

The 518 Meeting of the Trent University Senate

Tuesday, September 17, 2024 2:00 p.m.
Via Zoom

Minutes

Present were Senators Cathy Bruce (Chair), Iyiola Alade, Suzanne Bailey, Stefan Bilaniuk, Craig Brunetti, Shutao Cao, Kirk Collins, Finis Dunaway, Neil Emery, Wenying Feng, Michael Hickson, Stephen Hill, Holger Hintelmann, Nancie Im-Bolter, Lawrence Lam, Byron Lew, Michele McIntosh, Liam Mitchell, Kathryn Norlock, Fergal O'Hagan, Stephanie Rutherford, Catalina Sagarra, Paula Sherman, Mark Skinner, Angela Slater-Meadows, Emily Tufts, Beth Wallace, Sarah West, Rylin Wormington, Susan Wurtele and Andrew Vreugdenhil. Official Visitors Alma Barranco-Mendoza, Heather Crowley, Dwayne Collins, Connor Koch, Brandon Remmelgas. Associate University Secretary (Senate) Tara Harrington and Coordinator, Board and Senate Support Taylor Edwards.

Regrets: Senators Jodi Ambrose, Joel Baetz, Stephen Brown, Bruce Cater, Michael Khan, Hugo Lehmann, Suresh Narine, Mark Neufeld, Alan O'Connor and Joshua Syneko.

Welcome and adoption of the Agenda

The meeting opened with a welcome to the 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.

Closed Session

Senate Executive Committee Report. The Chair presented the report which was a recommendation to extend the term of the current Chancellor, Stephen Stohn, by one year. She noted that Senate Exec had passed the recommendation unanimously. Dr. Stohn is an extraordinarily engaged and popular Chancellor, and the idea of an extension had been well received. The extension would allow the University time to seek and develop relationships with potential equity deserving candidates. Senate approved the recommendation.

Academic Planning and Policy Committee Report. Senator Brunetti presented the report which included proposals for two new academic programs.

Senate approved both programs for submission to the Ontario Universities Council on Quality Assurance (Quality Council).

Open Session

Chair's Remarks and Announcements. The Chair welcomed Senators to the first meeting of the year. She noted that Trent had a bicameral governance structure, and that Senate was responsible for the element that gave the university its distinct identity—the governance of academic programs.

The Chair indicated that she would be introducing several initiatives at Senate over the course of the year:

- Introduction of special topic discussions at Senate. Senators were asked to submit suggestions for topics related to academic programming that were not covered in the committee reports.
- Recognizing faculty productivity. The Chair said that she intended to find a way to recognize faculty productivity –in all its forms, not just peer-reviewed publications. She had discussed this idea with the University Librarian to explore possible avenues for doing so and hoped to have the first report to Senate in the winter term.
- A return to hosting some Senate meetings in-person. It was agreed that a remote access option would likely have to be provided to those who could not attend in person. It was pointed out that during hybrid meetings those accessing the meeting remotely tended to be ignored and it was agreed that we would need to be conscious of this.

The Chair reminded Senators that the call for nominations for 2025 Honorary Degrees had been sent out. She encouraged Senators to consider submitting nominations.

Trent's enrolment numbers, for both domestic and international students, appeared to be soft but the Chair noted that we would have a much clearer picture in November. In the interim, the university was taking steps to address the issues:

- The provost called a meeting of Faculty Board to discuss how faculty could contribute to the recruitment process.
- The Marketing and Communications department was developing a new digital marketing campaign.
- A seconded advisor has been brought in to work with the recruitment team.
- Staff in Trent International were focussed on January admissions.

Prof. Kristi Buccieri, A/Associate Dean for Centre for Teaching and Learning, announced the winners of the 2023-2024 Decanal Awards for Teaching Excellence and Outstanding Graduate Mentorship:

- Decanal Award for Teaching Excellence in Education is awarded to Anne Corkery
- Trent Durham GTA Award for Teaching Excellence is awarded to Dr. Madison Moore
- Decanal Award for Teaching Excellence in Nursing is awarded to Dr. Victoria Reid-de Jong
- Decanal Award for Teaching Excellence in the Humanities and Social Sciences is awarded to Dr. Brent Ryan Bellamy
- Decanal Award for Teaching Excellence in the Sciences is awarded to Dr. Cheryl McKenna-Neuman
- School of Graduate Studies Award for Outstanding Graduate Mentorship for Senior Mentors is awarded to Dr. Neil Emery.

Minutes and Business arising Meeting of May 14, 2024. The minutes were approved as presented.

Draft Senate Workplan. A workplan for the 2024-25 Senate year was introduced. The plan shows the cycle of Senate activities and will be updated as information becomes available. Senate approved the workplan.

Cyclical Program Review Committee Report. Senator Bailey presented the Final Assessment Report (FAR) for the MA in Sustainability Studies. The report was accepted as information.

Any Other Business. A student Senator proposed that the library be open twenty-four hours per day. Emily Tufts, the university librarian, thanked him for the suggestion and it was agreed that they would meet to discuss this.

The Chair reported that Michele McIntosh was the new Academic Colleague to the Council of Ontario Universities.

It was noted that when the Senate package is large it becomes more challenging to navigate from one report to another. It was suggested that the Secretary use more electronic bookmarks in the Senate package.

Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 3:03.

Dr. C. Bruce, Chair

T. Harrington, Secretary

NOTE-Following the regular meeting of Senate an orientation session was held for new Senators.