

Agenda

The 529th Meeting of the Trent University Senate
Tuesday, December 9, 2025, 2:00 p.m.
A.J.M. Smith Room

1. Welcome and Adoption of the Agenda Chair

Traditional welcome--We respectfully acknowledge that we are on the treaty and traditional territory of the Miichi Saagiig Anishnaabeg. We offer our gratitude to First Nations for their care for, and teachings about, our earth and relations. May we honour those teachings.

Closed Session

2. Nominating and Governance Subcommittee Chair Exhibit 1
Report (at meeting)
(for approval)
3. Financial Review--Update Chair
(verbal update)

Opens Session

4. Chair's Remarks and Announcements
5. Minutes of the November 11, 2025 meeting Chair Exhibit 2
of Senate and Business Arising
(for approval)
6. Undergraduate Studies Committee Report Senator Chan- Exhibit 3
(for approval) Reynolds
7. Graduate Studies Committee Report Senator Brunetti Exhibit 4
(for approval)
8. Cyclical Program Review Committee Report Senator Bailey Exhibit 5
(for information)
9. Discussion of Student Core Competencies Senator Skinner
(for information)
10. Any Other Business Chair
11. Adjournment Chair

The 528 Meeting of the Trent University Senate

Tuesday, November 11 2:00 p.m.
A.J.M. Smith Room

Minutes

Present: Senators Cathy Bruce (Chair), Iyiola Alade, Suzanne Bailey, Liana Brown, Craig Brunetti, Gary Burness, Shutao Cao, Michael Chan-Reynolds, Anthony Coulter, Neil Emery, Jonathan Greene, Stephen Hill, Holger Hintelmann, Ihor Junyk, Heather Klyn-Hesselink, Lawrence Lam, Erick Laming, Hugo Lehmann, Byron Lew, Mowei Liu, Paul Manning, Michele McIntosh, Jennifer Moore, Marina Morgenshtern, Van Nguyen-Marshall, Naomi Nichols, Kathryn Norlock, Fergal O'Hagan, David Patton, Karleen Pendleton Jiménez, Emma Perratt, Catalina Sagarra, Mark Skinner, Aaron Slepko, Vincent Sun, Joshua Syneko, Emily Tufts, Sarah West, Robert Wright and Susan Wurtele. Official Visitors and junior student members: Alma Barranco-Mendoza, Dwayne Collins, Heather Crowley, Esther Kambale, Connor Koch. Associate University Secretary (Senate) Tara Harrington and Coordinator, Board and Senate Support Taylor Edwards.

Regrets: Senators Gold (Ayodeji) Jegede, Lewis MacLeod, Heather Nicol and Mrunmayee Vichare. Junior student member Laszlo Ban.

Welcome and adoption of the Agenda

The meeting opened with a welcome to the traditional territory:
We respectfully acknowledge that we are on the treaty and traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig Anishinabeg. We offer our gratitude to First Nations for their care for, and teachings about, our earth and relations. May we honour those teachings.

Closed Session

University Honours Subcommittee Report. The report included the names of individuals being recommended to receive honorary degrees in 2026. Following discussion, Senate approved a list of candidates.

Academic Planning and Policy Committee Report. Senator Skinner presented the report which included a proposal for one new academic program.

Senate approved this program for submission to the Ontario Universities Council on Quality Assurance (Quality Council).

Open Session

Chair's Remarks and Announcements. The Chair started her remarks by noting that it was Remembrance Day and that marking the day provided a reminder of the relative freedom and peace that we are fortunate enough to have in Canada.

She went on to report that two faculty had been honoured with notable awards:
Professor Sylvie Berard, chair of French and Francophone Studies, had been awarded the Governor Generals Literary Award for Translation
Professor Bharati Sethi, Canada Research Chair in Care Work, Ethnicity, Race and Aging, had been elected to the Royal Society of Canada.
The Chair provided an update on the recent open houses noting that there had been an amazing turn out. Both campuses had seen an increase in the attendance at the information sessions.

Minutes and Business arising Meeting of October 14 2025. The minutes were approved as presented.

Undergraduate Studies Committee Report. Senator Chan-Reynolds presented the report which included five major modifications and seven minor modifications.

Forensic Chemistry - Added a new co-op option. Health & Behaviour – Proposed a name change of the Honours BSc in Health & Behaviour to Honours BSC in Health.

The academic unit administering the program will change from Psychology to Kinesiology.

Bachelor of Science (Honours) – Two new articulation agreements with Georgian College that would allow qualified graduates of Georgian's Biotechnology-Health diploma program and Georgian's Pre-Health Sciences Pathway to Advanced Diplomas and Degrees program to enter Trent BSc Honours program in any subject.

Business – A new articulation agreement with Lovely Professional University (India) that would allow qualified students from Lovely's Bachelor of Business Administration program to enter Trent's BBA program with advanced standing.

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) – A new articulation agreement with Sheridan College that would allow qualified graduates of Sheridan's General Arts and Science certificate or diploma programs to enter Trent's BA Honours program(any subject) with advanced standing.

