

## The 531 Meeting of the Trent University Senate

Tuesday, February 24 at 2:00 p.m.  
AJM Smith Room

### Minutes

**Present:** Senators Cathy Bruce (Chair), Iyiola Alade, Suzanne Bailey, Liana Brown, Craig Brunetti, Shutao Cao, Michael Chan-Reynolds, Neil Emery, Jonathan Greene, Holger Hintelmann, Ihor Junyk, Heather Klyn-Hesselink, Lawrence Lam, Erick Laming, Hugo Lehmann, Byron Lew, Mowei Liu, Lewis MacLeod, Paul Manning, Michele McIntosh, Jennifer Moore, Marina Morgenshtern, Van Nguyen-Marshall, Heather Nicol, Naomi Nichols, Kathryn Norlock, Fergal O'Hagan, David Patton, Karleen Pendleton Jiménez, Emma Perratt, Steven Rafferty, Catalina Sagarra, Mark Skinner, Aaron Slepko, Emily Tufts, Mrunmayee Vichare, Sarah West, Robert Wright and Susan Wurtele. Official Visitors Heather Crowley, Moira Howes, Connor Koch, and Brandon Remmelgas. Junior Student member Laszlo Ban. Associate University Secretary (Senate) Tara Harrington and Coordinator, Board and Senate Support Taylor Edwards.

**Regrets:** Senators Anthony Coulter, Stephen Hill, Gold (Ayodeji) Jegede, James Penney, Vincent Sun, and Mrunmayee Vichare. Official Visitors and junior student member: Alma Barranco-Mendoza, Brennan Cornell, and Esther Kambale.

### 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.

Dr. Hintelmann named this year's recipients for the Early Career Research Awards as Dr. Joshua Synenko and Dr. Kira Borden. The Chair opened her remarks announcing Trent's 13<sup>th</sup> Chancellor as Zabeen Hirji '25 (hon).

**Budget Update.** The Chair provided an update on the ongoing budget process. Meetings were held with TUFA, Exempt Staff, and OPSEU prior to the start of budget deliberations, and TUFA's presentation to the Board was well received. OPSEU members held a march and submitted materials to the President that focused on the importance of Trent staff and government advocacy. Budget week proceeded with all budget holder presentations completed; however, deliberations were paused following the provincial government's announcement of a \$6.4 billion investment in postsecondary education over four years. The announcement included changes such as re-calibrating Weighted Grant Unit allocations, resets of corridor midpoints, targeted support for small, rural, northern, and

French language campuses, 2% domestic tuition increase, and funding for 40,000 new program seats. While this is a welcome announcement, the Chair noted that this does not resolve the University's immediate financial challenges. The Chair, along with members of senior administration, continue to seek clarification from government staff while reviewing budget holder submissions and analyzing implications. OSAP changes and their impact on students were also highlighted, with a recent meeting held with the TCSA to discuss these issues alongside Bill 33.

Senators raised concerns regarding the protection of the academic mission in the face of budget reductions. The Chair and Provost & VP Academic reaffirmed that teaching, research, academic programs, and associated supports remain central, and that the University will not take an across-the-board reduction approach. The Chair acknowledged the strain being experienced and clarified that deans have been asked to identify risks associated with potential budget reduction scenarios. Further questions were raised regarding discipline-specific implications of the new government funding model. Administration anticipates a general rise in per student funding and noted that while some growth funding may be directed toward areas prioritized by the province, such as health sciences and engineering, Trent has historically and will continue to work to protect the breadth of its academic programs.

Senators discussed student participation at upcoming rallies related to changes in OSAP funding. The Chair encouraged flexibility and avoiding academic penalties for participation, which was echoed by Senators.

**Following discussion, Senate passed the following motion:**

**“That Senate encourages faculty to exercise flexibility, where possible, for students attending coordinated rallies related to funding in the coming weeks.”**

**and it was further agreed that this motion be communicated to all applicable staff & faculty.**

**Minutes and Business arising Meeting of January 13, 2026.** The minutes were approved as presented.

**Vision, Mission and Values of Trent University.** The Chair provided an overview of the process undertaken for updating Trent University's Vision & Mission statements and presented the finalized versions to this governing body. These statements will be going forward to the Board of Governors on March 27, 2026, for approval. Senate approved the statements as presented.

**Undergraduate Studies Committee Report.** Senator Chan-Reynolds presented the report which included the following proposals:

**Supply Chain Management** – A new articulation agreement that will allow qualifying students of Centennial College's Business – Supply Chain and Operations diploma program, and the Business Administration – Supply Chain and Operations Management advanced diploma program to enter Trent's Supply Chain Management (BA Honours) program with advanced standing.

**Anthropology** – One new regular course – ANTH4425H.

**Business** – Modify program requirements for the specialization in Business Administration.

**Forensic Science** – Modify program requirements for the specialization in Law & Policing.

**Gender & Social Justice** – One new regular course – GESO3270H.

**Psychology** - Modify program requirements for the specialization in Psychological Development. Senate approved the report as presented.

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

**PhD in Canadian Studies** – Modified program requirements and addition of one new course – CAST-6075H.

**Master of Science in Nursing – Professional Practice Leadership** – Modify program name to Master of Science in Nursing. Program requirements were also modified to now include a thesis option, removal of 5205H Informatics course, and content from 5010H integrated into 5123H and 5118H.

**Master of Science in Applied Modelling & Quantitative Methods** – One new regular course – AMOD5570H.

**Master of Instrumental Chemical Analysis** – Modified course description – ICAN5110H. Senate approved the report as presented.

**Research Policy Committee.** Senator Hintelmann presented the report which included updated Ethics Procedures for Reviewing Research Involving Human Participants. Changes included clarifying the scope of reviews routed to committees and supports available, Research Ethics Board (REB) certification requirements, and minor housekeeping changes. Senate approved the report as presented.

**Approval of Convocation Lists.** The Chair presented two recommendations regarding Senate approval of convocation lists:

- a) That Senate approve the convocation lists for the period April 1, 2026—March 31, 2027, and;
- b) That Senate grant the Dean of Graduate Studies authority to grant graduate degrees outside of the University's Convocations in special circumstances.

Senate approved the proposed motions.

**Indigenous Education Council.** Senator Skinner provided an overview of the Indigenous Education Council (IEC) report, which highlighted IEC activities, governance updates, and program and student support developments across FPHL and the Chanie Wenjack School for Indigenous Studies. IEC co-chairs Dan Longboat and Gaylyn Heffernan provided brief remarks on the work that the council has undertaken. Senate received the report as information.

**Cyclical Program Review Committee.** Senator Bailey presented the report which included the Final Assessment Report (FAR), & Implementation Plan – Executive Summary-for the programs offered in Psychology. Senate received the report as information.

**Any Other Business.**

**Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 3:46.

Dr. C. Bruce, Chair

T. Edwards, Recording Secretary