

The 510th Meeting of the Trent University Senate

Tuesday, September 19, 2023 2:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

Minutes

Present were: Senators Leo Groarke, Riley Ambrose, Joel Baetz, Suzanne Bailey, Peri Ballantyne, Stefan Bilaniuk, Stephen Brown, Craig Brunetti, Kristy Buccieri, Shutao Cao, Bruce Cater, Ann Celestini, Michael Chan-Reynolds, Kirk Collins, Finis Dunaway, Noah Edwards, Wenying Feng, Scott Henderson, Holger Hintelmann, Thomas Hossie, Richard Hurley, Michael Khan (Chair), William Kim, Jean- François Koprivnjak, Lawrence Lam, Hugo Lehmann, Paul Manning, Kelly McGuire, Liam Mitchell, Heather Nicol, Kathryn Norlock, Karleen Pendleton Jiménez, Paula Sherman, Mark Skinner, Emily Tufts, Sarah Twomey, Beth Wallace, Shaun Watmough, Sarah West, Rylin Wormington, and Juman Zanzoul. Official Visitors Heather Crowley, Connor Koch, and Geoff Navara. Associate University Secretary (Senate) Tara Harrington and Coordinator, Board and Senate Support Taylor Edwards.

Regrets: Senators Cathy Bruce, Suresh Narine and Asaf Zohar

Welcome and adoption of the Agenda

The meeting opened with a welcome to the traditional territory:

We respectfully acknowledge that we are on 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.

Chair's Remarks and Announcements.

The Chair welcomed Senators to the new academic year. He provided an update on the issue of provincial funding speaking briefly about the current funding model and the Blue-Ribbon Panel that had been struck to examine the issue and report back to the government. He reported that every university in Ontario is currently over their corridor which is significant as the province does not fund students in excess of the agreed-upon corridor.

He also noted that the university was seeking nominations for honorary degrees to be granted in 2024 and encouraged departments and individuals to consider nominating outstanding academics in their fields. A copy of the call for nominations had been included in the Senate package.

Minutes and Business arising Meeting of May 16, 2023. The minutes were approved as presented.

In response to a question about the work being done on AI/Chat GBT, Senator Buccieri reported that the Centre for Teaching and Learning had started looking into this last January. A committee has

been formed to continue that work and they hope to have draft guidelines ready this fall. The Chair asked that Senate be provided with updates and that the guidelines be brought to Senate for discussion.

Cyclical Program Review Committee Report. Senator West presented the Final Assessment Report (FAR) for the BA in Greek and Roman Studies saying that the external reviewers had noted that the program had a number of significant strengths among them that the program offered students unique experiential learning opportunities. Senate received the report as information.

COU Academic Colleague Report. Senator Pendleton Jiménez provided a report on the August meeting of the academic colleagues. She noted that the colleagues had heard from a speaker, Dr. L. Dionne, who talked about her research on the well-being of international students. This led Senators to a discussion about other issues related to international students such as housing, safety and the growing reliance by institutions on the tuition paid by these students. Senator Pendleton Jiménez had provided a chart showing the dramatic increase in the number of study permits issued since 2020. The majority of the increase was driven by students registered in colleges versus universities. The Chair reported that international students represent more than 60% of the student body at some colleges. This makes these colleges more vulnerable in the event of a decrease in the number of these students caused by international tensions, bottlenecks in processing of student visas etc...

Any Other Business. The Chair reported that there are plans for two new residential facilities. There are plans for a new residence on Water Street that will open in late 2024 and provide 215 new beds. The other new housing project, to be located on campus, will include both academic and residential space.

Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55.

Dr. L. Groarke Chair
T. Harrington, Secretary