



Board of Governors

Minutes of the Meeting – Open Session

Zoom Video Conference, February 6, 2026

Present – Virtual: M. Lavallée (Acting Chair), C. Bruce, D. de Launay, E. Hanna, C. Jacobs, V. Lovekin, P. Lovett-Reid, J. McKenna, J. McGarrity, U. Mrabure, P. Norman, J. Raine, A. Ramsay, K. Scaldwell, H. Uluorta, A. Vreugdenhil, (Vice-President, Finance & Administration) T. Al-idrissi, (Vice-President, Communications & Enrolment) M. Burns, (Vice-President, External Relations & Development) J. Davis, (Interim Vice-President, Trent Durham) S. Henderson, (Vice-President, Research & Innovation) H. Hintelmann, (Provost & Vice-President Academic) M. Skinner, (Vice-President, People, Culture, and Student Services) S. Williams, (Associate Vice-President, Finance) C. Turk, (University Secretary) B. Blackburn, (Governance & Access/Privacy Officer) R. Hall, T. Edwards (Recording Secretary).

Regrets: G. Beggs, Y. Craig, T. Gervais, D. Kirk, L. Mitchell

[The Secretary confirms that quorum was present for this meeting.]

- 1. Welcome and Adoption of Agenda.** The Chair called the Open Session of the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. With no conflicts of interest declared, it was moved/seconded (McGarrity/Vreugdenhil),

That the Board approve the agenda as presented. Carried

- 2. Consent Agenda.**

It was moved/seconded (Norman/Lovett-Reid),

That the consent agenda be approved as presented. Carried

2.1 Approval of Minutes. The Open Session minutes of December 5, 2025, were approved as presented.

2.2 Financial Update. Received for information.

2.3 Capital Project Update. Received for information.

2.4 Senate Mid-Year Report. Received for information.

- 3. Chair's Remarks.** The Chair had no remarks to report.

- 4. President's Report.**

4.1. Research Update. The President congratulated three Trent Scholars on being renewed as Canada Research Chairs: Dr. Whitney Lackenbauer, Dr. Naomi

Nichols, and Dr. Anne Pasek. Additional funding of \$537,788 has been received from the Ontario Research Fund, as well as \$122,000 from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to directly support ongoing research at the university.

4.2. General Update. Trent hosted the Women's Ontario University Athletics – National Fencing Championships in January, noting that Excalibur coach Courtney MacDonnell won Ontario University Athletics coach of the year. Two Trent alumni, Julia Weagle and Kristina Adams, participated in the Scotties Curling competition over the past two weeks.

5. **Trent's Heritage.** The Board received a presentation from VP Marilyn Burns and Traill College Principal Dr. Michael Eamon on Trent's Heritage. Dr. Eamon noted the University's origins in Reginald Faryon's 1957 proposal and the groundbreaking leadership of former University president Tom Symons. He highlighted the Board's selection of Ron Thom as master architect and the intentional planning that shaped Trent's nature and pedestrian focused design. Dr. Eamon emphasized the University's commitment to heritage and stewardship, noting that Ron Thom's work has received international recognition.
6. **Ggwepnandizamin Stewardship Plan of Trent Lands and Nature Areas Plan.** VP Davis presented the Ggwepnandizamin Stewardship Plan, an implementation framework guided by the Trent Lands and Nature Areas Plan (TLNAP). Integrating Michi Saagiig knowledge systems alongside Western Science, the proposed Stewardship Plan outlines a seven-year roadmap to support the University's changing academic, research, and infrastructure needs, while establishing a resilient and interconnected University Green Network (UGN). The development of this plan included extensive engagement with community partners, university stakeholders, and external consultants.

It was moved/seconded (de Launay/Norman),

That the Board of Governors approve the Ggwepnandizamin Stewardship Plan of Trent Lands and Nature Areas Plan, as presented. Carried

7. **Philanthropic Policy Revisions.** Governor McKenna, as Vice-Chair of the Executive committee, introduced the proposed revisions to the Gift Acceptance Policy and the Philanthropic Naming Policy. VP Davis outlined the minor housekeeping changes intended to ensure the policies continue to reflect Trent's commitment to being an accountable, ethical, and effective organization. When reviewing the policies, comparable policies across the sector were examined and confirmed that Trent's practices remain strong. VP Davis noted that donor recognition is guided by donor preference, institutional practice, and remains aligned with available resources.

