



Board of Governors Minutes of the Meeting – Open Session

Peterborough, March 25, 2022

Present – In Person: D. Cooper Burger (Chair), R. Dart, P. Dilworth, L. Groarke, R. Jacobson, M. Keefer, V. Lovekin, C. Nelan, D. Palberg, S. Sinclair, A. Slepko, J. Smith, (Acting Vice-President, Finance & Administration) T. Al-idrissi, (Acting Vice-President, Research & Innovation) C. Bruce, (Vice-President, Communications & Enrolment) M. Burns, (Vice-President, External Relations & Development) J. Davis, (Provost & Vice-President, Academic) M. Khan, (Vice-President, Human Resources) S. Williams, (Associate Vice-President, Finance) C. Turk, (Interim University Secretary) B. Blackburn, R. Hall (Recording Secretary).

Present – Virtual: C. Bonello, B. Cowie, P. Kayilasanathan, D. Kirk, J. McKenna, K. Scaldwell

Regrets: C. Gray, R. Porter, S. Rafi

[The Secretary confirms that quorum was present for this meeting.]

1. Welcome and Adoption of Agenda. The Chair called the open session of the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Hearing no amendments to the agenda, and no conflicts of interest declared, it was moved/seconded (Dilworth/Keefer),

That the Board approve the agenda as presented. Carried

2. Consent Agenda. It was moved/seconded (Sinclair/Dilworth),

That the consent agenda be approved as presented. Carried

- 2.1 Approval of Minutes.** The Open Session minutes of February 4, 2022, approved as presented.
- 2.2 Financial Update.** Received as information.
- 2.3 Capital Projects Update.** Received as information.
- 2.4 Annual Review of Credit Rating – Including Debt Capacity.** Received as information.
- 2.5 Investment Performance Summary (Pension) – Q4.** Received as information.
- 2.6 Investment Performance Summary Endowment/SRI Fund – Q4.** Received as information.

3. Chair's Remarks. The Chair congratulated Acting Vice-President Cathy Bruce for her recent appointment as Vice-President, Research and Innovation, effective April 1, 2022. The Chair reported on her activities since the last meeting, which included:

- February 11, 2022 - Attended the 46th Elder's gathering
- March 2, 2022 – Attended the 2021 Excalibur Women's OUA Lacrosse Champions Dinner
- March 16, 2022 – Participated in a meeting with the Board's Governors Emeritus
- March 24, 2022 – Presented the Arthur Cup, along with Acting VP Al-idrissi, at the Excalibur Athletic Awards Banquet, to Victoria Clark and Alex Sajak.

4. President's Report.

4.1 COVID Update. The President reported that classes continue to be in person. The University is keeping vaccination and masking protocols in place till the end of the examination period, but they may be lifted after such time. However, if the situation were to change the University could pivot and reintroduce protocols if needed.

4.2 Academic Plan Update. Provost Khan recalled that the draft guiding principles, drafted by consultant Dr. Dave Marshall, were shared with the Board previously. The week of March 28, 2022, Dr. Marshall would be coming to campus to hold various consultation sessions with Board leadership, student leaders, Faculty Board, and open consultations with staff and faculty. Provost Khan reported that he has visited all academic departments, who are now working on submitting draft academic plans. The President encouraged all Board members to get involved in the academic planning process by participating in the open consultation sessions.

4.3 Ukraine Students Update. Trent's fundraising campaign to support students from Ukraine, and Russia, has raised over \$40K. Including approximately \$11K in private donations, \$10K in matching funds from the President's Office, as well as contributions from the Provost's Office, Registrar's Office, and Trent International. The President noted that the government was discussing issuing special visas to Ukrainian students allowing them to qualify for domestic tuition rates.

The President was pleased to announce the recipient of the Distinguished Research Award for 2022, Professor David Patton, for his significant career achievements and contributions to the field of astronomy.

5. Funded Research Agreements Policy. Governor Smith, as Chair of the Audit and Investment Committee, presented the Funded Research Agreements Policy for review. This policy was created in response to a key recommendation in the External Review of Research with the purpose of streamlining the Policy on Contract Research (Faculty) and the Policy on External Research Activities into one clear policy. The new streamlined policy will mitigate risk and support research.

