

The 525th Meeting of the Trent University Senate

Tuesday, May 6, 2025 2:00 p.m.

AJM Smith Room

Minutes

Present: Senators Cathy Bruce (Chair), Iyiola Alade, Joel Baetz, Suzanne Bailey, Stefan Bilaniuk, Craig Brunetti, Shutao Cao, Kirk Collins, Finis Dunaway, Neil Emery, Wenying Feng, Michael Hickson, Nancie Im-Bolter, Michael Khan, Heather Klyn-Hesselink, Hugo Lehmann, Lawrence Lam, Byron Lew, Sanela Martic, Liam Mitchell, Fergal O'Hagan, Stephanie Rutherford, Catalina Sagarra, Mark Skinner, Emily Tufts, Andrew Vreugdenhil, Sarah West, Robert Wright, and Susan Wurtele. Official Visitors Alma Barranco-Mendoza, Dwayne Collins, Brennan Cornell, Heather Crowley, Chioma Ifeanyichukwu, Connor Koch and Brandon Remmelgas. Associate University Secretary (Senate) Tara Harrington and Coordinator, Board and Senate Support Taylor Edwards.

Guests: Tariq A-Ildrissi, Marilyn Burns, Cheryl Turk

Regrets: Senators Bruce Cater, Stephen Hill, Holger Hintelmann, Michele McIntosh, Suresh Narine, Mark Neufeld, Alan O'Connor, Emma Perratt, Aiden Schneider, Paula Sherman, Joshua Syneko 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.

Open Session

Chair's Remarks and Announcements. The Chair thanked Senators Hill and Wurtele for facilitating the discussion on academic program structures at the last meeting of Senate. She noted that the last special topic discussion of the year, on artificial intelligence, would take place later in the meeting. The Chair also thanked everyone who had completed a survey as part of the process to renew Trent's Vision and Mission, saying that there would be an update on renewal process in the autumn. The Chair also noted that the Honourable Thomas Mulcair has been appointed as the next Ashley Fellow.

Minutes and Business arising Meeting of April 8, 2025. The minutes were approved as presented.

Undergraduate Studies Committee Report. Senator Martic presented the report which included the following proposals for major and minor modifications:

School for the Study of Canada/Ecole d'études canadiennes – Degree combining the joint-major in Canadian Studies and French Studies.

Indigenous Studies – An articulation agreement that would allow qualified graduates of Algonquin College's General Arts and Science – Aboriginal Studies certificate program to enter Trent's Indigenous Studies program with advanced standing.

Bachelor of Science Nursing-Compressed program – An articulation agreement that would allow qualified graduates of Durham College's Practical Nursing diploma program to enter Trent's BScN Compressed program with advanced standing.

Business – Regularize two trial courses-ADMN 3290H and ADMN 4040H.

Computer Science – Add COOP 2000H to the Computer Science Co-op and Software Engineering Co-op requirements.

Add a five-year completion option for Computer Science Co-op.

Sociology – Two new regular courses – SOCI 2002H and SOCI 3002H.

Following discussion of the first item (new degree), Senate changed the wording of the language test requirement, removing the requirement that students without grade 12 French take a specific test and indicating that they would be required to take a French placement test.

It was noted that there was a typographical error in the section of the report on the proposed articulation agreement with Algonquin College.

Senate approved the recommendations as revised.

Graduate Studies Committee Report. Senator Brunetti presented the report which included the following proposals:

MSc in Applied Modelling and Qualitative Methods – Addition of a Pre-Masters graduate admissions pathway.

Master of Management – Addition of a Pre-Masters graduate admissions pathway.

Master of Arts and Master of Science in Anthropology – New course ANTH 5400Y.

Master of Science in Materials Science – Changes to program curriculum and degree requirements.

Master of Arts in Cultural Studies – Change course code from CUST 5503H to CUST 5701H.

Graduate Diploma in Educational and Community Leadership – Change research methods course requirement.

Ph.D. in Psychology – Addition of Failed Course policy in program requirements.

Senate approved the recommendations.

Academic Planning and Policy Committee Report. Senator Brunetti presented the report which included revisions to the Policy on Student Records (Access to) and the language used in the calendar regarding Academic Status.

The Policy on Student Records had been updated to reflect the use of electronic records. In addition, the language on disclosure of student records had been revised to include the Trent Graduate Student Association.

The calendar copy on academic status had been revised to include Probation in Lieu of Suspension in some, specific, cases.

Senate approved the recommendations as presented.

Cyclical Program Review Committee Report. Senator Bailey presented the report which included the Final Assessment Report (FAR) and Implementation Plan for the BA Indigenous Studies, the BA/BSc Indigenous Environmental Studies and Sciences and the Ph.D. Indigenous Studies.

Senate received the report as information.

Artificial Intelligence Discussion. Senators O'Hagan and Tufts led a discussion of the challenges and opportunities that the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in academia present. They reported on the results of a survey of students, staff and faculty use of AI noting that, of these groups, faculty were the less likely to use AI as a tool in either teaching or research. One Senator observed that the use of AI, in post secondary institutions and more broadly, may ultimately result in a reduction in the number of paid positions. Other points of discussion included concerns about privacy, research integrity, and copyright and IP concerns, as well as potential administrative and institutional benefits. It was noted that there is potential for AI to improve accessibility—such taking notes for students who require them.

The Chair noted that it would take time to develop the needed policies and best practices that would allow us to use AI appropriately and responsibly.

Any Other Business.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 3:40.

Dr. C. Bruce, Chair

T. Harrington, Secretary