Bachelor of Science (Honours) - A new articulation agreement with Sheridan College that would allow qualified graduates of Sheridan's Pre-Health Sciences Pathway to advanced Diplomas and Degrees Certificate program to enter Trent's BSc Honours program(any subject) with advanced standing.

Computer Science—Renewal of existing articulation agreement with Lovely Professional University (Inda) that allows qualified students to enter Trent's Computer Science program with advanced standing.

Ancient Greek & Roman Studies – New course – AGRS 15001H.

Forensic Science – Modify program requirements.

New course – FRSC 4089H.

French Studies – Study of Canada/Études canadiennes – Modify titles of and change subject code for French language courses from FREN to FRSL.

Modify Certificate in French.

History – New course offered at the 3000/4000 level-HIST 3570H and HIST 4570H.

Indigenous Environmental Studies & Sciences – Modify requirements for the Indigenous Environmental Studies & Sciences Diploma offered jointly with Yellowknives Dene First Nation and Trent University.

Philosophy/Artificial Intelligence – New course -PHIL-AIST 4270H.

Senate approved the recommendations as presented.

Graduate Studies Committee Report. Senator Brunetti presented the report which included six major modifications and two minor modifications.

Master of Instrumental Chemical Analysis – Modify program- New students admitted to M.ICA to be given advanced standing for ICAN-5122H if they completed CHEM-4422H within the last three years.

Ph.D. in Cultural Studies – Modify program requirements to delete CUST-6250Y: First Project, CUST-6350Y: Second Project and CUST-6450Y: Third Project.

Ph.D. in Indigenous Studies – Modify program requirements- Separation of oral and written components of Core Comprehensive Examination.

Ph.D. in Materials Science – Modify program requirements - Ph.D. students to complete MTSC-6000H if M.Sc. degree not completed at Trent University.

M.A. in Sustainability Studies – Deletion of Entrepreneurship & Innovation Management Stream. Modify program requirements- Internship stream to transition to a Co-op stream.

M.A. and M.Sc. in Anthropology – Delete ANTH 5150Y, ANTH 5200Y, ANTH 5250Y, ANTH 5390H, ANTH 5550Ym, ANTH5650Y, ANTH 5800Y and ANTH 5850Y.

Graduate Admissions Requirements – Addition of two new tests as acceptable proof of English language proficiency.

It was noted that the ANTH courses being deleted had not been offered in the last six years due to changes in staffing and the program was to undertake a curriculum review.

Senate approved the recommendations as presented.

Academic Planning and Policy Committee Report. Senator Skinner presented the report which included a proposal that the BSc Ecological Restoration, which had previously been offered jointly with Fleming College, be established as a standalone degree program at Trent. He explained that Fleming had cancelled its participation in the program in 2024. Normally new programs would undergo a lengthy approval process, but the Ontario Quality Council had confirmed that the proposed program could proceed with an expedited approval process.
Senate approved the proposal as submitted.

Research Policy Committee Report. Senator Hintelmann presented a revised Terms of Reference for the Early Career Researcher Award. He noted that the Terms of Reference had been amended to stipulate that recipients of the award were required to adhere to all applicable regulations, policy and guidelines and would comply with the Tri-Council Policy Statement, Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (2002) and the Tri-Agency Framework: Responsible Conduct of Research.
Senate approved the proposed revisions.

Cyclical Program Review Committee Report – Senator Bailey presented the report which included the Financial Assessment Report (FAR) and Implementation Plan – Executive Summaries for the BA Cultural Studies/BA Media Studies, BA Gender and Social Justice, BA Political Studies/BA International Political Economy, Joint Major and BA Sociology (Honours and General)/BA Criminology (Honours). Senate accepted the report as information.

Vision and Mission Feedback Session – The Chair and the external consultant Trent is working with provided an update on the Vision and Mission renewal process. The input received to date had been distilled into a few alternative ideas about what Trent’s future vision and mission might be and Senators were given the opportunity to provide feedback on these concepts. The final recommendations will be brought to Senate for approval in the winter term.

Any Other Business.

Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Dr. C. Bruce, Chair

T. Harrington, Secretary

2025–2026 Undergraduate Studies Committee

3rd Report to Senate – December 9, 2025

Unless otherwise indicated, all curriculum changes will take effect in the 2026-2027 Academic Year.

For Senate Approval – Major Modifications

#	Academic Unit	Category	Name	Details
1.	Biology	Add new specialization	Specialization in Natural History	<p>Designed for students who wish to gain a comprehensive understanding of biodiversity, and the many ways in which organisms interact with their environment. This knowledge underpins many aspects of ecology and conservation biology and is relevant to a wide range of careers in various governmental agencies, environmental consultancies, parks, conservation authorities, NGOS, museums, herbaria, zoos, outdoor education centres, ecotourism, and other arenas. Open to students in the single- or joint-major Honours program in Biology.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.5 credits including 3.0 credits from BIOL 2001H, 2100H, 3111H, 3200H, 3090H, 3140H, 3170H, 3180H, 3340H, 3850H, 4140H, 4180H; 1.5 credits from BIOL 3050H, 3051H, 3360H, 3380H, 3391H, 4510H, 4520H
2.	Business	Add new transfer pathway	from Loyalist College to BBA (Honours)	<p>Qualified students may enter the Business Administration degree program on an advanced standing basis (10.0 credits awarded), subsequent to successful completion of the Business - Accounting diploma program with a minimum overall average of 75%.</p>

