

The 520 Meeting of the Trent University Senate

Tuesday, November 26, 2024 2:00 p.m.

A.J. M. Smith Room

Minutes

Present: Senators Cathy Bruce (Chair), Joel Baetz, Suzanne Bailey, Stephen Brown, Craig Brunetti, Shutao Cao, Bruce Cater, Kirk Collins, Finis Dunaway, Neil Emery, Wenying Feng, Michael Hickson, Stephen Hill, Holger Hintelmann, Nancie Im-Bolter, Michael Khan, Lawrence Lam, Hugo Lehmann, Byron Lew, Michele McIntosh, Liam Mitchell, Kathryn Norlock, Fergal O'Hagan, Stephanie Rutherford, Catalina Sagarra, Aiden Schneider, Mark Skinner, Angela Slater-Meadows, Emily Tufts, Beth Wallace, Sarah West, Susan Wurtele and Andrew Vreugdenhil. Official Visitors Alma Barranco-Mendoza, Heather Crowley, Dwayne Collins, Brennan Cornell, Chioma Ifeanyichukwu, Connor Koch, Brandon Remmelgas. Associate University Secretary (Senate) Tara Harrington and Coordinator, Board and Senate Support Taylor Edwards.

Regrets: Senators Iyiola Alade, Jodi Ambrose, Stefan Bilaniuk, Suresh Narine, Mark Neufeld, Alan O'Connor, Paula Sherman, Joshua Syneko, Rylin Wormington, and Mrunmayee Vichare.

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 2025. Following discussion, Senate approved a list of candidates.

Open Session

Chair's Remarks and Announcements. The Chair referenced her recent message to the community about the budget noting the following:

- Trent is anticipating a shortfall of 1.4 million in fiscal 2024-25. This is due primarily to lower enrolment—specifically enrolment of international students. Balancing this lower enrolment of new students we have shown an increased retention rate.
- Trent is taking a multi-pronged approach to this including new initiatives in program development, recruiting, budget management and revenue generation.
- There will be no in-year budget reductions but budget managers have been asked to model budget reductions for 2025-26.

- The Council of Ontario Universities is projecting that overall, universities in Ontario will see a shortfall of 600 million in fiscal 2025-26.
- Trent is in a better position than many universities and colleges some of which are cutting programs and/or staff and faculty.
- We are also about to enter negotiations for the next Strategic Mandate Agreement with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, which will determine funding for the next five years.

The provost provided additional context:

- One reason the recent government restrictions on international students are not having the same level of impact at Trent that they are in other institutions is that approximately 75% of Trent students are domestic students—a much higher percentage than is the case for some other institutions.
- Canada’s reputation as a destination for international students has suffered enormously as a result of the government restrictions. This will have a negative impact for many years.
- One of the latest restrictions announced has been regarding non-degree programs which must now be in areas where there is a perceived labour market demand.
- We are projecting a drop of approximately 800 international students. Departments, programs and the Deans have worked to develop qualifying programs that will enable us to recover some of these in the next several years.
- A suggestion had been made at Faculty Board that we look at increasing our recruitment in the United States.

Minutes and Business arising Meeting of October 15, 2024. The minutes were approved as presented. It was noted that the Academic Colleague’s Report had been deferred until the January meeting of Senate.

Senator Khan provided Senate with information about the relative success rates of students that entered their programs under articulation agreements (88%) as compared to students who did not enter through articulation agreements (81.4%).

Undergraduate Studies Committee Report. Senator Norlock presented the report which included recommendations for the following major modifications:

Four postgraduate certificates:

- Accounting & Computer Science-10 credits, Peterborough campus only
- e-Commerce- 5 credits, both campuses
- Software Development-5 credits, both campuses and
- Logistics & Supply Chain Management-8 credits, Durham campus only

Chemistry - Honours Bachelor of Science in Chemistry—Co-op

Psychology - Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Psychology—Co-op

Child & Youth Services - An articulation agreement that would allow qualified graduates of Sheridan Colleges Child and Youth Care diploma to enter Trent’s Child & Youth Studies program with advanced standing.

In addition to the major modifications, the report included:

BSc-Renewal of a dual degree program in Chemical Engineering with Swansea University

Arts & Science – New course COOP 4000H

History – New regular course HIST n3620H

Languages & Linguistics – New regular course EAPP 1010H.

The proposed post-graduate certificates (PGCs) were discussed with one Senator noting that the full curriculum committee from the School of Business had not reviewed any of the ADMN-based programs. A Dean responded that this spoke to the urgency of the situation. These PGCs, along with others that would be discussed later on the agenda, were developed quickly in response to the budget challenges.

