

2018-2019 Executive Strategic Plan



Trent Central Student Association

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A Message from the Executive



Dear constituents,

The Trent Central Student Association (TCSA) is very excited to welcome you to a new academic year.

We wish to begin by acknowledging the Anishnaabe and Mississauga peoples and their traditional territory on which we will live and learn over the course of this next year. As an executive we are committed to collaborating with and listening to the voices of

indigenous students we have here on campus and making sure that these voices are not only heard, but respected on our board and among the administrators of Trent University.

This Executive Strategic Plan is a summary of the direction the current executive would like to steer the association during the 2018-2019 academic year. This plan includes goals, campaigns, initiatives, and ideas that are not all-inclusive. Issues will arise throughout the year and as we navigate our positions and receive feedback from students and the TCSA Board, plans will change. We encourage everyone to come to our office and chat with us about our plans and bring up any issues they have or things they feel are missing. This plan has been formulated from our own individual perspectives as executives and student feedback is essential in ensuring our actions match what our members expect from us.

We are elected representatives whose job it is to advocate for students and make your university experience a positive one. If there is any point where you are feeling upset, frustrated or disadvantaged, please come and chat with us. We are ready, willing, and able to help.

We, the executive, are so excited to see what great things this year has in store.

In Solidarity,

Brandon Rimmelgas
President

Ethel Nalule
Vice-President
Student Health and Wellness

Cydney Habraken
Vice-President
Clubs and Groups

Lindsay Yates
Vice-President
Campaigns and Equity

Ann-Majella McKelvie
Vice-President
University and College Affairs

President's Strategic Plan
Prepared by: Brandon Remmelgas

To the Attention of the Members of the Trent Central Student Association (TCSA):

Below encompasses the strategic objectives being pursued by the TCSA President for the 2018-2019 Academic Year.

I would like to begin by stating that strategic planning for a position such as this is very difficult in both the short and long term. In the short term, new issues are always arising that are cause for the reallocation of the association's resources and prioritization of new issues. This ensures that we are always spending most of our time focusing on the issues at hand. In the long term, people only stick around within the association for so long. This will be my last year as President and as such, the future President may have the same or different strategic goals as I. While equity, accessibility, and student wellness will always be priorities of the TCSA based on our mission, by-laws, and policies, how these manifest may change.

As such, it is important to understand that this list is not exhaustive, nor can it be expected that every goal will be achieved. The association constantly works to make the everyday lives of students better, and this work is never done.

Services

Transit

Transit is an essential service to the functioning of Trent University. This year we have implemented a series of improvements, such as late night service 7 days a week, and modifications to the peak time scheduling to accommodate for traffic-related delays. With ridership at all time highs, it will be my goal to continue to improve the service within the limitations of Peterborough's Transit infrastructure. This will include advocating for 24 hour bus service, increasing frequency, and expanding the transit service to service more areas of the City of Peterborough, but also local communities such as Bridgenorth, Omemee, Lindsay, Curve Lake, Lakefield, Cobourg, and Port Hope.

Benefits

The Trent Student Benefits plan is not just a TCSA service. This service also supports staff of levy groups, graduate students represented by the Trent Graduate Student Association (TGSA), and Durham students represented by the Trent Durham Student Association (TDSA). It is our goal to continue to keep the plan at an affordable rate, while offering services that are relevant to the realities of our members. This year we were able to increase vision care in response to student demand, but were prevented from implementing additional increases due to the uncertainty of OHIP+ (free prescriptions for Ontarians under the age of 25). We also hope to

increase accessibility through improvements to the I.M. Well App, phone and video counselling and Doctor's appointments, and engaging in discussions about providing coverage for students who require medical marijuana.

Student Funding

The TCSA operates a variety of funding programs, the main three being Partnership, Sponsorship, and Events Fund (PSE), Academic, Personal, Professional, and Leadership Development Fund (APPLE), and the Grocery Assistance Program.

My goal is to continue to increase the amount of funding being allocated to PSE and APPLE and to continue to use these funds to provide quality events and opportunities to our members.

