

The 498th Meeting of the Trent University Senate

Tuesday, February 15, 2022, 2:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

Minutes

Present were: Chair Leo Groarke; Senators Jeff Adams, Suzanne Bailey, Sam Barry, Cathy Bruce, Antonio Cazorla-Sanchez, James Conolly, Campbell Deck, Natnael Dubale, Ayman El-Amir, Rodney Fitzsimons, Scott Henderson, Michael Hickson, Michael Khan, Christopher Kyle, Whitney Lackenbauer, Byron Lew, Joanne MacDonald, Claire Mooney, Phuong Nguyen, Fergal O'Hagan, Karleen Pendleton Jimenez, Marco Pollanen, Nona Robinson, Catalina Sagarra, Mark Skinner, Annalise Smart, Hasmet Ulorta, and Kelly Young. Official Visitors Tracy Al-idrissi, David Hollands, Moira Howes and Ian Thompson. Associate University Secretary (Senate) Tara Harrington and Administrative Assistant Faith Mwesigye.

Regrets: Senators Stefan Bilaniuk, Saud Choudhry, Marcel Dorken, Cyndi Gilmer, Sarah Griffin, Holger Hintelmann, Hugh Hodges, Devon Howell, Jennifer Hurl-Eamon, Coralee Leroux, Marrie Mumford, Abishek Nigam, Raul Ponce-Hernandez, Steven Rafferty, Catherine Thibeault, Maggie Xenopoulos

Welcome and adoption of the Agenda

The meeting was opened with a welcome to the traditional territory:

We respectfully acknowledge that we are on 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.

Open Session

Chair's Remarks and Announcements.

The Chair noted that the academic planning process was on-going and urged Senators to take advantage of the opportunities to participate.

Notice of Motion: The Chair advised Senate that a motion would be coming forward for approval of a new program—Bachelor of Science, Data Science.

Minutes and Business arising Meeting of January 18, 2022. The minutes were approved as presented.

Undergraduate Studies Committee Report. Senator Mooney presented the report which included: Recommendations for five new coop programs-

Bachelor of Arts Program in Ancient Greek and Roman Studies — Co-op

Bachelor of Arts / Bachelor of Science Programs in Economics — Co-op

Bachelor of Arts Program in Indigenous Studies — Co-op

**Bachelor of Arts Program in Philosophy — Co-op, and
Bachelor of Arts Program in Political Studies — Co-op.**

English Literature – new **Specialization in Racial and Social Justice**.

French and Francophone Studies/Centre for Language & Linguistics – new Certificate in Spanish.

New Specialization in French Writing.

Policing and Community Well-being – a new single-major General program and a new minor.

A new articulation agreement with Durham College that would allow qualified graduates of Durham's Police Foundations diploma program to enter Trent's Policing & Community Well-being program with advanced standing.

A new articulation agreement with Fleming College that would allow qualified graduates of Fleming's Police Foundations diploma program to enter Trent's Policing & Community Well-being program with advanced standing.

Environmental & Resource Science – An articulation agreement with Fleming College that would allow qualified graduates of Fleming's Fish and Wildlife Technician, Ecosystem Management Technician, and Environmental Technician diploma programs to enter Trent's Environmental & Resource Science program with advanced standing.

In addition to the major modifications, the following minor modifications were proposed:

Canadian Studies - Five new courses-CAST 1105H, CAST 2237H, CAST-ERST-GEOG 3041H, CAST 4041H and CAST4890H.

English Literature – Modify program requirements in the single-major Honours program, the joint-major Honours program, the single-major General program, the joint-major General program and the minor in English Literature.

Two new regularized courses-ENGL-GESO 4351H and ENGL 4651H.

Forensic Science and Chemistry – The departments of Forensic Science and Chemistry propose to modify requirements for the single-major Honours program.

International Development Studies – Modify program requirements for the single-major Honours program, the joint-major Honours program, the joint-major General program, and the minor in International Development Studies.

Policing & Community Well-being – Modify the single-major Honours program.

Three new regularized courses-PLCW 1001H, PLCW 4007H and PLCW4008H.

Regularize two courses – PLCW 4002H and PLCW 4003H.

Political Studies – New regularized course-POST-ADMN_ECON3123H.

Split POST 2230Y into POST 2231H and POST 2232H.

One Senator asked whether the university would be providing additional administrative resources to the programs offering co-op programs. The provost noted that budget managers have a process available to them to request resources. There was a brief discussion about the value of our Policing and Community Well-being program. While most similar programs focus on criminal justice, our program offers students the opportunity to learn about social justice issues as well.

Senate approved the recommendations as presented.

Academic Planning and Budget Committee Report. Senator Khan reported that, as required by Trent's Institutional Quality Assurance Policy, monitoring reports are submitted by the Dean when new programs are implemented. AP & B had received and reviewed monitoring reports for four programs and found that they were progressing as expected. The programs had been added to the Cyclical Review Schedule for on-going review. The programs were the BSc Kinesiology, the BA Policing and Community Well-Being, the MSc Bioenvironmental Monitoring & Assessment, and the MScN Professional Practice Leadership (Joint with Ontario Tech). Senate approved the report as presented.

Discussion of Senate Meetings. The Chair reminded Senators that Senate meetings had been held virtually since March of 2020 and it was time to consider how best to operate on a go-forward basis. He reported that committees of the Board of Governors would continue to operate remotely for the foreseeable future but that this would not be the case for Board meetings.

Senators discussed the perceived pros and cons of virtual, in-person and hybrid meetings. It was noted that Senators from Durham found virtual meetings easier, and that attendance overall had improved since the move to Zoom meetings. It was also agreed that Zoom meetings made it much easier to facilitate break-out sessions. Hybrid meetings present special challenges and the experience for those attending remotely would be quite different than for those attending in-person. Several suggestions were made regarding potential technological improvements, and it was agreed that staff in the Secretariat would investigate those. The meetings will continue to be offered via Zoom for the remainder of the current academic year, but this question would need to be revisited for next year.

Any Other Business. The issue of accommodations for students who cannot/will not attend in-person classes was raised. Some classrooms are equipped to facilitate remote learning but that is not the case for all our classrooms. There are students who would prefer to continue remote learning because they like it or are more comfortable with it and others who feel that they are being forced into it because they are having trouble finding housing locally. The Chair noted that there is no requirement to accommodate personal preferences. A few students have legitimate accommodations which must be met, and this has always been the case. He said that the university had clearly communicated the plan to return to in-person learning and that this should not have taken anyone by surprise.

Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 3:01.

Dr. L. Groarke, Chair
T. Harrington, Secretary