For Senate Approval

#	Academic Unit	Category	Name	Details
1.	Anthropology	New course	ANTH3535H The Anthropology of Death	<p>This course focuses on death and the various human practices surrounding death. While all living things experience death, humans are unique in how this experience is prepared for, experienced, celebrated, and mourned. Specific topics to be covered include biological death, medicine and death, non-human primate death, grief, and mourning. Prerequisite: 3.0 ANTH credits or permission of instructor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anthropology/Archaeology Category A
2.	Anthropology	New course	ANTH3852Y Bioarchaeology Field School - Fortress of Louisbourg	<p>This course provides an introduction to bioarchaeological and forensic anthropology field methods at the Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site of Canada. The emphasis of the course is on the ethical handling of human skeletal</p>

#	Academic Unit	Category	Name	Details
			(ANTH3852Y cont'd)	remains, skeletal excavation methods/techniques for individual, comingled, and disturbed burials, and field data recording. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science designation • Crosslisted subject: FRSC • Anthropology/Archaeology Category A & B • Field Experience (EL-FE), Lab (EL-LW)
3.	Biology	Change program requirements	BSc Honours in Conservation Biology and Conservation Biology Co-op	Increase total credits from 16.0 to 16.5; remove BIOL 2110H (required); add BIOL 2070H, 3111H (required); add BIOL 3200H, 4830H (electives)
4.	Business	Change program requirements	Specialization in Economics	Remove ECON 3020H, 3120H (required); add 1.0 credit from ECON 3020H, 3022H, 3110H, 3120H
5.	Cultural Studies	New course - crosslisted	CUST4552H The Culture of Fascism	A survey of theoretical approaches to fascism in all its guises. Particular emphasis is placed on the critical tradition. Prerequisite: 10.0 university credits or permission of instructor. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crosslisted subject: POST
6.	Cultural Studies	New course	CUST4558H Popular Music and the Cultural Politics of Desire	This course, drawing extensively on criticism from the last thirty years, examines popular music from the 1920s to the 2020s as a cultural space where repressive sexual and gender norms have been routinely contested, frequently and violently reasserted, and very occasionally overcome. Prerequisite: 10.0 university credits including 3.0 CUST credits.
7.	Indigenous Studies	New course	INDG3430H Anishinaabe Law	This course introduces Anishinaabe law through stories, teachings, governance, treaty relationships, and connections to land and water. Students examine legal responsibilities, dispute resolution, and authority within Anishinaabe legal traditions, alongside key court cases and Canadian legal frameworks. Emphasis is placed on sovereignty, jurisdiction, and the vitality of Anishinaabe legal reasoning. Prerequisite: 9.0 university credits including INDG 1001H and 2100Y, or permission of the instructor. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous Studies Category B • Community-Based Research (EL-CB), Case Study (EL-CS)

#	Academic Unit	Category	Name	Details
8.	Indigenous Studies	New course - crosslisted	INDG4780H Beyond Death: Advanced Topics on First Nations and Inuit Reincarnation	<p>Advanced seminar on First Nations and Inuit teachings of reincarnation, rebirth, and eschatology. Through oral traditions, ethnography, and critical anthropology, students examine identity, kinship, memory, and spiritual continuity while analyzing how colonialism and scholarly interpretation shape understandings of personhood, the afterlife, and the return of the spirit. Prerequisite: 9.0 university credits including INDG 1001H or permission of the instructor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crosslisted subject: ANTH • Anthropology Category C • Indigenous Studies Category B • Case Study (EL-CS)
9.	Kinesiology	Change admission requirements	BSc Honours in Kinesiology (BScKin)	Any 4U Math and any two of SBI4U, SCH4U, SPH4U, or PSK4U; a minimum average of 75% on courses considered for admission is required
10.	Philosophy	New course	PHIL2210H Misinformation	An examination of the spread of misinformation, the psychological factors influencing our susceptibility to it, and philosophical debates surrounding the rationality of various individual and societal responses to misinformation. Students will develop skills to analyze, evaluate, and articulate informed perspectives on the complex challenges posed by misinformation. 4.0 university credits or permission of the instructor.
11.	Philosophy	New course	PHIL3303H Philosophy of Climate Change	An examination of the philosophical dimensions of the climate crisis at the intersection of climate science, epistemology, ethics, and politics. Topics include the role of values in scientific modeling, the rationality of climate skepticism, misinformation and trust, collective and individual moral responsibility, global inequality, and the ethics of geoengineering. 7.0 university credits or permission of the instructor.
12.	Philosophy	New course - crosslisted	PHIL3360H Social Media Ethics	<p>An examination of the moral challenges raised by social media, including echo chambers, cancel culture, hate speech, privacy, manipulation, misinformation, and digital addiction. The course explores how social media reshapes our notions of friendship, community, responsibility, and freedom. Prerequisite: 7.0 university credits or permission of the instructor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crosslisted subjects: COIS, MDST

