her role and responsibilities, will be speaking with other Board members. In January she plans to speak with the Women Studies 100 class, will let them know that there is funding available for gender centered projects.

Rajpal advises that Ethical Standards Commissioner Warren approached him for further orientation, addressing what role is, how to get started etc. Other Directors have yet to receive orientations.

Sweeney attended the Service First training which talked about sensitivity under new laws in Ontario. She is looking into sign language workshops and will now be holding half of her office hours in the disability services office. Also working on holding a ‘Disability For a Day’ event.

First Year Off-Res Commissioner Hisson has been discussing going to high schools to conduct a question and answer period on university with First Year On-Res Commissioner. Mountenay advises that he and Sweeney involved in this through the Liaison department, Hisson can get involved with them.

Murphy would like to get a survey on Aramark food and services approved so that he can distribute it across campus via email. The goal of this survey is to collect enough information so that cabinets and the Board can meet with their own research.

TCSA: 11.29.09-10

Motion: Be it resolved that the Board accept the survey presented and will include a link to it

in an email sent by Khederlarian.

Moved by: James Murphy; Seconded by: Adam Butz

Rajpal suggests any suggestions regarding this review of the Aramark contract be sent to Murphy at jamesmurphy@trentu.ca.

Motion carried. 1 abstention

Sbeyti has been working on the issue of the downtown attacks as well as with Kids against Hunger, a campaign that he would like to become annual at Trent. Trying to get sponsorship but been put on hold.

TCSA: 11.29.09-11

Motion: Be it resolved that the Board recess for 10 minutes reconvening at 3:57 p.m.

Moved by: Emily Selander; Seconded by: James Murphy

Motion defeated.

Return to agenda item 6.

Sbeyti advises that he focused on International students in his statement to ensure that they know the association remembers and supports them, but it should be mentioned that it is unacceptable no matter who the violence is again. Sbeyti informs Board he will be resigning if a statement is not released concerning these attacks. Sweeney claims that students should know what is happening but the four suggestions for further action should be removed as they have not been passed through the Board. Rajpal advises that almost half of the attacks were against Canadian residents, so cannot be stated as solely racially motivated. The suggestions for further action being brought forward are great, but for now the statement should just be about declaring the Board's stance on the attacks.

TCSA: 11.29.09-12

Motion: Be it resolved that the meeting be extended until 4:30 p.m.

Moved by: James Murphy; Seconded by: Rohan Rajpal

Motion Carried. 4 abstentions

Murphy agrees that a statement needs to be released soon and cannot have suggestions for next steps without further investigation.

Motion to Amend TCSA: 11.29.09-05

Motion: Be it resolved that from "due to the aforementioned events" to "authorities" will be struck from the statement presented by Sbeyti.

Moved by: James Murphy; Seconded by: Alex Nevin

Friendly Amendment. Rajpal wishes to remove the term 'international students'

and replace with “international and racialized students”.

Motion carried. 4 abstentions

TCSA: 11.29.09-13

Motion: Be it resolved that the meeting be extended to 5:00 p.m.

Moved by: James Murphy; Seconded by: Kim Sweeney

Motion carried. 2 abstentions

Motion to Amend TCSA: 11.29.09-05

Motion: Be it resolved that the statement will include the following:

The Trent Central Student Association would like to ensure the safety of all Trent students by providing this list of services and recommendations for personal safety:

Walk Home- include blurb as is a free service and give number

Police services - give number

Travel in groups

Stay on main streets and avoid secluded areas

Moved by: Kim Sweeney; Seconded by: Alex Nevin

Blondin Doan is concerned with creating this statement without the Anti-racism commissioner present. Kombani notes that the Board cannot chase after directors, and cannot put issues on hold because of their absence.

Friendly Amendment. Hisson suggests adding ‘non-violent safety devices’.

Friendly Amendment. Nevin would like to add to travel in groups ‘and well lit areas’

Call to question.

Motion carried.

TCSA: 11.29.09-14

Motion: Be it resolved that the Board will recess for 15 minutes returning at 5:05 p.m.

Moved by: Veronica Armstrong; Seconded by: Adam Butz

Motion carried. 1 abstention

TCSA: 11.29.09-15

Motion: Be it resolved that the Board will recess for 15 minutes returning at 5:20

p.m.

Moved by: James Murphy; Seconded by: Adam Butz

Motion carried.

TCSA: 11.29.09-16

Motion: Be it resolved that the Board will extend the meeting until 6:00 p.m.

Moved by: Adam Butz; Seconded by: Cory Humphrey

Motion carried. 2 abstentions

Motion for amendment:

Motion carried. 1 abstention

Motion to amend

Be it resolved that the line “To get involved please contact international@trentcsa.ca or antiracism@trentcsa.ca” will be added to the statement.

Moved by: Rohan Rajpal; Seconded by: Adam Butz

Amendment to amendment

Be it further resolved that this line will include the anti-racism commissioner’s email.

Moved by: James Murphy; Seconded by: Kim Sweeney

Friendly Amendment. Rajpal wishes to only have the email: info@trentcsa.ca-

Friendly Amendment. Nyereka wishes to replace info@trentcsa.ca with vpissues@trentcsa.ca

Motion carried. 2 abstentions

Voting for **TCSA: 11.29.09-05**

Motion carried. 2 abstentions

14) Any Other Business

Kombani announces that there will be an emergency meeting held on December 6 at 1 p.m. regarding the removal from office of Board of Governors Wallace and Women’s Commissioner Blondin Doan.

15) Adjournment

TCSA: 11.29.09-17

Motion: Be it resolved that the meeting be adjourned.

Moved by: Adam Butz; Seconded by: Veronica Armstrong

Motion carried.

Adjourned at 5:47 p.m.