



The 532 Meeting of the Trent University Senate

Tuesday, March 17 at 2:00 p.m.
AJM Smith Room

Minutes

Present: Senators Cathy Bruce (Chair), Iyiola Alade, Suzanne Bailey, Liana Brown, Craig Brunetti, Shutao Cao, Neil Emery, Stephen Hill, Holger Hintelmann, Ihor Junyk, 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, Fergal O'Hagan, David Patton, Emma Perratt, Catalina Sagarra, Mark Skinner, Aaron Slepko, Vincent Sun, Emily Tufts, Sarah West, Robert Wright and Susan Wurtele. Official Visitors Dwayne Collins, Heather Crowley, Connor Koch, and Brandon Remmelgas. Associate University Secretary (Senate) Tara Harrington and Coordinator, Board and Senate Support Taylor Edwards.

Regrets: Senators Michael Chan-Reynolds, Anthony Coulter, Jonathan Greene, Gold (Ayodeji) Jegede, Heather Klyn-Hesselink, Naomi Nichols, Kathryn Norlock, Karleen Pendleton Jiménez, James Penney, Steven Rafferty, and Mrunmayee Vichare. Official Visitors and junior student member: Laszlo Ban, Alma Barranco-Mendoza, Brennan Cornell, Chioma Ifeanyichukwu, 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. Senator Hintelmann announced this year's Distinguished Research Award recipient as Dr. Whitney Lackenbauer. Senator O'Hagan presented the confidential 2025-26 recipients of the Decanal Awards for Teaching Excellence and Outstanding Graduate Mentorship. These awards will be presented at the April 29th Celebration of Faculty Excellence in Teaching and Research.

Budget Update. The Chair provided a follow-up on ongoing budget planning, noting that senior administration met on February 9 and subsequently received the provincial announcement regarding tuition and OSAP, though full details remain under embargo. The University's budget will proceed to the Board in closed session on March 27, with

public communication to follow once the embargo is lifted. While additional government funding is anticipated, it will not resolve this year's projected deficit. Administration is preparing a three-part budget approach consisting of targeted reductions, government funding, and drawing from the contingency fund. A series of recommendations for new revenue generating sources are currently under review for future implementation.

OSAP Update. The Chair reported that full operational details for the 2026–27 OSAP program have not yet been released, and federal funding information—representing 60% of OSAP support—remains unavailable. At Trent, most OSAP assistance is loan-based, totaling approximately \$90M in student support. Trent's Financial Aid office is assessing which students may be most affected and staff remain available to assist those navigating these changes. The Registrar's Office will be hosting pop-up information sessions at both campuses and online to increase awareness of available bursaries, grants, and scholarships. Financial Aid will also host sessions for prospective students at Open House.

Minutes and Business arising Meeting of February 24, 2026. The minutes were approved as presented.

Undergraduate Studies Committee Report. Senator West presented the report which included the following proposals:

Business - New single major general BBA program, and a new transfer pathway that will allow qualifying students of Durham College's Business Administration – Finance diploma program to enter Trent's Business Administration degree program with advanced standing.

Communications - New transfer pathway that will allow qualifying students of Durham College's Music Business Administration diploma program to enter Trent's Communications degree program with advanced standing.

Environment - New single-major general BA program, and eight new co-op options across BA & BSc degree programs.

Business - One new regular course – ADMN3185H, and modified program requirements for the specialization in Marketing & Consumer Culture.

Global Justice & Development - Two new regular courses – GDST4241H and HURI2006H, and modified program requirements for the BA Honours in Human Rights & Global Justice.

Nursing - Two new regular courses – NURS1010H and NURS110H, and modified program requirements for the BScN.

Psychology - One new regular course – PSYC4870H, and modified program requirements for the BA/BSc Honours in Psychology.

Environment – Modified program requirements for twenty programs, minors, and specializations across the School of the Environment.

Health, Kinesiology - Modified program requirements for the BSc Honours in Health.

Draft Senate & Senate Exec Dates 2026-2027. Senators suggested next year's Senate orientation take place prior to the first Senate meeting of the year. Senate reviewed and approved the meeting schedule as presented.

Indigenous Education Strategy Listening Session. Senators took part in a facilitated discussion to provide input on a 10-year Indigenous education strategy for Trent, as part of the President's Task Force on Indigenous Education. Key topics included accountability and monitoring, institutional capacity, and long-term academic stewardship.

Academic Colleague Report. The Chair noted that the report was included in the package and asked Senators with questions to direct them to Senator McIntosh, the Academic Colleague, directly. Senators requested at the next COU meeting, Senator McIntosh gather information from other attendees on their institution's cyclical review process. Senate received the report as information.

Any Other Business.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 3:58.

Dr. C. Bruce, Chair

T. Edwards, Recording Secretary