

The 527 Meeting of the Trent University Senate

Tuesday, October 14, 2025, 2:00 p.m.

A.J.M. Smith Room

Minutes

Present: Senators Cathy Bruce (Chair), Iyiola Alade, Suzanne Bailey, Lianna Brown, Craig Brunetti, Gary Burness, Shutao Cao, Michael Chan-Reynolds, Jonathan Greene, Stephen Hill, Holger Hintelmann, Ihor Junyk, Heather Klynn-Hesselink, Lawrence Lam, Erick Laming, Hugo Lehmann, Byron Lew, Mowei Liu, Lewis MacLeod, Paul Manning, Michele McIntosh, Marina Morgenshtern, Heather Nicol, Naomi Nichols, Kathryn Norlock, 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: Laszlo Ban, Dwayne Collins, Heather Crowley and Esther Kambale. Associate University Secretary (Senate) Tara Harrington and Coordinator, Board and Senate Support Taylor Edwards.

Regrets: Senators Anthony Coulter, Neil Emery, Gold (Ayodeji) Jegede, Jennifer Moore, Van Nguyen-Marshall, Fergal O'Hagan 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 clarified the process to be followed for approval of committee reports.

She noted that there had been an increase in enrolment of domestic students but that this had not offset the decrease in international student enrolment. There was to be an update on enrolment presented following the November count, once the data has been reviewed. The approved budget for 2025-26 had forecasted a deficit of 1.6 million dollars. That projected deficit has grown and the financial situation is being assessed. Despite this, there are no planned in-year budget cuts. Each Vice President was asked to apply additional scrutiny to budgets at this time. The Chair reminded Senators that we established three groups working on budget issues, each focussing on a different aspect—cost containment, revenue generation and the enrolment task force.

The Ontario Universities Fair (OUF) had been very successful. More than 200 faculty and staff volunteered for the OUF this year and we made more than 5000 contacts.

Minutes and Business arising Meeting of September 16, 2025. The minutes were approved as presented.

Nominating and Governance Subcommittee Report. The Chair presented a report submitted by the Nominating and Governance Subcommittee regarding the search for the next Chancellor. She reminded Senators that the term of the Chancellor was to expire in June and reviewed the search process currently underway. The report included a final draft position profile for the Chancellor that, if approved, would guide the search process. Senate approved the draft position profile as presented.

Undergraduate Studies Committee Report. Senator Chan-Reynolds presented the report which included a proposal for a new 2+2 articulation agreement with CINEC Campus that would allow eligible students from CINEC's Bachelor of Management (Honours) program in Supply Chain Management to enter Trent's Logistics & Supply Chain Management program with advanced standing. Students applying to the program will face the same delays that other international students do but, as they need to complete the first two years of the program at CINEC Campus they will have time. It was reported that we expect that fewer than 30 students will enter Trent through the agreement. Senate approved the proposal as presented.

Research Policy Committee Report. Senator Hintelmann presented a proposal from the Research Policy Committee to revise the Terms of Reference for the Distinguished Research Award. He noted that the eligibility and assessment criteria had been updated. Previously the award had rotated among the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences on an annual cycle, but this was revised for future years to be more inclusive. It was reported that the Terms of Reference would be reviewed again in five years. A Senator suggested that unsuccessful nominations be carried over into the award cycle in the second year. It was agreed that this could be considered during the first review. Senate approved the revised Terms of Reference as presented.

Cyclical Program Review Committee Report. Senator Bailey presented the report which included the Implementation Report for the PhD in Canadian Studies, the Final Assessment Report (FAR) and Implementation Report – Executive Summary for the MSc and PhD in Materials Science and the Implementation Report for the MA in Sustainability Studies. During discussion Senator Bailey was asked why we conducted these reviews. The questioner noted that the process requires significant investment of resources. It was explained that these reviews are mandatory, and we forward the Final Assessment Reports to the Quality Council. It was also noted that the process enables the University to do this work relatively independently and is part of maintaining good self-governance over curriculum. Senate accepted the report as information.

Policy on Substantiation of Indigenous Identity for TUFA Faculty. Senator Skinner presented the policy noting that it had been in development for three years. Substantiation of Indigenous identity is a national issue and one being addressed in many post-secondary institutions. The policy is grounded by seven traditional teachings: love, bravery, respect, honesty/integrity, humility, wisdom and truth and was developed following broad consultation with local communities and groups. It was noted that the policy will likely evolve but that this was an excellent starting point. The policy was accepted as information.

Any Other Business. The Chair noted that the November meeting of Senate would take place virtually.

The Chair was asked which group or individual at Trent was addressing government bills that affect students. It is believed that the bill infringes on the autonomy of universities and is an over-reach. The Chair responded that the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) is working on a position related to *Bill 33, Supporting Children and Students Act*. She observed that the current provincial government is responsive to students and recommended that the various student associations within and beyond Trent should continue to consult with one other on this matter.

Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

Dr. C. Bruce, Chair

T. Harrington, Secretary