

# Board of Governors

## Minutes of the Meeting – Open Session

Peterborough, March 22, 2024

**Present – In Person:** K. Honey (Acting Chair), D. de Launay, T. Gervais, L. Groarke, E. Kaszecki, M. Keefer, M. Lavallée, V. Lovekin, S. Martic, J. McGarrity, C. Nelan, 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, (Provost & Vice-President, Academic) M. Khan, (Associate Vice-President, Finance) C. Turk, (University Secretary) B. Blackburn, R. Hall (Recording Secretary)

**Present – Virtual:** Y. Craig, A. Ramsay

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

*[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. Governor Keefer declared a conflict of interest for item 5.0 – 2024/2025 Budget – Final Draft. Hearing no amendments to the agenda, and no further conflicts of interest declared, it was moved/seconded (McGarrity/Keefer),

**That the Board approve the agenda as presented.** Carried

- 2. Consent Agenda.** It was moved/seconded (Nelan/Uluorta),

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

- 2.1 Approval of Minutes.** The Open Session minutes of February 2, 2024, were approved as presented.
  - 2.2 Financial Update.** Received for information.
  - 2.3 Capital Project Update.** Received for information.
  - 2.4 Investment Performance Summary Pension – Q4.**
  - 2.5 Investment Performance Summary Endowment/Sinking Fund – Q4.**
  - 2.6 Workplace Violence and Harassment Policy & Procedures.**
- 3. Chair's Remarks.** The Chair reported that the Board met with student leaders over lunch. The Chair encouraged Board members to participate in Trent Day, taking place on April 3, 2024. Trent Day is focused on support, service, and spirit in the community.

**4. President's Report.** The President reported on various activities and events since the last meeting, including:

- February 10 – The crest for Gidigaa Migizi College was unveiled at an event during the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Elders and Traditional Peoples Gathering.
- February 18-19 – Attended the ICEF Middle East Scholarship Summit in Oman with VP Al-idrissi and AVP Burns. The President was hopeful that this visit will lead to many of the scholarship recipients coming to Trent.
- March 18 – Trent was hosted by MPP Dave Smith at Queens Park.
- March 20 – The Allan Marshall Pool grand reopening took place.
- The President, TCSA, TDSA, and TGSA penned a letter on the impact of study permit changes in Canada.
- Trent announced the Honorary Degree recipients who will be honoured at convocation in June – Audrey Kobayashi, Harvey McCue, and Cheryl Perera.
- Following an extensive review, Stephanie Williams has been reappointed as VP, Human Resources for a second five-year term.

*Governor Craig joined the meeting at this time.*

*Governor Keefer excused himself from the meeting at this time.*

**5. 2024-2025 Budget – Final Draft.** Governor Smith, as Chair of the Finance and Property Committee, presented the 2024/2025 operating budget, ancillary budgets, tuition fees, and ancillary fees for approval. The budget assumptions remain unchanged from those presented to the Board on February 2, 2024. The budget does not include potential funding that was recently announced by the province, as any potential allocation is currently unknown. In light of the federal government's recent announcement regarding a cap on study permits, administration was recommending that \$10M be held back as a contingency to address any potential impact. Based on the budget assumptions and this contingency, the preliminary operating budget estimates \$9.1M being available for new strategic investments to address enrolment growth and other operating pressures. After careful consideration, the President and Vice-Presidents are recommending \$8.9M in strategic investments for approval. If approved, it would result in a nominal surplus of \$199K for the fiscal year. Ancillary budgets are expected to do quite well in 2024/2025 with all operating in a surplus position and able to make contributions to their reserves, with the exception of Athletics which was expecting an overall deficit of \$966K. Discussion took place regarding the Athletics operations and senior administration's plan to undertake a review of the funding model and consider how Athletics should move forward. Housing and dining fees had been reviewed and approved by the Colleges and Student Services Committee.