For Senate Information

#	Academic Unit	Category	Name	Details
1.	Anthropology	Add crosslisting	ANTH2030H Technology and Humanity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crosslisted subject: AIST
2.	Anthropology	Add crosslisting	ANTH3030H Anthropology of AI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crosslisted subject: AIST
3.	Anthropology	Change course level	ANTH3312H Anthropology of Media	<p>ANTH2312H Anthropology of Media A cross-cultural comparative anthropological exploration of how people's ideas about different media shape the ways they use these media. Prerequisite: 3.0 university credits. Not open to students with credit for ANTH 3312H.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crosslisted subject: MDST • Change course number in: Anthropology Category C; Option in Linguistics
4.	Biology, Chemistry	Change program requirements	BSc Honours and BSc General in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology	Remove BIOL 4320H (elective); add BIOL 4250H, 4830H (electives)
5.	Biology	Change course level	BIOL2110H Biology of Vertebrates	<p>BIOL3111H Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy An introduction to the diversity of vertebrate animals, emphasizing their evolutionary relationships and functional, behavioural, and ecological aspects of their biology. Required dissections. 8.0 university credits including 60% or higher in each of BIOL 2070H, 2260H, and 2600H. Not open to students with credit for BIOL 2110H.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science designation
6.	Biology	Change course level	BIOL4110H Infectious Disease Biology	<p>BIOL3120H Infectious Disease Biology An examination of the epidemiological and biological theory that advances our understanding of the spread and impact of infectious diseases in populations. Use host-pathogen theory to demonstrate how variation and heterogeneity influence disease dynamics at all scales. Topics include outbreaks, zoonotic diseases, public health, and disease prevention and control strategies. 8.0 university credits including at least 60% in each of BIOL 2070H and 2600H. Not open to students with credit for BIOL 4110H.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science designation
7.	Biology	Change program requirements	BSc Honours in Biomedical Science	Add BIOL 4830H (elective)
8.	Biology	Change program requirements	Specialization in Health Sciences	Replace BIOL 2110H with BIOL 3111H

#	Academic Unit	Category	Name	Details
9.	Biology	Change course prerequisite	BIOL3210H Principles of the Nervous System	8.0 university credits including 60% or higher in one of BIOL 2070H, 3111H (or 2110H), 3840H, or PSYC 2200H, and 60% or higher in an additional 0.5 credit at the 2000 level in BIOL or PSYC.
10.	Biology	Change course prerequisite	BIOL3340H Herpetology	8.0 university credits including 60% or higher in each of BIOL 2600H and BIOL-ERSC 2260H.
11.	Biology	Change course prerequisite	BIOL3830H Animal Physiology 1	8.0 university credits including 60% or higher in each of BIOL 2070H and an additional 0.5 BIOL credit at the 2000 level.
12.	Biology	Change course prerequisite	BIOL3840H Animal Physiology 2	8.0 university credits including 60% or higher in each of BIOL 2070H and an additional 0.5 BIOL credit at the 2000 level.
13.	Biology	Change course prerequisite	BIOL4140H Ornithology	A minimum overall average of 65% in completed BIOL/BIOC/BIOM courses and 12.0 university credits including BIOL 3111H (or 2110H) and 0.5 additional BIOL credit at the 3000 level.
14.	Biology	Change course prerequisite	BIOL4180H Mammalogy	A minimum overall average of 65% in completed BIOL/BIOC/BIOM courses and 12.0 university credits including BIOL-ERSC 2260H, BIOL 3111H (or 2110H), and 0.5 additional BIOL credit at the 3000 level.
15.	Biology	Change course prerequisite	BIOL4830H Environmental Physiology	A minimum overall average of 65% in completed BIOL/BIOC/BIOM courses and 12.0 university credits including two of BIOL 3111H (or 2110H), 3830H, or 3840H.
16.	Biology	Change course grading scheme	BIOM4450Y/ 4451H Placement in Biomedical Science	Pass/fail
17.	Biology	Change course grading scheme	BIOM4460H Internship in Medical Sciences	Pass/fail
18.	Biology, Forensic Science	Add course exclusion	BIOL2000H and FRSC2020H	Both courses may not be taken for credit; for the BSc joint-major Honours in Biology & Forensic Science, students must substitute another 0.5 BIOL/FRSC credit at 2000 level
19.	Business	Change course title	ADMN4445H AI Leadership	AI-Infused Leadership • Crosslisted subject: AIST
20.	Computer Science	Change course prerequisite	COIS2240H Software Design and Modelling	COIS 1020H or COIS-ADMN 2620H.
21.	Computer Science	Change course prerequisite	COIS3400H Database Management Systems	COIS 1020H or COIS-ADMN 2620H.

