

TUGSA 2012-2013 Year End Summary

TUGSA's original purpose was to provide graduate students with an opportunity to maintain social connections once they had finished their professional development seminars and comprehensive exams. The current executive believes that TUGSA should also focus on communication and advocacy to create a greater sense of community for students in the Tri-University program.

To achieve this aim, we propose to increase communication with you as members, but also between the three departments at Waterloo, Laurier and Guelph. As an organization, we recognize that each university has their own Graduate Student Associations. Our goal is not to duplicate the work of those organizations, but rather to address issues unique to History students of the Tri-University History program. We would like TUGSA to become a communication hub for the three universities. By bringing students together, we are bringing departments together.

Our initial steps will be to strengthen the working relationship with the Tri-University Director. TUGSA will be more involved in events for the Tri-University, including orientation events in September. Better integration and planning between the Director and the TUGSA Executive will create a student voice in Tri-University events as well as improve the experience of students in the program as a whole. We will also develop the Tri-University History website to include a full calendar of events from all three campuses, archives of student defenses, including MAs and PhDs. We hope that the more students can interact with each other, the stronger our student community will be.

We have also amended the constitution to elect three presidents (one from each campus) in the spring so that the TUGSA executive has sufficient time to prepare to welcome new students into the program each Fall.

We will continue to develop ideas to improve communication. Our goal is to improve the overall experience of students in the Tri-University history program. We welcome your feedback and invite you to participate with us as we embark on the next five years.