GAP, however, is funded by a separate levy outside of our membership levy, and we often have to use our income in other areas to supplement over spending on GAP due to high student need. As such, I will be engaging in the conversation of initiating a referenda to increase our GAP levy.

Student Centre

Our Student Centre is a long-awaited building that has been extremely well used over the year it has been opened. The TCSA spent \$10.5 million on this building, and student pay upwards of \$90 a year to support their Student Centre. As such, it is my goal to continue to improve the space through prioritization of student bookings, and outfitting spaces so they are responsive to the needs and wants of our students. We have invited Peer Support at Trent to occupy our vacant third floor offices to centralize a key campus resource, and look forward to sharing the other end of the third floor with the Career Centre upon Bata's re-opening.

Governing Documents

This year the Executive have engaged in an intensive review of our Bylaws, Operating Resolutions, and Policies and are preparing to make many additions and improvements. These include:

- Reinforcing our commitment to anti-oppression in the Association's Mission
- Allowing for the ability for the Board to override Robert's Rules of Order if they prevent diverse and equitable discussion on key campus issues
- Creating a policy on Gender Neutral Washrooms, Free Speech, and Board of Governors Composition, and
- Updating our policies on Accessibility, Counselling Services, Mental Health, University Residences, Campus Safety, Class Size, Public Education, and Senate Seats

Hate Speech and Freedom of Speech

The Provincial Government has announced that all Universities need to create a policy on Free Speech by January 1st, 2018 in order to continue to receive transfer payments for their operations. A minimum standard from the Government of Ontario is:

“That institutions consider official student groups' compliance with the policy as condition for ongoing financial support or recognition, and encourage student unions to adopt policies that align with the free speech policy”

As such, we are concerned how this policy will affect the vitality and financial security of levy groups who may dissent to oppressive speech on campus. Lindsay Yates, our Vice-President of Campaigns and Equity and I are going to be working with Trent's admin to ensure this policy reinforces Trent's commitment to safety, wellness, and anti-oppression, but we are concerned how Universities are being stiff armed into adopting policies that could have negative effects on the wellbeing of students.

Trent's Growth and Campus Developments

As is clear to those of us who have been on campus for many years, and to those of us who are just arriving, our campus is bursting at the seams. Housing, parking, transit, service availability, academic space, social space, and study space are all affected and we are reaching or surpassing the capacity of both Trent's and Peterborough's service infrastructure. As such, my goal will be to partner with the president's of the TGSA and TDSA to engage in outreach and data collection and present to Trent's Board of Governors about the concerns we have about Trent's growth.

Municipal Election

The municipal election day is Monday October 22nd 2018, which is during reading break. As such, the association as scheduled early voting for students on October 16th so that they can participate in municipal politics.

I am also hoping to host a mayoral debate on campus to address municipal issues that affect students directly including Housing, Transit, Development, and Student Jobs. My hope is that our new Mayor and counsellors will prioritize Trent students in their work once elected, and TCSA will hold them accountable if they do not.

Board of Governors and Senate

The TCSA is disappointed in the structure of Senate and the Board of Governors in that student representation is not equitable or accountable. I am going to be preparing statements for both the Board of Governors and Senate with proposals to modify how students are elected to these bodies.

We would like to call on the Board of Governors to appoint the President's of Trent's three student unions (TCSA, TGSA, TDSA) as the student seats in order to ensure that voices on the board are accountable to their constituents. We would also like to call on Senate to create two new seats, one for International Students and one for Indigenous Students.

Internationalization

With International student recruitment at Trent becoming more robust, I am concerned about the accessibility of Trent's campus to International Students. While diversifying our campus and creating a melting pot of culture and experience is amazing for the student experience Trent offers, we need to make sure that racism and xenophobia are in check on our campus and in our community. My goal will be to support our International Students Commissioner and by extension, the Trent International Students Association in creating a campus environment that is equitable and accessible to international students.