The provost went on to explain that on November 1, 2024 the federal government had introduced new eligibility requirements for Postgraduate Work Permits. Specifically, they had restricted eligibility for postgraduate work permits to students registered in postgraduate programs linked to areas with perceived labour market demand:

- STEM
- Health Care
- Transportation
- Trade and
- Agriculture.

These restrictions would have a significant impact on student intake into Trent's postgraduate programs. The proposed PGCs were designed to meet the eligibility criteria. It was reported that no new courses had been developed for these programs. The provost noted that, like all new programs, the program offerings would be reviewed within the first year or two and the courses that made up the PGCs could change in the future.

Senate approved the recommendations as presented.

Postgraduate Certificates. In addition to the postgraduate certificates that had been included in the USC report, the provost presented information about three additional PGCs:

- Logistics & Supply Chain Management - 1 year certificate offered only in Durham
- Health & Wellness – 2 year certificate offered only in Peterborough
- Digital Marketing – 2 year certificate offered in Durham only.

The full proposals had not been developed in time for the last meeting of the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) but would be reviewed at the next meeting of the USC. The provost explained that timing was critical—we needed to be able to market these programs immediately. Waiting until after the next meeting of USC to bring the proposals to the January meeting of Senate would hamper those recruiting efforts.

Following discussion, Senate approved the three PGCs contingent on positive review by the Undergraduate Studies Committee.

Graduate Studies Committee Report. Senator Brunetti presented the report noting that there were two major changes and five minor changes:

Ph.D. in Cultural Studies - Proposal to remove the language requirement.

M.A. in Sustainability Studies – Change to program degree regulations.

Ph.D. in Canadian Studies - Change to credit value for the PhD dissertation.

Ph.D. in Indigenous Studies – Change to admission requirement.

M.A. in Sustainability Studies – Change to a course cross-listing.

School of Graduate Studies – Addition of new course: Professional Foundations (COOP-5000H).

Graduate Academic Regulations – Addition to masters “Examining committee” regulation to bring the regulation into line with the regulation for Ph.D. Examining committee regulations regarding potential conflict of interest of external member of committee.

Senate approved the proposals as submitted.

Academic Planning and Policy Committee Report. Senator Khan presented the report which included two recommendations – one to establish a new department of Psychology on the Trent Durham GTA campus and the other to recognize that the First People’s House of Learning is distinct from the Chanie Wenjack School of Indigenous Studies.

It was reported that there had been extensive consultation regarding the proposal to create the new department. The curriculum and program would be the same across both campuses and there would be no new staff. When asked if other departments that operated on both campuses would be expected to follow this example the provost said that this would not be the case.

The provost noted that the recommendation to recognize that the First People’s House of Learning and the Chanie Wenjack School for Indigenous Studies was being brought forward for information only. The two units are already separate but this is not widely understood.

Senate approved the recommendation to create a new department of Psychology on the Trent Durham GTA campus.

Research Policy Committee Report. Senator Hintelmann presented the revised Animal Care Standards Policy. In presenting the report Senator Hintelmann noted that the changes were minor.

Senate approved the revised policy as presented.

Cyclical Program Review Committee Report. Senator Bailey presented the report which included the Implementation Report for both the MA Cultural Studies and the PhD Cultural Studies.

Senate received the report as information.

Visioning Exercise. The president provided an overview of the visioning exercise that was being undertaken reminding Senators that it had been over ten years since the vision and mission had last

been reviewed. She hoped that the process would assist us in articulating who we are and the ways in which we are distinct from other institutions.

The process was to include seven phases- committee-based conversations, broad internal and external consultation, a survey, collation of the data collected, retention of an external consultant, development of draft materials and presentation of the final materials for feedback. It was anticipated that the process would last through the current year and into the fall of 2025.

One Senator asked about the rationale for bringing in an external consultant and, given the decision to do this, why the consultant was to be brought in mid-way through the process and not at the beginning. The president responded that having a fresh set of eyes on the data might be invaluable but that this was to be a Trent-led process. Senators discussed the process noting that we should address the following:

- Who are we *not* any longer?
- What were our founding values? Are they our current values?
- What are we doing to deliver on our values?
- Artificial Intelligence has changed the world already and will continue to do so. How will it change us? Can we exert any control over that?

Break out groups were slated for the January 2025 meeting of Senate.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:02.

Dr. C. Bruce, Chair

T. Harrington, Secretary