

TCM Chair- Stanley Chia



3 years of Trinity and TCMs. From my experience, the TCM has been both a site of conflict and of cooperation. We have been at odds with each other over contentious motions, but we have also united in, among other things, introducing the Equity Statement and Land Acknowledgement to improve equity. As the TCM is where we gather together to discuss pertinent issues, the role of the TCM Chair is significant.

My goals as TCM Chair would be to make sure there is more voice and more representation for people and Trin clubs that often get left out within Trinity. I believe that individuals and clubs on the margins who have not received as much support as they would like should be given more of an opportunity to show what they have to offer to the college.

For first-years and those unacquainted with the TCM who face new TCM jargon, I intend to encourage them to speak up during TCMs by introducing a paper called “Back to Basics: Guide to the TCM” for people to use at TCMs prior to the Call to Order. When I was a first-year, I had no idea what was going on even though I came with model UN background. To make TCM more welcoming and inclusive, I believe the introduction of such a paper would go a long way to help. After all, the TCM should be equally accessible to everyone.

Since difficulty in understanding TCM procedural language is a reason why many members don’t speak out at, or even come to TCMs, my solution is to explain and, whenever possible, simplify the procedural language used. Furthermore, I will continue the efforts of past Chairs in creating primers for agendas so that people know why proposals are being introduced.

I am no stranger to Trin governance or TCM’s structure, constitutional principles, and division of powers. I sit on the Board of Stewards (TCBS) where we endorse and approve of mandates and proposals, and I have presented budgets at the Finance Committee. As a Peer Counsellor, I help first-years navigate through academic work and residence life. I also served as Third Year Head of Residence and helped improve equity through our very own Equity Committee. In particular, equal rights for all is important to me, including the right to hear both sides of an argument.

Beyond Trinity, I have chaired and facilitated debates among students at my course union, CASSU, and MUN organizations such as NAMUN, UTMUN and Havergal College MUN. Furthermore, I was pivotal in reforming the constitution at UNSOC, CASSU, and INDePth.

To close, elect me to serve you as TCM Chair for more inclusiveness and representation. The past Chairs have shown great leadership and while I may not be able to live up to them, I hope to inspire and lead the TCM with fairness and accessibility. As you come out to join in on Trin governance at the TCM, I will do my best to include your voice. If you have questions or want to chat, reach out to me through Facebook or email (stanley.chia@mail.utoronto.ca), or you can even come up to me in-person whenever you see me.

Met’agona Stephanos

Stanley Chia