

The 521st Meeting of the Trent University Senate

Tuesday, January 14, 2025 2:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

Minutes

Present: Senators Cathy Bruce (Chair), Iyiola Alade, Joel Baetz, Suzanne Bailey, Craig Brunetti, Bruce Cater, Kirk Collins, Finis Dunaway, Neil Emery, Wenying Feng, Michael Hickson, Stephen Hill, Holger Hintelmann, Hugo Lehmann, Byron Lew, Sanela Martic, Michele McIntosh, Liam Mitchell, Suresh Narine, Fergal O'Hagan, Emma Perratt, Stephanie Rutherford, Catalina Sagarra, Aiden Schneider, Paula Sherman, Mark Skinner, Angela Slater-Meadows, Emily Tufts, Beth Wallace, Sarah West, Robert Wright, Mrunmayee Vichare and Andrew Vreugdenhil. Official Visitors Alma Barranco-Mendoza, Dwayne Collins, Brennan Cornell, Heather Crowley, Chioma Ifeanyichukwu, Connor Koch. Associate University Secretary (Senate) Tara Harrington and Coordinator, Board and Senate Support Taylor Edwards.

Guests: Marilyn Burns and Benjamin Hickey

Regrets: Senators Jodi Ambrose, Stefan Bilaniuk, Shutao Cao, Nancie Im-Bolter, Michael Khan, Lawrence Lam, Mark Neufeld, Alan O'Connor, Joshua Syneko, and Susan Wurtele.

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. The Chair noted that the February meeting of Senate would be held in person.

She reported that Trent had submitted the first draft of the new Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA) and met with staff from the Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities. During the meetings she had pointed out that Trent had had enrolment above the funded corridor for longer than any other university. Negotiations will take place during the winter and spring building to a final draft of the agreement.

Trent has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Buddhish College of Canada (BCC) to facilitate collaboration between the two institutions.

Minutes and Business arising Meeting of November 26, 2024. The minutes were approved as presented.

Undergraduate Studies Committee Report. Senator Martic presented the report which included recommendations for the following major modifications:

Business – Modify program requirements for the Bachelor of Business Administration program. Expand ADMN 4030H into ADMN 3032H and ADMN 4032H.

Cultural Studies – New regular course CUST 2546H.

French & Francophone Studies – Split FREN-CAST-CUST 4229Y into FREN-CAST-CUST 4227H and FREN-CAST-CUST 4228H.

Compress FREN-CAST 4520Y into FREN-CAST 4521H.

Indigenous Studies – Split INDG 4300Y into INDG 3302H and INDG 4302H.

Languages & Linguistics – New, regular course SPAN 2600Y.

Philosophy – Four new, regular courses PHIL 2161H, PHIL-MDST 2590H, PHIL-KINE 3025H and PHIL-POST 3190H.

Political Studies – Two new, regular courses POST-CAST-CRIM-HURI-SOCI 3740H and POST-PHIL 4332H.

Senate approved the recommendations as presented.

The report also included an update on the three postgraduate certificate programs that had been provisionally approved at the November meeting of Senate.

Graduate Studies Committee Report. Senator Brunetti presented the report which included the following recommendations:

M.Sc. in Forensic Science – Changes to curriculum and degree requirements.

Master of Management – Addition of Bridging stream.

M.Sc. in Nursing, Professional Practice Leadership – Terminate partnership with Ontario Tech University.

Senator Brunetti reported that the Forensics proposal to reduce degree requirements by 1.0 credit for both the course-based and major research paper streams would align the requirements with those of other professional graduate programs at Trent. The new bridging stream in the Master of Management would offer graduates of our BBA program a direct path into the Masters program provided they had earned credit in a number of specified courses.

The termination of the partnership with Ontario Tech would allow each institution to offer standalone programs. The current MOU that Trent has with Ontario Tech restricts our ability to grow our M.Sc.N. program.

Senate approved the proposals as submitted.

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.

Senate received the report as information.

Visioning Exercise-Small Group Discussions. The president provided a brief overview of the purpose of the exercise. Following these opening comments Senators were divided into groups and asked to answer the following questions:

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- What is Trent at its best?
- What should Trent look like 10-20 years from now?
- What makes Trent unique?

When Senate reconvened, each group was invited to provide highlights of their discussions. Common themes emerged, among them:

- Trent fosters collaboration (between students and faculty, between faculty, between Trent and the communities we operate in).
- Interdisciplinarity (of programs, research) is key.
- Trent is, and should be, accepting of differences, inclusive, diverse and accessible.
- Trent has been a leader in the areas of Indigenous Studies and the environment.
- There is a tremendous sense of community here.
- Interconnectedness across the institution.
- We offer high-quality programs and unique opportunities for individualized learning.
- There is a strong sense of place here. We have a beautiful campus.
- There is significant potential for growth in Trent Durham/GTA.
- Collegial environment.

The discussion continued with Senators providing additional comments:

- The world is facing many crises and people are afraid. They need to know that universities are the place to go to find answers. Hope that when students come to Trent in 10-20 years they find that the whole institution is working to solve these problems.
- Alum could be more engaged. As a group they have a wealth of knowledge to share/contribute.
- Students leave Trent with a knowledge of how to approach problems and many of our alum are very engaged the broader community.
- We engender and enable multi-disciplinary discussions.

The Chair noted that a survey had been developed that would allow individuals, or groups, to provide additional input. Senators would be sent a link to a survey and were invited to complete it.

Any Other Business. A Senator noted the importance of academic advising and noted that it should be available to every student, particularly in their first year of studies.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:00.

Dr. C. Bruce, Chair
T. Harrington, Secretary