It was moved/seconded (Smith/Slepkov),

That the Board of Governors approve the Policy on Funded Research Agreements as presented. Carried

- 6. 2022-23 Operating Budget – Final Draft.** Governor Dilworth, on behalf of the Finance and Property Committee, presented the draft 2022-23 budget for approval, noting that it projected an essentially balanced budget with \$51K in excess revenue over expense. The budget assumes a return to normal in-person activity for the year.

The enrolment assumptions for 2022-2023 estimate 11,664 FTEs, an increase of 2.7% from 2021/22 actuals. These conservative projections are based on an increase in Peterborough and Durham undergraduate intake by 3% and 12%, respectively, international intake growing to 15% by 2025, certificate programs increasing by 35, continuation rates based on the average of the last four full years, and graduate enrolment remaining constant. Domestic tuition would remain frozen for another year and out-of-province domestic and international tuition fees would increase consistent with prior years. Funding will continue to be decoupled from performance-based metrics for an additional year, and total operating grants were to continue to be fixed for the five-years during SMA3. Trent was assuming there would be no changes to special purpose grants. With the on-going pandemic, incremental COVID-related expenses are anticipated. These costs have not been included in the operating budget but will be offset by the remaining appropriation established on April 30, 2021.

Proposed new strategic investments totaling \$2.7M included new investments for both academic and student support to address increasing enrolment and strategic priorities. The draft budget also contemplates investment in 24 new tenure track faculty replacements funded from within the existing budget. It was noted that, while the budget planning process did include multi-year planning it was noted that years 2 and 3 did not include any new investments to address the enrolment growth.

Governors expressed concern with the table on Teaching Capacity and Enrolment as they felt it did not provide sufficient detail. It was recommended that the Finance and Property Committee discuss what metrics should be used moving forward.

It was moved/seconded (Dilworth/Kirk),

That the Board of Governors approve:

- 1. The 2022/2023 Operating Budget;**
- 2. The 2022/2023 Tuition Fees; and**
- 3. The 2022/2023 Housing Fees and Dining Fees,**
as presented. Carried

- 7. Community Relations Report (Peterborough).** VP Davis reported on the various ways Trent University was contributing to the Peterborough community, highlighting staff/faculty contributions, fundraising, economic impact, projects, partnerships, and recognition in the community.

This year's United Way Campaign was a huge success with over \$150K raised to make this Trent's largest United Way gift to date. Trent is the United Way Peterborough's

largest workplace partner. The President acknowledged the passionate leadership of campaign chair Marcus Harvey.

On April 8, 2022, Trent would be celebrating Trent Day to commemorate the University's founding. Trent Day was initially created as the University's own giving day, however, the concept has been expanded where the worldwide Trent community is encouraged to mark the day through support, service, and spirit, with a large focus on the service aspect through volunteering and food bank donations.

- 8. Community Relations Report (Durham GTA Campus).** Dean of Trent Durham GTA, Scott Henderson, extended thanks to the Board for their support of the campus and acknowledged his team for their hard work. He presented a year in review recognizing the success of the Trent Durham GTA campaign, the enhanced visibility in the community, and the campus' multifaceted growth, in terms of enrolment, programming, experiential learning, and landholdings. Dean Henderson also highlighted the service taking place at the campus through initiatives such as food and clothing drives.

The campus continues to develop partnerships at all levels of government, including an upcoming federal announcement and the reestablishment of the Community Advisory Committee in the next year. Work also continues with city partners to address space challenges in the region by offering the campus as a suitable event space.

- 9. Jalynn Bennett Amphitheatre at Traill College.** The Chair reported that in the Closed Session meeting the Board approved the construction contract for the Jalynn Bennett Amphitheater. She welcomed Traill College Principal, Michael Eamon, to present on the exciting new project. He recalled that this project arose following recommendations from the Traill College Review in 2016 and as a result of a legacy gift from the Jalynn Bennett estate. The Jalynn Bennett Amphitheatre will be a new, three-season performance space situated in the courtyard of Traill College. It will enable Traill College to meet a longstanding community need for a centrally located, outdoor stage that particularly features professional artists, contributing to the arts, culture, and heritage of Peterborough. The total cost for the project is \$1.4M, \$900K of which has been raised through grants and donations. It is anticipated that construction would be complete by September 2022.

- 10. Meeting Adjournment.** The open session of the meeting was adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

Brenda Blackburn
Interim University Secretary

Debra Cooper Burger
Chair