

The 519th Meeting of the Trent University Senate

Tuesday, October 15, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

Minutes

Present: Senators Cathy Bruce (Chair), Suzanne Bailey, Stefan Bilaniuk, Stephen Brown, Craig Brunetti, Kirk Collins, Finis Dunaway, Neil Emery, Wenying Feng, Michael Hickson, Stephen Hill, Holger Hintelmann, Nancie Im-Bolter, Michael Khan, Lawrence Lam, Hugo Lehmann, 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.

Regrets: Senators Iyiola Alade, Jodi Ambrose, Joel Baetz, Shutao Cao, Bruce Cater, 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.

Academic Planning and Policy Committee Report. Senator Khan presented proposals for two new academic programs

Senate approved the program for submission to the Quality Council.

Open Session

Chair's Remarks and Announcements.

Notice of Motion-The Chair informed Senators that the bylaws of Senate required that notice be provided one month in advance of any motion coming forward to create a new school, faculty or department. She provided notice that a motion would be brought forward to the next meeting of Senate to create a new department of Psychology in Durham.

Enrolment- We do not have the November 1st count yet but it appears our domestic undergraduate enrolment is flat and enrolment of international students is down. Regarding international students-the federal government has made two rounds of announcements regarding international students. The

first was that there was to be a 35% cut to the number of student visas granted to undergraduate students in Ontario. The second was that there would be a further reduction of 10% and that the caps now applied to graduate students as well. In addition, the requirement for provincial attestation letters will apply to graduate students. Work permits for spouses will be limited to those working in high demand areas such as health care and STEM. Taken together, these changes have dramatically altered the landscape. There has been an impact on Canada's reputation and international students are not as attracted to Canadian universities as they historically have been.

She went on to highlight the steps being taken to address these challenges such as adjustments to scholarship and staffing, revamping the website and looking at grad student deferrals. We are also exploring 2+2 programs such as the ones we have with Swansea University. These, and online 2+2 programs, might be useful remedial steps for interested international students.

Ontario Universities Fair- Although overall attendance at the fair was down 17% from last year, Trent saw a 15% jump in contacts. We had 45 more staff and faculty at the fair than we had last year and the energy level around the Trent section was very positive.

Senate meetings- The Chair announced that the November meeting of Senate would be held in person but with remote access available to those who are unable to attend.

Special topic discussions at Senate- At the September meeting the Chair had announced plans to have Senate engage in discussion of academic issues and priorities not included in the committee reports. Plans have now been made for the first two of these discussions. At the November meeting the Chair will facilitate a discussion about Trent's vision and mission— attempting to answer the questions such as: What does Trent look like at its best? Where do we want to be in ten years? At the following meeting (January) Senators Hill and Wurtele will facilitate a discussion about academic program structures.

Minutes and Business arising Meeting of September 17, 2024. The minutes were approved with two corrections.

Undergraduate Studies Committee. Senator Norlock presented the report which included recommendations for five articulation agreements as well as a new course.

Bachelor of Arts, Honours- A new articulation agreement with St. Lawrence College that would allow qualified graduates of St. Lawrence's General Arts and Science Certificate - General Studies Stream or General Arts and Science Diploma program to enter a Trent Bachelor of Arts program with advanced standing (5.0 credits (certificate) or 7.0 credits (diploma)).

Bachelor of Science, Honours- A new articulation agreement with Durham College that would allow qualified graduates of Durham's Biotechnology Advanced Diploma program to enter a Trent Bachelor of Science program with advanced standing (8.0 credits).

Bachelor of Business Administration, Honours- Two new articulation agreements that would allow qualified graduates of Niagara Colleges Business-Accounting Diploma program or

Business Administration-Accounting Advanced Diploma program to enter Trent's Bachelor of Business Administration, Honours program with advanced standing (10.0 credits).

Child & Youth Studies (Bachelor of Arts, Honours) - A new articulation agreement that would allow qualified graduates of Loyalist College's Youth Care Advanced Diploma program to enter Trent's Child & Youth Studies program with advanced standing (7.0 credits).

Philosophy- New regular course PHIL 4870Y, 4871H, 4872H Community-Based Research Project.

Senator Norlock indicated that the plan was to have a complete list of the articulation agreements that Trent is signatory to by the November meeting of Senate. She noted that each course approved for transfer credit was approved by the Chair of the academic department. Senate approved the recommendations as presented.

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

Ph. D. in Canadian Studies- Change to program regulations—removal of the language requirement.

MA in Canadian Studies & Indigenous Studies- Change to course exclusion CSID-HIST-SUST 5171H-CAST 6171H Indigenous Settler Relations.

Master of Management in Management- Change to course code Entrepreneurship MSMG 5240H to MSMG 5420H.

Senator Brunetti reported that the language requirement was irrelevant given the easy access to online translators. He also noted that the two minor changes (course exclusion and course code change) would take effect immediately if approved by Senate.

Senate approved the recommendations as presented.

Academic Planning and Policy Committee Report. Senator Khan presented the report which included two items:

Course Syllabus Policy- Senator Khan noted that, for the most part, the revisions to the policy were minor. The major change, which would bring the policy into compliance with a recent Ministry directive, was the requirement for each syllabus to report any costs for learning materials.

Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Certificates-It was proposed that the cumulative grade average required to graduate with a postgraduate certificate be reduced from 65% to 60%. This would bring the requirement into line with the grade required to pass the courses. Currently it was possible for a student to pass all required courses but still not be eligible to graduate. Senate discussed the proposal noting that no-one was quite sure how the 65% requirement was established. It was agreed that student exit surveys would be discussed at a future meeting.

Senate approved both items with the changes to take effect immediately.

Cyclical Program Review Committee Report. Senator Bailey presented the report which included the Final Assessment Report (FAR) and implementation plan for the BA Communications. She noted that the external reviewers had commented on the quality of the

faculty associated with the program and that they thought the program name change had been a good idea.

Senate accepted the report as information.

Any Other Business. Senator McIntosh, Trent's Academic Colleague to the Council of Ontario Universities, gave notice that she would be presenting her first report at the November meeting of Senate.

The Chair noted that there were two information items in the package.

Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 3:03.

Dr. C. Bruce, Chair

T. Harrington, Secretary