It was moved/seconded (McKenna/Scaldwell),

That the Board of Governors approve revisions to the Gift Acceptance Policy and the Philanthropic Naming Policy, as presented. Carried

8. 2025 Annual Report & Institutional Attestation.

8.1 Student Mental Health. VP Williams presented the 2025 Annual Report on Student Mental Health, noting that the Student Mental Health & Wellbeing Framework at Trent is structured around three pillars: culture & organization, mental health literacy, and mental health supports. Data provided from the Canadian Campus Wellbeing Survey (CCWS) showed modest improvements in overall student wellbeing, increased awareness of services, and a continued rise in utilization of mental health resources on campus. Counselling volumes remain stable, with significant growth in follow-up appointments and rising urgent-care demand. A new CARE Team has been established with Student Support Services to provide coordinated, single-point referral for students requiring support.

It was moved/seconded (McKenna/Lovett-Reid),

That the Board of Governors receive this report for information. Carried

8.2 Anti-Hate/Racism. VP Williams presented the 2025 Annual Report on Anti-Hate/Racism, noting that Trent has updated its policy framework to align with the directive outlined in Bill 166. She advised that the University has the required policies, reporting mechanisms, and public information channels in place and remains in full compliance. VP Williams provided a brief overview of activity for the reporting period, including general trends in consultations, complaints, and average resolution timelines. She noted that the University continues to monitor patterns to support ongoing improvements in education, prevention, and response.

It was moved/seconded (McKenna/Lovett-Reid),

That the Board of Governors receive this report for information. Carried

9. Annual review of Credit Rating – Including Debt Capacity. Governor de Launay, as Chair of the Finance & Property committee, introduced this report. VP Al-idrissi outlined that on January 8, 2026, DBRS confirmed Trent University's credit rating at "A" for the ninth consecutive year, with an improved trend from Stable to Positive. He noted that the University's debt burden remains low at \$5,987 per Full-time Equivalent (FTE) for 2024/25, with total long-term debt at approximately \$79M. Based solely on DBRS' current financial risk assessment metrics, Trent could potentially issue an additional \$57.6M of debt before affecting its expendable

resources to debt score and approximately \$92.6M before impacting its debt per FTE score. VP Al-idrissi advised that updated sinking fund projections indicate the current annual contribution of \$500,000 is no longer sufficient to meet the 2057 debenture obligation; as a result, a one-time adjustment increasing the 2026 contribution to \$715,000 is recommended, with annual reviews to prevent future gaps. During discussion, clarification was given that recalculations are driven by investment performance rather than the fixed bond interest rate, and that the prior five-year review cycle proved too infrequent for accurate forecasting.

It was moved/seconded (de Launay/Hanna),

That the Board of Governors approve a one time out of policy payment adjustment increasing the annual contribution to the sinking fund in February 2026 from \$500,000 to \$715,000. Carried

- 10. 2026/2027 Operating Budget Update.** Governor de Launay brought forward the 2026/2027 Operating Budget update. VP Al-idrissi noted the challenging fiscal environment shaped by declining enrolment, frozen domestic tuition, fixed operating grants, and rising operating and compensation costs. He outlined the key planning assumptions informing the multi-year budget model, emphasizing conservative enrolment projections alongside continued compliance with SMA4 performance metrics. University budget owners have been directed to develop 8%, 10%, and 12% reduction scenarios, which will be reviewed by the PVP group using established guiding principles to ensure reductions are strategic and aligned with institutional priorities, rather than across-the-board reductions. During discussion, Governors sought clarification regarding the ordering of guiding principles in the budget reduction deliberations and the variance of budget compressibility. VP Al-idrissi confirmed that principles are not hierarchical, and that some costs—such as utilities—are inherently non-compressible. Additional discussion addressed energy performance contracts, the structure of international agency fees, and recruitment strategies. A recommended operating budget will be brought to the Finance & Property committee and the Board for approval in March.

It was moved/seconded (de Launay/McKenna),

That the Board of Governors receive this report for information. Carried

On behalf of the Trent University Faculty Association (TUFA), TUFA President Moira Howes made a deputation to the Board on the Operating Budget. The Board accepted the presentation for information and thanked Dr. Howes for her thoughtful remarks.

11. Meeting Adjournment. The open session of the meeting was adjourned at 2:41p.m.

Brenda Blackburn
University Secretary

Mike Lavallée
Acting Chair