



Board of Governors Minutes of the Meeting – Open Session

Peterborough, May 6, 2022

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

Present – Virtual: B. Cowie, P. Kayilasanathan, V. Lovekin, D. Kirk, S. Rafi, S. Sinclair, (Vice-President, Communications & Enrolment) M. Burns, (Vice-President, Human Resources) S. Williams

Regrets: C. Bonello, C. Gray, R. Porter, K. Scaldwell, J. Smith

[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 (Keefer/McKenna),

That the Board approve the agenda as presented. Carried

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

That the consent agenda be approved as presented. Carried

2.1 Approval of Minutes. The Open Session minutes of March 25, 2022, approved as presented.

2.2 Financial Update. Received as information.

2.3 Capital Projects Update. Received as information.

3. Chair's Remarks. The Chair welcomed guests to the meeting. Congratulations were extended to Vice-President Tariq Al-idrissi for his recent appointment. The Chair reported on the success of Trent Day on April 8, 2022. Trent raised over \$1.19M to support student spaces and financial aid, and collected over 1000 lbs. of non-perishable food items for local food banks in this single-day event. Additionally, the Chair reminded Governors that convocation, recognizing graduates from 2020, 2021, and 2022, would be taking place from June 2 till 14 with 6 honorary degree recipients being honored at various ceremonies. All Governors were encouraged to attend.

4. President's Report. The President presented on the significance of the Eagle Feather that sits before him at each meeting - a gift from Curve Lake First Nation.

4.1 COVID Update. The President reported that while the COVID situation was quiet on campus that due to the high-risk in the Peterborough community the University has extended the mask policy for instructional spaces, based on the recommendation of public health.

4.2 Government Relations Update. The President reported that government relations has been quiet with the upcoming election. The University recently had visits from Peterborough-Kawartha MP Michelle Ferreri on April 13, and the Minister of Defence, Anita Arand, on April 19.

4.3 Enrolment Update. Applications for the 2022-23 year were looking positive with Trent being up 14%, compared to the system with an increase of 6%. First choice applications were also up 16.8% domestically and 13% internationally, compared to 1.7% for the system. Data for fall accepts were still early in the process, but was looking positive for fall enrolment. Professional master's programs and dual certificates were driving growth, leading to the addition of new sections. Summer enrolment was down, however, this is a result of enrolment levels normalizing after the increase caused by COVID the previous two years. The Durham residence has seen an increase in applications year-over-year, however, it was not expected that the residence would be filled for 2022-23.

5. Special Purpose Fund Financial Statements of the Contributory Pension Plan for TUFA at December 31, 2021. Governor Dilworth, on behalf of the Audit and Investment Committee, presented the special purpose fund financial statements of the contributory pension plan for TUFA employees for approval. Normally such financial reporting is done for the period July 1 – June 30. However, as the plan was being transferred to the University Pension Plan as of January 1, 2022 audited financial statements, suitable only for this purpose, were needed for the six-month period as a requirement of the transfer. The auditors, KPMG, were of the opinion that the financial statements presented fairly, in all material respects, and were in accordance with the financial reporting provisions in the Reporting Requirement Memorandum for the transfer.

It was moved/seconded (Dilworth/Nelan),

That the Board of Governors approve the Special Purpose Fund Financial Statements of the Contributory Pension Plan for TUFA Employees of Trent University (Registration Number 1048826) for the 6-month period ended December 31, 2021. Carried

6. Sexual Violence Policy. Governor Rafi, as Chair of the Executive Committee, presented the revisions to the Sexual Violence Policy, incorporating revisions mandated by the provincial government and introducing changes in an effort to reduce trauma and risk. Mandated revisions included indemnifying complainants from consequences related to alcohol/drug use if reporting, and also specifying that during the institutional investigative process intrusive or irrelevant questions not be asked of the complainant. Further revisions include removing the formal face-to-face adjudication process, which can be retraumatizing, and replacing it with an investigative finding and determination of outcomes by the AVP Students, which can be appealed. The revisions were developed and unanimously approved by the Sexual Violence Task Force.

Questions arose regarding the addition of the fourth paragraph in the Policy Statement highlighting that while it states that “sexual violence impacts all genders” that it goes on to highlight sexual violence statistics against women. While the paragraph was intended to be more inclusive it was felt that it failed to address prevention and response and could potentially prevent a potential male complainant from coming forward. Additionally, it was noted that the policy was not clear on who the policy/procedures apply to (student, staff, faculty). Following discussion, administration was directed to bring forward the concerns raised to the attention Sexual Violence Task Force and to present a redrafted version to the Board in June.

