



## Board of Governors

### Minutes of the Meeting – Open Session

Durham, May 10, 2024

**Present – In Person:** D. Kirk (Acting Chair), Y. Craig, D. de Launay, T. Gervais, L. Groarke, E. Kaszecki, M. Keefer, M. Lavallée, S. Martić, J. McGarrity, C. Nelan, A. Ramsay, K. Scaldwell, J. Smith, H. Uluorta, (Vice-President, Finance & Administration) T. Al-idrissi, (Vice-President, Research & Innovation) C. Bruce, (Vice-President, Communications & Enrolment) M. Burns, (Vice-President, External Relations & Development) J. Davis, (Associate Vice-President, Finance) C. Turk, (University Secretary) B. Blackburn, (Governance & Access Privacy Officer) R. Hall, T. Edwards (Recording Secretary)

**Present – Virtual:** V. Lovekin

**Regrets:** D. Cooper Burger (Chair), A. Mishra

*[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, the agenda was adopted as presented.
- 2. Consent Agenda.** It was moved/seconded (McGarrity/Keefer),

**That the consent agenda be approved as presented. Carried**

**2.1 Approval of Minutes.** The Open Session minutes of March 22, 2024, were approved as presented.

**2.2 Financial Update.** Received for information.

**2.3 Capital Project Update.** Received for information.

- 3. Chair's Remarks.** The Chair thanked the Oshawa Mayor and City Councillors for joining Governors at lunch to celebrate the continued growth of Trent in the Oshawa community. The Chair relayed highlights from his recent attendance at the 2024 Canadian University Boards Association conference, hosted by Western University.

#### **4. President's Report.**

**4.1 Sector News:** The President spoke to the recent encampments/protests taking place across the sector in relation to the conflict in the Middle East. President Groarke noted Trent's commitment to freedom of expression and exchange of ideas as pillars of the University's academic mission. The University remains committed to providing a safe and positive campus experience for students, faculty, staff, alumni and visitors, in an environment that is free from violence, harassment and intimidation.

**4.2 Research Grants.** VP Bruce reported on the recent increase in research grants from the Canadian Government. VP Bruce noted the long-term effects for the University are yet to be determined, but regarded high enthusiasm for this initiative in conjunction with the research incentive program approved by the Board in 2023.

**4.3 General Update:** The President reported on various activities and events since the last meeting, including:

- April 3 - Trent Day, in which \$83,012 was raised to support students and programs, as well as 1,441 pounds of non-perishables for local food banks
- April 18 – New agreement with Broadview Press to expand publishing and educational opportunities
- April 23 – Celebration of Faculty Excellence in Teaching and Research
- April 30 – Visit from the Leader of the Official Opposition (Ontario), Marit Stiles
- May 8 – Heart of Trent Appreciation Event
- May 10 – Hosting the Honorable Edith Dumont, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario

**4.4 Announcements:** The President acknowledged Board Chair Debra Cooper Burger’s recent honour of receiving the 2024 Norma Rudy Award from AdvantAge Ontario. Provost and Vice-President Academic Michael Khan was reappointed for a five-year term. With the recent approval of the new position Vice-President Trent Durham, current Dean and Head of Trent Durham Scott Henderson, has been appointed in this interim role for a one-year term, effective July 1, 2024.

**5. Ancillary Fee Protocol.** Finance & Property Committee Chair, Governor Smith, applauded VP Williams and her team for their efforts in executing the review of the Ancillary Fee Protocol. AVP Students Lawrence Lam outlined the major updates to the protocol, which included: amending the automatic increase limit without approval from CASSC to CPI (previously “CPI or 3%, whichever is lower”), removing outdated and repeating language in the Student Choice Initiative and CASSC Terms of Reference, clarifying the process for the introduction of the new compulsory and non-compulsory ancillary fees, and eliminating the Non-Compulsory Ancillary Fee Protocol, while transferring the document’s Housing & Dining Fees principles to a MOU.

It was moved/seconded (de Launay/Nelan),

**That the Board of Governors approve the proposed revisions to the Ancillary Fee Protocol and the Memorandum of Understanding for Housing & Dining Fees as presented. Carried**

[1 Abstention]

6. **Annual Review of Special Resolution II.6 - SIP&P Endowment Fund.** Audit & Investment Committee Chair, Governor McGarrity, outlined recommendations brought forward from the annual review conducted by TELUS Health. These recommendations included, changes to clarify gross versus net fee expectations, amending the real rate of return objective from 4% to 4.6% over a four-year trailing period, and various revisions that would provide clarity, alignment with best practices, and consistency with other Board resolutions. Governor McGarrity and VP Al-idrissi spoke to comments surrounding the ESG criteria outlined in section 1.05 of the policy, stating that while ESG alignment is not mandatory, it is heavily considered throughout the investment process. An ESG evaluation tool is currently being developed to assist with future evaluations of this criteria, in which draft versions will be brought forward for both Committee and Board review.

It was moved/seconded (Smith/Scaldwell),

**That the Board of Governors approve the revisions to Special Resolution II.6 Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures - Trent University Endowment Fund, as presented. Carried**

7. **Annual Review of Special Resolution II.12 - Debenture Long-Term Sinking Fund Policy.** Governor McGarrity presented the revisions to Special Resolution II.12 – Debenture Long-Term Sinking Fund Policy. The changes recommended were to simplify the objective of the fund and to align with the changes made to Special Resolution II.6.

It was moved/seconded (Smith/de Launay),

**That the Board of Governors approve the revisions to Special Resolution II.12 Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures - Trent University Long-Term Sinking Fund, as presented. Carried**

8. **Fighting Against Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply Chains Act Annual Report.** Under the Act, which came into effect on January 1, 2024, qualifying organizations are required to complete a prescribed questionnaire, annual report, and public attestation of their activities annually, for submission to the Ministry of Public Safety. VP Al-idrissi presented the report and attestation for the period of January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023, to be submitted by May 31, 2024. He stated that while the level of detail was consistent with other universities in the sector and was proportionate to Trent's size and risk profile, staff will work on improving the details provided on an ongoing basis.

It was moved/seconded (Lavallée/Scaldwell),

**That the Board of Governors approve the annual report and attestation required under the *Fighting Against Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply Chains Act* for activities undertaken from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023. Carried**

- 9. Community Relations Report (Durham).** Dean and Head of Trent University Durham GTA, Dr. Scott Henderson, presented an overview of the partnerships, initiatives, and activities undertaken by the Trent Durham GTA campus over the past year. The report provided an annual snapshot on community relations and engagement, campus growth and development, student placements, and community-based research efforts. Dean Henderson noted the timely visit of City Officials to the day's proceedings highlighting the continued strategic alignment with the City and Region for continued development for both Trent and the surrounding community.

It was moved/seconded (Nelan/Keefer),

**That the Board of Governors receive this report for information.** Carried

- 10. CareerSpace – Co-ops, Placements, Internships, Experiential Learning.** AVP International, Glennice Burns, and Director of CareerSpace, Kevin Whitmore, presented an overview of the development of the Co-op, Careers, and Experiential Learning program at Trent. Highlights included community-based research projects, co-op partnership growth, community business development, and the positive impact of work placements, workshops, and networking events on participating student success. Mr. Whitmore conveyed that CareerSpace was always looking for new community partnerships to expand co-op and research opportunities, and encouraged Board members to participate.

It was moved/seconded (Craig/Keefer),

**That the Board of Governors receive this report for information.** Carried

- 11. Meeting Adjournment** The open session of the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Brenda Blackburn  
University Secretary

Doug Kirk  
Acting Chair