Effective Executive Transition

The executives will be working with the Association Resource Manager, Matt Seaby to modify our transition from one executive team to another. This includes a more effective Shadow Period, and the creation of transition documents by each executive that outlines key issues they faced and how they approached them, and key issues they see as upcoming.

The hope is that this will decrease the amount of uncertainty new executives have in their early months with the association, and aid in more effective long-term planning for the TCSA.

Vice-President Student Health and Wellness Strategic Plan

Prepared by: Ethel Nalule

To the Attention of the Members of the Trent Central Student Association(TCSA):

Below is the strategic plan for the Vice-President of Student Health and Wellness of the Trent Central Student Association for the 2018-2019 academic year.

I am very grateful to have been elected into this position and have spent my summer learning more about Trent University and its services, the TCSA and its services, attending conferences that further expanded my knowledge on what it takes to be part of a student union and the student movement as a whole, as well as learning ways in which I can expand my leadership skills. I am very passionate about health and accessibility for all, and I plan to do the very best I can in helping to create a more accessible and healthy environment on campus. My position is relatively new, as I am the first to take it on. That being said, most of my plans are my own initiatives, with some being made through collaborations with other members of the TCSA. In my attempt to create a more healthy and accessible environment on campus, I have planned a few events and campaigns for the academic year which all revolve around wellness, with hopes that student on campus feel comfortable and included.

Committees

I sit on the Mental Health and Well Being Strategic planning committee with Kate MacIsaac and other members of the university. So far, we have come up with a vision statement and are looking to further get together and have it finalized. The strategic plan was put forward to have a plan set in place for students on campus that would meet their accessibility needs in terms of their mental wellness throughout their academic career at Trent.

I also sit on the Benefits committee where we discuss topics such as student benefits, to make sure that the services are being distributed at a reasonable rate and looking at the usage rates to see if any services need to be increased or decreased. Other committees I sit on are the Grocery Assistance committee where we offer grocery cards to students in financial need, and the Health and Wellness Committee that's run by the Wellness Center.

Campaigns

Better Access

Trent University as many know, isn't very accessible in a few areas and my goals are to help bring forward initiatives that could assist in better accessibility. Firstly, I have spoken with the staff responsible for convocation and have been successful in getting wheelchairs for the student center. My plan with the wheelchairs is to have a rental-like service in which students who require mobility assistance can take out a wheelchair to assist them around campus at any

time before the student center closes. I as well plan to get different mobility aids to store and add to this service. Another service that I would like to bring forward is getting an accessibility golf cart to help students get across campus without taking them away from campus. The MV1 is a great program, but a golf cart would give students the ability to get across campus on the same route as every student, while increasing the feeling of being a part of the community.

Mind Your Mind Symposium

The Mind your mind Symposium as an initiative I had thought of prior to obtaining my role. In collaboration with our Trent International Student Association (TISA) and members of the regional groups on campus, we all spent the summer planning this event and it is set to take place on September 23rd, 2018. The purpose of this symposium is to further expand the conversations around mental health while also looking at different & non-western cultural perspectives towards mental health. I will be running one of the workshops called “Breaking the Stigma and Understanding the Other”.

Mental Health Awareness Week

Student mental health is the main priority of my job and October 10th is world mental health day. My plan is to have a video promoting mental wellbeing that will be released the day of, following a stress ball making event in the evening that will take place in the student center. I will be making buttons and cards to give out at the main floor front desk throughout the week, as well as healthy snacks and fruits. I’m looking into collaborating with Active Minds on campus and as well as Salti Yoga to further make this week eventful for students.

From a Patient’s Perspective

This is an initiative that I’m very excited to bring to action in the winter semester. The purpose of this event is to educate our future health care workers on what is taught in the classrooms but instead of having a textbooks perspective, to introduce a patient’s perspective. There will be students who have faced or are facing illness or disease giving a short presentation on their experience and giving an overview of their illness, discrimination that they have faced from practitioners and how they wish they would have been treated. As well as other students presenting on discrimination they have faced from health care professionals based on gender and racism. This event will be targeted towards nursing, biomed/pre-med, psychology and social work students. Any student interested in a future in health care.