7. Housing Capital Development. Governor Kirk, as Chair of the Finance and Property Committee, provided an update on the work being undertaken to address student housing projections on the Symons campus. VP Al-idrissi reviewed the updated demand projections, showing increased demand for beds, and provided an overview of the financial strategies that were considered, highlighting the preferred option of a private-public-partnership, which presented with the lowest risk score. He noted that costs previously provided by Brook McIlroy were done pre-pandemic and that the university was now looking at them with an escalation increase of 19.1%. As a result, it was estimated that the cost to the University for the first-floor non-residential space would be in the \$30M range.

A request for pre-qualifications (RFPQ) had been released with the intention of pre-qualifying three to four proponents to move forward to the request for proposal stage. It was noted that a complete teardown and rebuild of the Otonabee College (OC) residence was recommended to address deferred maintenance and to meet AODA requirements, therefore the option for the rebuild of the OC residence was included as a clause in the RFPQ to allow the University, at its option, to partner with the successful developer to deliver the OC residence. This would make the process more proficient, and could provide a larger discount for the University and a more competitive process. The RFPQ asked that all proponents identify their ESG considerations to be considered in the scoring, and they were directed to the Trent Lands and Nature Areas Plan.

VP Al-idrissi reviewed the deal structure put forward which included a ground lease, a sublease for food service and academic space on the first-floor, agreements for Trent to retain the residence life component, and the relocation and addition of parking spaces.

It was moved/seconded (Kirk/Keefer),

That the Housing Capital Development report be received for information.
Carried

Governor Sinclair left the meeting at this time.

8. Anti-Racism Task Force Report. Governor Rafi, as Chair of the Executive Committee, presented the report from the Anti-Racism Task Force and thanked them for the work carried out. The report contained 41 recommendations under 5 categories and is being considered in light of other EDI initiatives, notably the work of the TUFA/Trent University Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee. Work has already begun on a number of recommendations, but for others, a planned approach would be needed involving collaboration with key stakeholders on campus and in the community. Administration had developed a plan in addressing the presented recommendations, starting with the creation of a new director position, hiring an expert in human rights and EDI. This position will report to the VP, Human Resources on staff and faculty relations, and student affairs matters. The report also included recommendations that the Board recruit Board members with EDI expertise, and that the Board develop a plan to increase the diversity of its members. It was recommended that these matters be directed to the Nominating and Governance Committee to be addressed.

The Board Chair extended thanks to the task force for this critical work and noted that more information on this item would be coming forward in the future.

It was moved/seconded (Rafi/Nelan),

That the Board of Governors receive the Anti-Racism Task Force report for information. Carried

9. Annual Report on Alumni Engagement. VP Davis highlighted the importance of Trent's alumni as an important community stakeholder that continues to grow each year. Lee Hays, Director of Alumni and Donor Engagement, and Stephen Brown, Co-President of the Trent University Alumni Association stated that the goal of the TUAA is to advance the mission of the University as ambassadors, champions, volunteers and donors. They highlighted the involvement of alumni through the Life After Trent program, the mentoring program, leadership in fundraising efforts, etc. It was noted that over a five-year period alumni alone donated over \$8M to the University.

The TUAA had recently conducted an Alumni Engagement survey which indicated a decrease in engagement, however, it was noted that this was not surprising due to COVID and that Trent still performed higher in this area compared to the peer group. The President added that alumni had likely been somewhat neglected in the last two years, particularly with the travel restrictions in place, restricting the ability to visit and hold events with alumni. The survey noted that a deterrence for individuals participating in alumni events and programs was distance and time, highlighting the importance of regional engagement. It was hoped that such events would commence in the near future.

Governor Dart left the meeting at this time.

VP Davis noted that the Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education recently did a profile on the Alumni Affairs work in EDI. It was further noted that the office is now supporting the Trent University Association of Retired Personnel.

10. 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. The report focused on education of the campus community about local treaties and bringing visibility to the Michi Saagig, collaborative land stewardship, the sharing of learnings with others, and relationship development.

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. Additionally, there are plans to work with the Metis Nation of Ontario Peterborough & District Wapiti Metis Council to explore opportunities to advance education about the Metis and education for Metis students. VP Davis added that the housing capital development had recently been referenced in a tour with the consultation officers and was also brought forward at the monthly meeting where they were invited to express any concerns.

11. Meeting Adjournment. The open session of the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Brenda Blackburn
Interim University Secretary

Debra Cooper Burger
Chair