



## The 533 Meeting of the Trent University Senate

Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.  
AJM Smith Room

### Minutes

**Present:** Senators Cathy Bruce (Chair), Suzanne Bailey, Liana Brown, Craig Brunetti, Shutao Cao, Siobhan Cadigan, Michael Chan-Reynolds, Jonathan Greene, Stephen Hill, Holger Hintelmann, Ihor Junyk, Heather Klyn-Hesselink, Lawrence Lam, Byron Lew, Mowei Liu, Lewis MacLeod, Michele McIntosh, Jennifer Moore, Marina Morgenshtern, Van Nguyen-Marshall, Heather Nicol, Naomi Nichols, Kathryn Norlock, Fergal O'Hagan, David Patton, Karleen Pendleton Jiménez, Catalina Sagarra, Mickayla Simpson, Mark Skinner, Vincent Sun, Emily Tufts, Sarah West, and Susan Wurtele. Official Visitors Heather Crowley, Moira Howes, Chioma Ifeanyichukwu, Connor Koch, and Brandon Rempelgas. University Secretary Brenda Blackburn, Associate University Secretary (Senate) Tara Harrington and Governance Officer Richelle Hall.

**Regrets:** Senators Anthony Coulter, Neil Emery, Erick Laming, Hugo Lehmann, Paul Manning, James Penney, Emma Perratt, Steven Rafferty, Aaron Slepko, Mrunmayee Vichare and Robert Wright. Official Visitors and junior student member: Laszlo Ban, 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.

### Closed Session

**University Honours Subcommittee Report.** The Chair presented the University Honours Subcommittee and Executive Committee's recommendation for Eminent Service Award recipients for 2026. Senate approved the candidates presented. The recommendation will now track to the Board of Governors for final approval.

**Budget Update.** The Chair and Vice-President Al-idrissi provided an update on the budget, noting that it was approved by the Board of Governors on March 27, 2026, in its closed session meeting. Provincial funding information remains under embargo, with some information yet to be confirmed. The budget will go back to the Board in the open

session once the embargo has been lifted. Discussion focused on the impact of budget reductions as it relates to Senate matters.

## **Open Session**

**Chair's Remarks and Announcements.** The Chair thanked everyone for their participation in the Indigenous Education Strategy discussion at the last meeting.

**Education Program Changes –** The Chair reported on a recent government announcement requiring Bachelor of Education programs to reduce the current four-semester model into an intensive three-semester model, effective May 2027. Senators Skinner and O'Hagan would be attending a technical briefing later that week to learn more about the required changes. Some Senators expressed concern regarding the new model and student preparedness.

**Fleming College and St. Lawrence College Merger –** The Chair commented on the recent merger announcement of Fleming and St. Lawrence colleges. The President was looking to partner with the new institution with hope of leading to greater collaboration in the future. There would be no immediate impact on the Trent/Fleming School of Nursing program at this time.

**Minutes and Business arising Meeting of March 17, 2026.** The minutes were approved as presented.

**Provost's Forum on Academic Freedom.** Dr. Shannon Dea, Provost & Vice-President, Academic & Research at Saint Mary's University led an engaging and interactive discussion on academic freedom and its evolving role in post-secondary education.

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

**Artificial Intelligence –** Modify program requirements for the Bachelor of Arts Honours in Artificial Intelligence (single-major). Two new joint-major degree options – Bachelor of Arts Honours in Artificial Intelligence and Bachelor of Science Honours in Artificial Intelligence.

**Artificial Intelligence, Computer Science –** Two new postgraduate certificates. Modify program requirements for postgraduate certificates in Applied Artificial Intelligence and Applied Artificial Intelligence & Software Development.

**Artificial Intelligence, Computer Science, Mathematics, Economics –** Modify program requirements for postgraduate certificate in Applied Artificial Intelligence & Financial Analytics.

**Arts & Science –** A new transfer pathway that would allow qualifying students of American University of Yangon to enter various degree programs at Trent with

advanced standing.

**Business** – New transfer pathways that would allow qualifying students of Quality Leadership University and Shanghai University of Finance and Economics to enter Trent's Business Administration (BBA Honours) program with advanced standing. A new transfer pathways that would allow qualifying students of Shanghai University of Finance and Economics to enter Trent's Bachelor of Arts Honours in Economics program with advanced standing. Modify program requirements for Bachelor of Business Administration Honours and General, Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (joint-major), and Minor in Business Administration.

**Business, Computer Science** – Modify program requirements for postgraduate certificate in E-Commerce.

**Communications** – Three new regular courses – COMM2006H, COMM2007H, and COMM3700H/COMM3701H/COMM3702H. Modify program requirements for Bachelor of Arts Honours and General in Communications.

**Communications, Business, Computer Science** – Modify program requirements for postgraduate certificate in Digital Marketing.

**Education** – One new regular course – EDUC4337H. Modify program requirements for Bachelor of Education and Bachelor of Education – Indigenous.

**English Literature** – One new regular course – ENGL2801H

**Environment** – A new co-op option in the BSc Honours in Water Sciences

**Indigenous Studies** – A new transfer pathway that would allow qualifying students of Algonquin College to enter Trent's BA Honours in Indigenous Studies.

**Language & Linguistics** – A new undergraduate certificate. One new regular course - LING3500H.

**Philosophy** – Modify program requirements for the specialization in Ethics.

**Political Studies** - Modify program requirements for the Bachelor of Arts Honours in Political Studies and Swansea Law Program, and the specializations in International Law & Policy, Political Theory, and World Politics.

**Supply Chain Management** – Modify program name of postgraduate certificate in Logistics & Supply Chain Management (1 yr) to postgraduate certificate in Logistics & Supply Chain Foundations. Modify program requirements for the postgraduate certificate in Logistics & Supply Chain Management (2yr).

**Supply Chain Management, Business, Computer Science** – Modify program name and requirements for postgraduate certificate in Logistics & Supply Chain Management and E-Commerce.

The Chair noted that Senate Executive has recommended that the Undergraduate Studies Committee undertake a review of the nomenclature surrounding options, specializations, certificates and diplomas.

Senate approved the report as presented.

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

**Master of Arts in Management** - One new regular course.

**Master of Arts in Sustainability Studies** – Modify program co-op requirements.

**Master of Science in Material Science** – A new graduate diploma in material science.

**Remote Defence Policy** – Revisions included moving the decision-making authority from the Dean to the graduate program directors.

Senate approved the report as presented.

**2026-2027 Faculty Committee List.** Senator Skinner presented the report on behalf of the Faculty Board Nominating Committee, noting that there will be some updates as department chairs for 2026-2027 are identified.

Senate approved the report as presented.

**Academic Planning & Policy Committee Report.** Senator Skinner presented the report which identified changes to three degree programs based on recommendations in their monitoring reports. The graduate diploma in Dementia Studies for Registered Nurses was transitioned into two distinct streams, Dementia Studies and Mental Health & Addiction, in 2023. Additionally, two programs will have name changes effective May 1, 2026. The Bachelor of Science in Health & Behaviour will become Bachelor of Science in Health and the Bachelor of Arts in Logistics and Supply Chain Management will become Bachelor of Arts in Supply Chain Management. These represent positive changes in the mid cycle of the cyclical review process.

Senate received the report for information..

**Any Other Business.** None at this time.

**Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

Dr. C. Bruce, Chair

R. Hall, Recording Secretary