I’m very excited and confident in my plans for this year. Eating disorder awareness week and Invisible disabilities awareness week are campaigns that are also on my agenda. I plan to respond to any last-minute student health needs on campus with action and awareness, and I hope to work alongside Active Minds, Student Accessibility Services, Trent Athletics and any other wellness involved group on campus to make the 2018/2019 academic year, one to remember.

Vice-President Clubs and Groups Strategic Plan

Prepared by: Cydney Habraken

To the Attention of the Members of the Trent Central Student Association (TCSA):

Below encompasses the strategic objectives being pursued by the TCSA Vice President Clubs and Groups for the 2018-2019 Academic Year.

I want to thank Trent students for electing me to this position, I will continue to work tirelessly for all students, and continue to bring about changes that will be beneficial for the countless passionate clubs that make Trent's campus so diverse and welcoming. I look forward to representing students as best I can in my work and will strive to be not only a resource but a support for new and existing clubs.

I strongly believe clubs and groups create a well-rounded and memorable university experience and I will aid in any way to support these groups doing such great work on and off our campus. I also want to encourage students to never hesitate to get in touch with me if you have questions, concerns, feedback, or are looking for some support.

Stabilization and Organization

There are a few areas for improvement when it comes to timelines, and organizational frameworks that I will be working on this year. Concrete dates that reoccur every year for funding, leadership Assembly and Other important Club related dates. In the past these dates have changed on a yearly basis, I believe that by creating a comprehensive timeline this will not only organize the system currently but make transitions easier on Club Executives. Overall thorough organization for my positions duties, and responsibilities. This year I will strive to have a great working relationship with all of the clubs, and to create a space where clubs can come to myself or my clubs coordinator for resources and support.

Workshops

This year I am planning on hosting in conjunction with my club's coordinator, workshops for clubs on a number of subjects. These include but are not limited to; budgeting, leadership, constitution writing, creating and starting new clubs, as well as internet technology workshops. These are to aid the clubs that already exist with resources to improve or expand their clubs' resources and wealth of knowledge. These will also be. Great opportunity for passionate individuals to learn the process of how to create a club and give them the necessary tools to do so. I want to encourage as many individuals as possible to get involved with clubs, or even create a new one.

Club Services

The TCSA offers many discounts, and services to clubs. This year I would like to take a look at these services and with consultation from existing clubs work to improve these and look at new resources we as a student union can provide to better support our clubs and Groups on campus.

Levy Relations

The levy Groups both on and off our campus contribute a great deal to Trent and the Peterborough community. This year I want to continue to improve and build the working relationship the TCSA and students have with Levy Groups. This will be done in a number of ways, one of which is by having more levy involvement at big events, like clubs and groups days, and major TCSA events. I will continue to increase our collaboration as an association with numerous levy groups to only encourage and support each other's goals and work at Trent and in the Peterborough community. chairing the Levy Policy Committee. This policy will be a collaborative initiative between all the levy groups and student voices to create a comprehensive levy policy for the University. I also will continue to help educate students on the great work levy groups do and why they are a vital part of our community, both on and off campus.

I want to finish by thanking all Trent students that elected me for this opportunity. I am passionate about helping clubs and making sure they continue to have resources and a platform on campus. Getting involved shaped my entire Trent experience and I will use the entirety of my term advocating for clubs, and passionate students who create an inclusive and diverse campus where everyone feels like they can find some way to get involved. University is not only academics but so much more. I will do my best to make sure every Trent student gets that opportunity to learn, grow and join a club!

Vice-President Campaigns and Equity Strategic Plan

Prepared by: Lindsay Yates

To the Attention of the Members of the Trent Central Student Association (TCSA):

Below encompasses the strategic objectives being pursued by the TCSA VP Campaigns and Equity for the 2018-2019 Academic Year.