#	Academic Unit	Category	Name	Details
22.	Cultural Studies	Change course level	CUST3572H Workshop: Storytelling Theatre	CUST2574H Workshop: Storytelling Theatre Addresses the emergence in the twentieth century of various forms of storytelling theatre in which the role of the narrator is central. Focuses on the epic plays of Bertolt Brecht and the subsequent writing of Wole Soyinka and Caryl Churchill. A combination of practical experimentation and critical analysis each week. Prerequisite: 4.0 university credits or permission of the instructor. Not open to students with credit for CUST 3572H.
23.	Cultural Studies	Change course level	CUST3573H Workshop: Theatre of the Absurd	CUST2575H Workshop: Theatre of the Absurd The Theatre of the Absurd has been one of the most influential movements in twentieth and twenty-first century theatre and performance. This course focuses on the development of the ideas and practices that it expresses, and pays particular attention to the dramatic works of Samuel Beckett. Prerequisite: 4.0 university credits. Not open to students with credit for CUST 3573H.
24.	Education	New trial course	UNIV1005H Making the Leap: Foundations of University Success	UNIV 1005H is a bridging program that supports students entering post-secondary for the first time. Students will learn different ways of knowing at university and how to think critically about scholarly content. They will acquire practical skills in reading, writing, communicating, and engaging in lectures, labs, and seminars. Open only to students in the Bridge program who have not yet taken a college or university credit or with permission of the offering department. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case Study (EL-CS), Lab (EL-LW), Simulated Workshop (EL-SW)
25.	English Literature	Add crosslisting	ENGL3601H Modern Theory and Criticism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crosslisted subject: CUST
26.	Global Justice & Development	New trial course	GDST3200D Community Field Placement Course – Trent in Bolivia	The theory and practice of community-based development or rights advocacy with an extensive field placement. Only offered in Bolivia or Peru for students in the Trent in Bolivia Study Abroad Program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crosslisted subject: HURI • Start date: 2026WI • Community-Based Research (EL-CB), Field Experience (EL-FE)

#	Academic Unit	Category	Name	Details
27.	Indigenous Studies	New trial course	INDG2580H Treaties – Nation to Nation	<p>This course examines treaties in what is now Canada, from pre-contact diplomatic agreements to early nation-to-nation treaties, the Numbered and historical treaties, and modern land claims. Students analyze treaty principles, negotiations, and ongoing obligations, emphasizing Indigenous perspectives, legal traditions, and the contemporary significance of treaties as living relationships. Prerequisite: INDG 1001H or IESS 1001H, or permission of instructor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous Studies Category B • Applied Research (EL-AR), Case Study (EL-CS)
28.	Indigenous Studies	Add new course credit value, change course prerequisite	INDG4010Y (new), INDG4020D Thesis	<p>An in-depth research project leading to a thesis, land or community-based research, or Indigenous knowledge creation supervised by a Research Project Committee. The thesis is a double credit that can be completed as INDG 4020D (2.0 INDG credits) or as the combination of INDG 4010Y and 1.0 credit in the corresponding single-credit thesis course in the other discipline of a joint-major. Both options are open to joint majors. A minimum 70% cumulative average and 10.0 university credits including INDG 1001H, 2100Y, and 3813Y, or approval of the instructor. Details must be arranged with the director before the end of the preceding academic year.</p>
29.	Philosophy	Change course title	PHIL3420H Modern Philosophy 1: Reason and Revolution	Early Modern Philosophy 1
30.	Philosophy	Change course title	PHIL3430H Modern Philosophy 2: The Enlightenment	Early Modern Philosophy 2

Graduate Studies Committee

Report to Senate at November 20, 2025

Unless otherwise noted all changes will take effect May 1, 2026.

For Senate Approval, Major Changes

1. M.A. in Cultural Studies

Addition of new course: *Popular Music in Theory* (CUST-ENGL-5530H)

- a) **Rationale:** Formerly offered under CUST 5902H Special Topics. It will now be regularized.
- b) **Details of Change:** Addition of new course.
- c) **Proposed Calendar Copy:**

[CUST – Cultural Studies M.A.](#)

CUST-ENGL-5300H: Popular Music in Theory

Popular music started to attract scholarly attention in the 1940s. Most of that attention was negative. Since then, however, a vast amount has been written about the meaning, uses, perils, and possibilities of popular music. Philosophers, musicologists, ethnographers, This course was offered under CUST 5902H Special Topics. It will now be regularized. There are no changes to the syllabus, impact, or resources needed. 2 anthropologists, sociologists, cultural theorists, and literary scholars have all weighed in. In this course we will consider (a selection of) their contributions to our understanding of popular music and its relationship to commodification, mass culture, political agency, technology, subcultural formations, memory and a range of other topics.

2. Educational Studies M.Ed.

Addition of new course: *Educational Leadership During the time of Crisis* (EDUC-5330H)

- d) **Rationale:** Formerly offered under EDUC 5930H as a trial course. It will now be regularized.
- e) **Details of Change:** Addition of new course.
- f) **Proposed Calendar Copy:**

[EDUC – Educational Studies M.Ed.](#)

EDUC-5330H: Educational Leadership During the time of Crisis

Effective leadership is tested not when things run smoothly but during crises. This course explores research, theory, and case studies of educational leaders managing various crises. It examines the leadership attributes that contribute to success and the lessons learned from navigating challenging and uncertain environments in educational settings.

