

Leila Martin – TCM Chair Candidate

Members of College,

Due to Trinity's unique structure and small size, the Trinity College Meeting (TCM) is the only direct democracy student government in Canada, which comes with its opportunities and challenges. As the TCM, we are charged with empowering students to be active participants rather than audience members. This year we saw students engage with the TCM and push for more open communication between governance bodies, which I plan to implement if elected as Chair.



Working as the TCM Treasurer has taught me a lot about the college's finances. We collectively spend over \$275,000 per school year on clubs, events, and capital projects, and this all goes through the TCM in one way or another. This year, students voiced their concerns over a lack of transparency between Finance Committee and the TCM. While preliminary steps such as releasing full minutes from subcommittees are a good start, as TCM Chair I would work to better emphasize and visualize the impact and division of student dollars. Many students simply may not know where their student fees are going, and this isn't fair. I plan to advertise especially important TCMs over email well in advance to ensure maximum awareness, and use infographics and primers to better communicate where our money is going so that students can form their own opinions and affect change.

The TCM should be an open space where every member of college is comfortable proposing changes. To make the TCM more accessible to first years, non-resident students, and international students, I plan to create primers for each meeting as well as general introductory documents for the TCM itself, host pre-TCM casual discussions to acquaint everyone with procedure, have office hours, and generally foster an environment within the TCM that encourages everyone to share their perspective. The start time of the TCM is often contested. I plan to put out a survey over the summer to solidify a time for the coming year, to ensure maximum attendance and engagement. I also want to continue the practices that have worked well for us: using iClickers for efficient and anonymous voting, bringing food to TCMs and collaborating with the NRAC Heads for non-resident dinners, and advertising TCMs using as many channels as possible.

The TCM Chair is responsible for far more than running meetings: they are looked to for knowledge of our Constitution, management of our finances, and as a resource for all students. Beyond serving as TCM Treasurer, I lead the Student Capital Campaigns Committee as its Chair, sit on the majority of our governance committees (Finance, Board of Stewards, Equity, Corporation, Constitutional Review), served as treasurer of both levied and non-levied clubs (Stephanos, Finer Things Club, and Trinity Against Sexual Assault and Harassment), and have been an executive on Conversat (2015), Orientation Week (2016), and Saints (2015). Taken together, these experiences signify that I have at one point or another been involved in almost every aspect of Trinity's student life, and I have lots of ideas on how it can be improved from the ground up. On a personal level, I genuinely love this place and want to use my experiences to make Trinity better for all of us by helping your voices be heard.

Let's make the TCM work for everyone, by empowering all members of our community to impact the college's areas of focus. If you have any questions or ideas that you'd like to share with me please reach out any time (leila.martin@mail.utoronto.ca), and come to forums!

Met'agona,

Leila