I want to thank trent students for electing me to this position and putting their trust in me to implement equity campaigns and events throughout the year. I look forward to representing students as best I can in my work and will strive to help make Trent feel as inclusive as possible.

I also want to encourage students to never hesitate to get in touch with me if you have concerns, feedback, or are looking for some support regarding equity issues you are facing. I want to be able to help students have a positive and equitable experience at Trent to the best of my ability.

Equity Education

One of my main goals this year is to find ways in all of my work to ensure that students are pursuing conversations around equity beyond singular events and campaigns. I hope to provide educational materials to students at events, at our resource desk and online to encourage student engagement in equity issues. One example of this is that at events regarding white supremacy and white privilege, small information cards will be available for students providing definitions, details, and further resources and reading materials.

Committees

This year, I will be sitting on four committees: PACHREA, Grocery Assistance, Elections, Levy Policy and ORDC. It is my hope that in these spaces I can continue to advocate for students regarding equity issues and influence decisions that impact student experiences the most. I will be chairing the committee for Grocery Assistance and look forward to supporting students through the distribution of gift cards to assist with groceries and other needs. I also hope to support a referendum that will increase the levy allotted to grocery assistance as the student need for this program is evident.

White Supremacy

Last year in my position as Ethical Standards Commissioner I ran an event entitled "It's OK to be [Against] White[ness]." This event endeavoured to tackle the difficult topic of white supremacy, privilege and whiteness in a talk and q&a on campus. This event sparked much debate, controversy and discussion on campus which I ultimately deemed a success because it meant students were engaging in this important topic. This year, I will be hosting two more

series of events, once per semester, to continue these conversations. I will also be creating handouts with some basic information and further reading on the topic. I hope that students will approach these topics with an open mind and willingness to learn.

Feminism

Feminism is something really important to me and something I am excited to run a campaign focused on it. November 19th-23rd will be Feminism week and will comprise of many events, including film screenings, a pub night, a crafternoon, panel discussions and more. I hope to partner with campus clubs and community levy groups on many of these events because of the unique things they can bring to the table. This week will be intersectional and will look at topics such as reproductive justice, missing and murdered indigenous women, masculinity, LGBTQ+ identities, and the experiences of racialized women and non-binary folks.

I also hope to integrate feminist work into my year through my implementation of free pads and tampons in the gender-neutral washrooms of the Student Centre. I hope to have the university take on this responsibility in the future and will push for this myself and suggest the next VPCE do the same.

Equity Days

I have created a document filled with a list of equity days (for example: trans day of remembrance, International Women's Day) and social media posts to be shared on those days. I hope to make clearer to our membership our commitment to recognizing days of equity and remembrance and encouraging students to learn more about these issues. These posts will also serve to promote events and celebrations happening regarding the topics of each day.

Canadian Federation of Students

I will be sitting on the Ontario Executive Committee of the Canadian Federation of Students Ontario component for the duration of the year. In this role I plan to prepare detailed reports on the events, services, campaigns and resources the TCSA (Local 71) has and use the space to seek support or help with any major issues existing on campus. I have also ordered many materials from the CFS to promote different campaigns of the federation. I plan to integrate these materials into much of my work to increase the presence of CFS on our campus and help students learn about it more. I will also work to plan events and campaigns around CFS campaigns such as the "Vote Local" campaign for the municipal election and the "Fight the Fees" campaign against tuition fees. Finally, I will be using my one hour slot at the main floor desk to promote CFS materials and campaigns, as well as student membership to CFS.

Equity Commissioners

Our board of directors is fortunate to be composed of equity-based commissioner positions for students to fill. In my position I act as the overseeing body to our commissioners to provide support on the events and campaigns they choose to run. Aside from that, I have asked commissioners to each take on one hour a week at our downstairs resource desk to be available for members of their constituencies to get in touch with them. They can also provide resources and swag items (buttons and stickers) that pertain to their groups and chat about any relevant issues that affect their constituency. It is my hope that implementing these “desk hours” will help students better utilize their elected representatives. The commissioners will also be meeting with me prior to each board meeting for 30 minutes to update one another on events and campaigns and any feedback they have heard from their constituents.