3. Educational Studies M.Ed.

Addition of new course: Law and Policy in Canadian Postsecondary Education (EDUC-CSID-5400H; CAST-6400H)

- g) **Rationale:** Formerly offered under EDUC 5920H as a trial course. It will now be regularized.
- h) **Details of Change:** Addition of new course.
- i) **Proposed Calendar Copy:**

[EDUC – Educational Studies M.Ed.](#)

EDUC-CSID-5400H; CAST-6400H: Law and Policy in Canadian Postsecondary Education

This course explores legal and policy issues in Canadian postsecondary education, focusing on court decisions and emerging challenges. It connects cases to statute and human rights law. Students will develop analytical skills through examining legal cases and engaging in research activities to better understand educational and legal frameworks.

4. Interdisciplinary Aging Studies M.A.

Existing Program Modification: Introduce part time option

- j) **Rationale:** Offer part-time study option for students who wish to study part-time.
- k) **Details of Change:** Students registering part-time would be given up to 4 years to complete the degree requirements.
- l) **Proposed Calendar Copy:**

[AGNG - Interdisciplinary Aging Studies M.A.](#)

Overview

The MA in Interdisciplinary Aging Studies is a ~~two-year~~ research-based program leading to the degree of Master of Arts that is offered in-person on both a full- and part-time basis. The expected completion time for the full-time program is two years, and the part-time program is four years. The program is designed to foster an understanding of key conceptual and methodological foundations of interdisciplinary aging studies, executed from both research-based and applied (e.g., experiential learning) approaches. It provides training in social science and humanities fields related to the study of aging, including social cultural dimensions of aging; systems, services and policy; cultural/literary studies, performance, and creative arts; social justice, especially equity, diversity and inclusion; It also provides training in fields related to the study of the biology and psychology of aging, and in professional fields requiring expertise in aging.

For Senate Approval, Minor Changes

n/a

Trent University
2025 – 2026 Cyclical Program Review Committee
Senate Report 3 – Dec 9, 2025
For Information – Open Session

Submitted by Dr. Suzanne Bailey, Chair, Cyclical Program Review Committee
Report Dated: Dec 9, 2025

Agenda Items for Information

- 1. Completion of Cyclical Review Process**
- 2. Final Assessment Report and Implementation Plan – Executive Summary – Forensic Science**

1. Completion of Cyclical Review Process


As the final step in the Cyclical Review Process, degree programs are required to submit an Implementation Report that addresses the recommendations and timelines as outlined in their respective Final Assessment Reports under the Implementation Plan section.

The Cyclical Program Review Committee reviews and approves the Reports ensuring that all recommendations have been satisfactorily completed and/or addressed. Based on the Committee’s review, the external review processes for the following degree programs are now complete.

Program	Year of Review
BA Communications	2023-24

2. Final Assessment Report and Implementation Plan – Executive Summary – Forensic Science

Degree Programs Being Reviewed	BSc Forensic Science BSc Forensic Chemistry BSc Forensic Biology MSc Forensic Science
External Reviewers	Dr. Marta Concheiro-Guisan, City University of New York Dr. Vivienne Luk, University of Toronto Mississauga Dr. Cyril Muehlethaler, Universite du Quebec a Trois-Rivieres
Internal Representative	Dr. Chris Furgal, Indigenous Studies, Trent University
Year of Review	2024 – 2025

Date of Site Visit	March 6 – 7, 2025
Due Date for Implementation Report from the Program	November 1, 2026
Date Prepared by CPRC	October 29, 2025
Date Approved by Provost & VP Academic	Nov 6, 2025
Signature of Provost & VP Academic	

Trent's Forensic Science programs blend theoretical knowledge with hands-on learning, providing students with access to expert faculty, advanced laboratories, and a state-of-the-art crime scene facility. These programs are designed to build both the skills and confidence needed to succeed in the field. Unlike many other programs in Canada, Trent places a strong emphasis on the legal dimensions of forensic science, offering a curriculum that integrates science with law-focused courses.

The Department of Forensic Science at Trent University offers a BSc in Forensic Science, BSc in Forensic Biology, BSc in Forensic Chemistry, and a MSc in Forensic Science.

The BSc Forensic Science offers students a solid understanding of fundamental (physics, chemistry, biology) and applied sciences. Students can personalize their degree by incorporating other related areas of interest through selection of electives.

The BSc Forensic Chemistry gives students a comprehensive understanding of all branches of chemistry (physical, organic, inorganic, biochemistry) with a specific focus in analytical and materials chemistry. Courses in forensic science and law complement their studies in chemistry, building their ability to communicate on forensic and legal matters relating to chemical analysis.

The BSc Forensic Biology is a competitive direct-entry degree that gives students a solid understanding in biology, and builds legal knowledge with expert faculty in the classroom and state-of-the-art labs. Students gain hands on experience in DNA analysis with in both a human and wildlife context.

The MSc Forensic Science is a 12-month program comprised of three, 4-month terms. There are two different program streams: course-based and Major Research Paper (MRP), with the major differences being the length of the professional placement and scope of the research project.