It was moved/seconded (Gervais/McGarrity),

**That the Board of Governors approve:**

- 1. The 2024/2025 Operating Budget;**
- 2. The 2024/2025 Ancillary Budgets;**
- 3. The 2024/2025 Tuition Fees; AND**

**4. The 2024/2025 Ancillary Fees as presented.** Carried

- 6. 2023/2024 In-Year Appropriation.** Governor Smith reported that most recent fiscal year-end forecasted an excess revenue over expenses of \$8.6M. The Finance & Property Committee was recommending that \$1.7M be appropriated to provide a one-time increase in scholarships across the grid. It was expected that this increase in scholarships would help bolster domestic enrolment, particularly in a time where there was considerable uncertainty regarding international enrolment as a result of the government's cap on study permits.

It was moved/seconded (Nelán/Martić),

**That the Board of Governors approve the in-year appropriations in the amount of \$1.7M as recommended by senior management.** Carried

- 7. Indirect Costs Policy.** VP Bruce presented revisions to the Indirect Costs Policy, on the recommendation of Senate. The changes to the policy will help ensure research grants are appropriate, realistic and can be reported on, while providing clarification in the policy. The changes presented were in line with such policies at other universities. It had been a number of years since the policy was last reviewed, however, moving forward it would be reviewed every five years. The policy has been reviewed by the Research Policy Committee, Senate Executive, Faculty Board, and then approved by Senate before tracking to the Board.

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

**That the Board of Governors approve the revisions to the Indirect Costs Policy as presented.** Carried

- 8. Research Centre Proposal – Molecules, Cells & Systems Group.** The Trent Centre for Molecules, Cells & Systems Research group has been acting as a research group since January 2019. The group has membership from faculty across various departments. The research group was now looking to reclassify as a research centre. Doing so will elevate the status of the group while providing many benefits, including increased visibility and providing support for recruitment and collaboration. The centre would not require space or additional funding. Governor Martić declared a conflict of interest regarding this item.

It was moved/seconded (Keefer/Gervais),

**That the Board of Governors approve the proposal that the Molecules, Cells & Systems Group be designated as a Research Centre.** Carried

[1 Abstention]

- 9. Special Resolution IV.1 Meetings of the Board of Governors.** Governor Lovekin, on behalf of the Nominating & Governance Committee, presented revisions to Special

Resolution IV.1 - Meetings of the Board of Governors for approval. Changes included, updating the location of public materials, ensuring the policy was in line with the updated Board by-laws, updating the process for communicating with the Board, an update reflecting the move to hybrid/electronic meetings, and a housekeeping change.

It was moved/seconded (Nelan/McGarrity),

**THAT the Board of Governors approve the revisions to Special Resolution IV. 1 – Meetings of the Board of Governors policy as presented.** Carried

**10. Community Relations Report (Peterborough).** VP Davis presented the annual report on Trent's impact in the local Peterborough community. The University continues to meet regularly with the City and the County, which provides an opportunity to share and identify opportunities for collaboration. She highlighted various programs and events that encourage engagement with the community, including, active participation with the Peterborough Chamber, the downtown scavenger hunt, the Community Speaker Series, experiential learning opportunities, community-based research, and the United Way campaign. She announced that her office was currently accepting nominations for the Community Leadership Award, which will be awarded in May to a member of Trent's faculty or staff.

**11. Indigenous Relations Report.** VP Davis provided an update on Trent's engagement with local Indigenous communities, providing an overview of key actions, events and initiatives over the past year. The University continues to develop and update learning resources, making them freely available to the Trent and wider communities. Trent also continues to hold regular meetings with various councils and consultation officers to continue building on the mutually beneficial relationship with Indigenous communities. VP Davis reported that the University is in the final stages of drafting a systems-level management plan for the University Green Network in collaboration with the Michi Saagiig Land Resource Consultation Officers.

**12. Meeting Adjournment** The open session of the meeting was adjourned at 1:41 p.m.

Brenda Blackburn  
University Secretary

Kristi Honey  
Acting Chair