Vice-President College and University Affairs Strategic Plan

Prepared by: Ann-Majella McKelvie

To the attention of the Members of the Trent Central Student Association (TCSA);

Below you will find the strategic plan of the Vice-President of University and Colleges Affairs of the Trent Central Student Association for the 2018-2019 academic year.

First, I would like to thank the members of the TCSA for electing me into the Vice-President of University and Colleges Affairs position in the 2018 spring election period. I am filled with such gratitude for this opportunity, as I have a passion and dedication for Trent University and the student experience. Trent University is a special place full of amazing students, and having the opportunity to serve these students is something I will always be thankful for.

This plan will highlight some important things that I hope to tackle in my time as Vice-President of University Colleges Affairs. Having said this, however, it is important to note that being in this role comes with time limits and some unexpected curve balls that may come up throughout the year. No matter the curveball or time restraint, the overall goal, for me, is to create a positive experience for all students.

Orientation Week

Orientation Week is one of the largest parts of what my role entails. The interesting part of this, however, is that this part of my role has already been fulfilled by the time this document is completed and released to the public. Having said that, Orientation Week is still something I want to focus on throughout my term.

Throughout my term, I want to work with the colleges and student affairs to improve the great work that Orientation Week strives to do. The three things I would like to gear discussion and work towards is leader wellness, off-campus student engagement, and college and community engagement.

As a previous Orientation Week Leader, I know how exhausting the week can become. I want to work with the above folks to come up with ways we can improve wellness for leaders. I also want to advocate for improved programming and engagement with off-campus students, as we continue to see low off-campus student turnout during Orientation Week. Creating college and community connections is also a vital part of Orientation Week, and I plan to engage in conversations that help improve positive community building within the colleges and the Trent community during Orientation Week.

Colleges Review

In July of 2018, Trent University released the recommendations of the colleges review that took place in the winter semester of 2018. With these recommendations came some drastic changes of the college system, which included reintroducing College Principals and having academics as the primary focus. With this announcement came a lot of concerns from students that this new change was drastic and quick, which may negatively affect their fellow peers as well as staff who work in the colleges. Throughout the summer, I had the opportunity, along with Brandon (TCSA President), to chat with students, staff, and the administration about these changes and some of the concerns that went along with them.

Throughout the academic year, I want to work closely with the new college principals to foster and continue creating positive communities within the colleges. I also want to foster some positive conversations with students around the new changes. It can be very difficult to adjust to big changes, but it is also important for students to know that these changes happen in order to create the best experience possible for students.

College Cabinets

College cabinets are something that are very near and dear to my heart. As someone who had the opportunity to serve on college cabinet for four years, I value the great work that cabinets do to foster community in the colleges. This year, I plan to connect with cabinets in a high capacity.

During the year, I would like to attend cabinet meetings to stay connected. In addition to attending cabinet meetings, I also have plans to assist the Presidents/Prime Minister facilitate some pan-collegiate training for their cabinets. This training will equip cabinet members with the tools to be successful in their respective roles. This training will also give an opportunity for cabinets to intermingle and create connections across campus.

CASSC and Senate Committees

Throughout the academic year, I will be one of many student voices that sit on several CASSC and Senate committees. This year, I sit on on College and Student Services Committee, Orientation Committee, Academic Planning and Budgeting, Special Appeals, and Library Fines Appeals. These committees heavily depend on the feedback and participation of students. I plan to strongly represent Trent students on these committees and actively participate in conversations that ultimately affect students.

Events

The TCSA runs plenty of amazing events throughout the year. As a member of the TCSA events committee, I want to commit to the continuation of planning events that are fun, valuable, and accessible to all students.

This year, I especially want to plan and facilitate some de-stressors for students during the most stressful times of the year. I recognize that students often struggle during times such as mid-term and exam time, and I want to provide some meaningful events that are both fun and resourceful.

**2018-2019
Executive Strategic Plan**