Summary of Process

During the 2024-2025 academic year, the FRSC programs underwent a review. Three arm's-length external reviewers (Dr. Marta Concheiro-Guisan, City University of New York, Dr. Vivienne Luk, University of Toronto Mississauga, and Dr. Cyril Muehlethaler, Universite du Quebec a Trois-Rivieres) and one internal representative (Dr. Chris Furgal, Indigenous Studies, Trent University) were invited to review the self study documentation. The site visit took place on March 6 – 7, 2025.

This Final Assessment Report (FAR), in accordance with Trent University's Institutional Quality Assurance Policy (IQAP), provides a synthesis of the cyclical review of the undergraduate degree programs. The report considers four evaluation documents: the Program's Self Study, the External Reviewers' Report, the Program Responses, and the Decanal Responses.

A summary of the review process is as follows: the academic unit completed a self-study that addressed all components of the evaluation criteria as outlined in Trent's IQAP. Appendices included: Curriculum Vitae, Course Syllabi, Data Tables, Student and Alumni Surveys and a Library Statement of Support. Qualified external reviewers were invited to conduct a review of the programs that involved a review of all relevant documentation (self-study, appendices, and IQAP policy) and participation in a site visit. During the site visit, reviewers met with senior administration, faculty, students, and staff.

The External Reviewers' Report identified seventeen (17) recommendations. Ideally, recommendations will focus on a culture of ongoing and continuous improvement and prioritizing student-centred learning and experiences.

Following receipt of the External Reviewers' Report, the Program and Dean provided responses to the Report. Based on the four review documents, the Cyclical Program Review Committee (CPRC) then reviewed and assessed the quality of the degree programs and reported on significant program strengths, opportunities for improvement and enhancement, and the implementation of recommendations.

The Implementation Plan identifies fourteen (14) recommendations for action and specifies the proposed follow-up and the person(s) responsible for leading the follow-up. The Academic Unit, in consultation with their Dean, will submit an Implementation Report in response to the recommendations identified for follow-up. The Report is due November 1, 2026.

Significant Program Strengths

Trent University's Forensic Science program is widely recognized for its emphasis on practical, applied learning that begins early in the degree and continues throughout. From the outset, students are immersed in a fully functioning forensic research and service environment, allowing them to gain hands-on experience with crime scene investigation, evidence analysis, and scientific reporting. This applied focus ensures that graduates leave the program with not only strong scientific foundations but also the practical skills required in forensic and investigative work.

The External Reviewers observed that the Department's faculty demonstrate expertise in several emerging areas of forensic science, such as wildlife forensics, environmental forensics, and computer-based forensic investigations. This breadth of specialization not only enriches the student learning experience but also presents unique opportunities for innovative and interdisciplinary research within the program.

Students consistently praise the depth of knowledge and real-world experience brought into the classroom. Reviewers noted that instructors effectively bridge theory and practice, helping students

see how forensic concepts are applied in real investigative settings. This blend of academic expertise and professional insight enriches the learning experience across the program.

The Reviewers further commended the program's strong integration of law within the forensic sciences curriculum. They noted that Trent excels in emphasizing the application of science within legal contexts, incorporating a robust selection of law-related courses that address common challenges in how scientific evidence is interpreted and presented in courtrooms. This interdisciplinary approach helps students bridge the gap between scientific analysis and legal reasoning—an essential skill for professional forensic scientists.

Finally, the program is well-positioned to expand its crime science educational activities, supported by Trent's state-of-the-art crime scene investigation teaching facility. This dedicated space offers students the opportunity to simulate real-world forensic investigations, analyze mock crime scenes, and refine their technical and analytical skills in an environment designed to mirror professional practice.

Opportunities for Program Improvement and Enhancement

The External Reviewers observed that coordinating placements within the Forensic Science program can be challenging, with most opportunities lasting only about two weeks. While these short-term experiences offer valuable exposure to real-world forensic practice, their limited duration can restrict deeper learning. At the graduate level, reviewers identified opportunities to clarify placement expectations, improve administrative efficiency, and expand partnerships with external organizations to enhance the program's experiential learning component.

Building on this, the Reviewers recommended that the program actively promote its state-of-the-art Crime Scene Training Facility to Ontario police agencies and other professional partners by expanding its crime science educational activities. This would enhance Trent's visibility within the field, foster stronger relationships with external stakeholders, and create new opportunities for collaboration in teaching, research, and professional development. Over time, these partnerships could lead to tangible benefits for students, such as more guest lectures, expanded internship placements, collaborative research projects, and additional professional training opportunities.

Given the Department's growth and success, the Reviewers emphasized the importance of deepening its engagement with the broader Canadian forensic science community. This would include providing institutional support and dedicated funding to enable faculty and staff to participate in national meetings, connect regularly with professional agencies, and contribute to collaborative initiatives. Such involvement would further position Trent as a leader and active contributor within Canada's forensic network.

Students also shared with Reviewers that they perceived a gap between the program content advertised publicly and the courses actually offered. This disconnect can lead to confusion or unmet expectations. To address this, the Department should review and update its promotional materials to ensure they accurately reflect the curriculum and learning opportunities available.

