

Board of Governors Minutes of the Meeting – Open Session

Durham, May 12, 2023

Present – In Person: D. Cooper Burger (Chair), B. Cowie, Y. Craig, L. Groarke, K. Honey, M. Lavallée, V. Lovekin, J. McGarrity, C. Nelan, K. Scaldwell, H. Uluorta, T. Al-idrissi (Vice-President, Finance and Administration), C. Bruce (Vice-President, Research and Innovation), M. Burns (Vice-President, Communications and Enrolment), J. Davis (Vice-President, External Relations & Development), S. Williams (Vice-President, Human Resources), C. Turk (Associate Vice-President, Finance), B. Blackburn (University Secretary), R. Hall (Recording Secretary).

Present - Virtual: J. Smith, S. Rafi.

Regrets: T. Gervais, M. Keefer, D. Kirk, A. Mishra, D. Palberg, A. Slepkov.

[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 1:02 p.m. Hearing no amendments to the agenda, and no conflicts of interest declared, it was moved/seconded (Nelan/McGarrity),

That the Board approve the agenda as presented. Carried

2. Consent Agenda. It was moved/seconded (Scaldwell/Honey),

That the consent agenda be approved as presented. Carried

2.1 Approval of Minutes. The Open Session of March 24, 2023, approved as presented.

2.2 Financial Update. Received as information.

2.3 Capital Projects Update. Received as information.

3. Chair's Remarks. The Chair recalled the President's recent announcement that he would not be seeking a third term. The Presidency Review Committee was currently working to finalize the Presidential Mandate, after which a search committee will be established and a search consultant retained.

The Chair reported that she attended the Celebration of Faculty Excellence on May 3 and that the Heart of Trent event took place on May 10. She extended congratulations to all those who were celebrated at both events.

The Chair reported that she and staff from the University Secretariat recently attended the Canadian University Board Association Conference. The theme of the conference was *governing through change*.

4. President's Report.

Celebration of Faculty Excellence for Teaching and Research. The President reported that the teaching and research award presentations were combined into a single event this year. The event honoured exemplary faculty for their extraordinary work in the areas of teaching and research at Trent.

Heart of Trent. The President reported that the Heart of Trent event was held May 10 at the Durham-GTA campus. This offered an opportunity to introduce many employees to the campus with tours being provided.

Government Relations. Administration continues to have promising meetings with City of Peterborough Mayor, Jeff Leal. One area that has received great attention in Peterborough is traffic congestion, which is evident through the installation of a new light at the intersection of Nassau Mills Road and Armour Road.

Scholars Dinners. The President recently attended scholars' dinners at both the Peterborough and Durham-GTA campuses. This event welcomes high achieving applicants to the University where they can learn more about Trent and have an opportunity to meet faculty. VP Burns read a letter from a parent highlighting the importance of this event.

Momentous Change Campaign. The President commented on the Momentous Change Campaign, announced after the last Board meeting. The campaign has a goal of \$100M, with \$42M already raised. VP Davis stated that all money raised is directed to three areas, discovery, students, and places. Trent's fundraising continues to grow every year, and now in addition to maintaining this growth the University needs to start attracting \$10M+ gifts to name faculties and research centres.

- 5. Tuition Fee Increase.** President Groarke recalled that the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) had previously approached the provincial government for an increase in tuition. The Government had declined the request at that time but has since stated they would allow universities to apply for tuition increases in up to three programs where tuition was at least 15% below the sector average. The maximum allowable increase per year, if approved, was 7.5% per year until tuition reaches the same level as the sector average for comparable programs. Trent had submitted an application to the government for three programs, Business Administration, Computer Science, and Data Science, which are currently below the sector average by approximately 34%, 26%, and 19%, respectively. The additional funds would be directed to the university's operating budget.

It was moved/seconded (Honey/Lovekin),

That the Board of Governors approve a 7.5% increase in undergraduate domestic tuition fees applicable to first-year incoming students starting 2023-2024 in the Business Administration, Computer Science and Data Science programs, subject to Ministry of Colleges and Universities approval. Carried

- 6. Revisions to By-law no. 1 and Special Resolutions III.1 & IV.3.** Governor Scaldwell, as Chair of the Nominating & Governance Committee, presented revisions to Board By-Law No. 1 and Special Resolutions III.1 and IV.3. The revisions presented would bring the by-laws in line with the Ontario Not-for-Profit Act (ONCA). The revisions also included small housekeeping changes and additional changes regarding conflict of interest for consistency. It was recommended that section 3.2.3 of Special Resolution IV.3 be updated to reference immediate family members in addition to domestic partners.

It was moved/seconded (Scaldwell/McGarrity),

That the Board of Governors approve the revisions to Board By-Law no. 1 as presented.

AND, That the Board of Governors approve the revisions to Special Resolution III.1 -Appointment of Members of the Board of Governors as presented. Carried

It was further moved/seconded (Scaldwell/Nelan),

That the Board of Governors approve the revisions to Special Resolution IV.3 –Conflict of Interest or Duty, as amended. Carried

- 7. Housing Capital Development – Status Update.** VP Al-idrissi reported that the negotiated request for proposal deadline closed on April 6, with the University having received three bids. An active team of evaluators were now reviewing all aspects of the submissions with support from various internal and external advisors, including Ernst & Young, KPMG, and LLF Lawyers. It was noted that LLF Lawyers has also brought in MacMillan Lawyers who has expertise in this type of evaluation. Administration will be recommending the preferred proponent at the next Board meeting with negotiations to take place over the summer. A negotiated term sheet will be presented in the Fall for approval.

It was moved/seconded (Craig/McGarrity),

That the Board of Governors receive this report for information. Carried

- 8. Report on Indigenous Community Relations.** VP Davis provided an update on Indigenous community relations focusing on what Trent has been doing institutionally over the past year to advance reconciliation. This report focused on regular meetings with Elders and staff of the Michi Saagig First Nations and more recently with local Métis councils, education of the campus community with expanded and updated resources,

and collaborative initiatives with the Indigenous communities such as the Curve Lake Farm and a land stewardship initiative for the University Green Network. VP Davis reported that Trent is currently working with the local communities to create a traditional medicine/reconciliation garden on both the Symons and Durham campuses.

A governor stated that the federal and provincial governments typically set a goal to direct 5% of procurement to Indigenous communities and suggested that Trent consider making similar procurement policies. The Chair suggested that VP Davis do some investigation on this matter.

It was moved/seconded (Honey/Nelan),

That the Board of Governors receive this report for information. Carried

- 9. Community Relations Report (Durham).** Dean and Head of Trent Durham-GTA, Scott Henderson, presented an overview of the partnerships, initiatives, and activities undertaken by the Trent Durham GTA campus over the past year. He noted that this engagement has encouraged Trent's growth and reputation in the area. The report provided an annual snapshot on community relations and focused on engagement with community associations and groups, student placements and community based research projects, consultation and communication with the Durham community, and key projects, engagements and upcoming opportunities.

Dean Henderson reported that staff are members of the International Community Partnership Committee, which is looking at housing, employment, community connections, and mental health to ensure that the community has the appropriate infrastructure to support the projected student growth from the local post-secondary institutions. The Chair noted that the Board had established a Trent Durham Task Force that was currently undertaking a review of the Trent Durham-GTA campus and will provide recommendations to build capacity and enhance the vibrancy of the campus.

It was moved/seconded (Craig/McGarrity),

That the Board of Governors receive this report for information. Carried

- 10. Meeting Adjournment.** The open session of the meeting was adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

Brenda Blackburn
University Secretary

Debra Cooper Burger
Chair