Finally, the Reviewers highlighted that Trent’s increasingly diverse student body underscores the importance of ensuring that faculty and staff reflect that diversity and serve as visible role models. While progress has been made through the introduction of cross-listed and specialized courses, broader efforts to Indigenize the curriculum and integrate social justice perspectives remain an ongoing challenge. Given strong student interest in law enforcement and justice-related careers, the Forensic Science program is well positioned to lead national conversations around systemic racism and equity in forensic and policing contexts.

Implementation Plan

The Implementation Plan identifies those recommendations that require action by the academic unit. The Chair or Director, with members of the academic unit, will be responsible for leading the follow-up in consultation, and where appropriate, with Dean(s) and other university departments. The Academic Unit will report on actions taken and the status of each recommendation by the due date provided. The (Associate) Dean will be responsible for reviewing the Implementation Report and submitting the final report to the Office of the Provost.

Recommendation	Proposed Follow-Up	Specific Timeline	Position Responsible for Leading Follow-up
Undergraduate Programs – BSc Forensic Science, BSc Forensic Chemistry, and BSc Forensic Biology			
Recommendation 1 That the Program limit the enrollment at the undergraduate level to guarantee hands-on experience required in forensic courses.	Provide an update on curriculum and student access to hands-on opportunities.	Ongoing consideration – report for Nov 1, 2026.	Department Chair, in consultation with Dean
Recommendation 2 That the Program examine the availability of internships [placements] for students in their undergraduate programs.	Department to explore which experiential learning opportunities model is best for FRSC, including the potential expansion of co-op. The Department notes that it will be striking a committee to review this.	Ongoing consideration	Department Chair
Recommendation 3 That the Program undertake a comprehensive curriculum mapping and review process.	Department to engage in curriculum discussion to examine course mapping, and to work with Dean as needed.	To be completed in 2025-26	Department Chair
Recommendation 4 That the Program focus curriculum development around areas of faculty expertise.	As with Recommendation 3, as part of Departmental curriculum discussions determine how to build curriculum in areas of expertise; continue to work with Dean to examine solutions for bottleneck courses.	Ongoing review of courses and faculty resources	Department Chair
Recommendation 5	See Recommendation 2; as part of	To be	Department Chair

The Program develop a capstone course with individualized or tiered options.	striking the committee that will examine internships [placements] and experiential learning, the committee will also explore the possibility of a capstone type course.	completed in 2025-26	
Recommendation 6 That the Program expand and integrate lab-based skills development across courses.	No follow-up is required. Lab-based skills are heavily integrated as part of the program. While exploration of additional lab space will be considered, this is beyond the scope of the current review.		
Recommendation 7 That the Program address upper-year course bottlenecks through strategic course planning.	The Department will explore solutions such as improving communication with students and carefully assessing space and resources to better facilitate scheduling of upper-year courses.	To be in place for 2026-27	Department Chair
Recommendation 8 That the Program establish an undergraduate program coordinator role.	The Department may consider the need to reintegrate an Associate Chair, and their associate duties.	November 1, 2026	Department Chair, in consultation with Dean
Recommendation 9 The Program review the structure of the joint program.	The Department consider the structure of the joint degrees as part of the curriculum discussions that are ongoing.	November 1, 2026	Department Chair, in consultation with Dean
Graduate Program – MSc Forensic Science			
Recommendation 10 That the Program define and communicate a clear program identity aligned with faculty strengths.	Form advisory committee composed of forensic professionals and outside agencies to provide curricular input. Review curriculum.	Ongoing discussions	Program Director
Recommendation 11 That the Program strengthen graduate student research and supervision capacity.	Enhance faculty participation in major research paper. Build a culture of student-driven research success.	Ongoing	Program Director and Department Chair
Recommendation 12 That the Program introduce structured professional skills development for graduate students.	Introduce grant writing into the curriculum and highlight professional skills already built into the current curriculum.	In place for 2026-27	Program Director

Recommendation 13 The Program should standardize student expectations and communication in relation to the research project and placements.	Establish opportunities for student feedback and communication during the academic year.	Consider implementing for 2026-27	Program Director
Recommendation 14 That the Program develop a more established internship [placement] program, and continue to develop and expand experiential and industry-integrated opportunities with clear deadlines and expectations.	Develop new partnerships to support student experiential learning. Also, explore whether Careerspace can enhance opportunities.	Part of a continuous conversation	Program Director
Recommendation 15 That the Program redesign the course-based graduate program.	The program will work with the appropriate Dean during staffing plan and budget time to explore opportunities for enhancing the curriculum.	November 1, 2026	Department Chair, in consultation with Dean
All Programs			
Recommendation 16 That the Program upgrade laboratory teaching facilities.	No follow-up required. The Department is encouraged to work with the Dean to ensure availability and updating of laboratory spaces; encourage development of a 3-5 year academic plan.		
Recommendation 17 That the Program review its faculty and staff planning and coordination. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning of CUPE and TA hiring at least one semester in advance. • CUPA and TA orientation at least 2 months before the beginning of the semester. 	No follow-up required. These processes are linked to the University's budget approval process and schedules, in addition to requirements within various Collective Agreements. Both fall outside the scope of this review.		