



**OPEN SESSION MINUTES
TRENT UNIVERSITY BOARD OF GOVERNORS
February 1, 2008**

Present: Governors: J.R. Morden (Chair), K.M. Ramsay (Vice-Chair), P.A. Brieger, L. Burnham, J.E. Bush, M.A. Butt, R.D. Butterworth, A. Henley, P.P. Jeffery, D.J. Kennett, O.S. Mitchell, D. L. Morton, B.M. Patterson, L. Popofsky, F.G. Sherratt, L. A. Smith, P.H. Southern, C. Whitfield, B.A. Wright, R.D. Zigrossi ; Honorary Governors: L. Vernon, J.D. Young; Vice-Presidents: S. Apostle-Clark, D. Lister, D.F. O'Leary; Senior Director Public Affairs D. Cumming; Senate Visitor K. Campbell; N.E.S. Smith (Secretary), S. Bartsch (Recording Secretary)

Minutes. The Minutes of the Open Session of November 30, 2007 were approved.

Chair's Remarks. The Chair welcomed honorary members Len Vernon and Doug Young, and asked President Patterson to pass on the Board's best wishes to a colleague who was in hospital.

President's Remarks. President Patterson thanked Board members for their support and understanding of her personal decision not to seek a third term as President. She indicated that, with her terms on the PRHC and AUCC boards coming to an end, she expected to be able to spend more time focusing on enrolment management and other priorities including philanthropy, labour negotiations, a management model for the endowment lands and the facilities construction program. Over the next 18 months, members of the senior administrative team would also be very engaged with implementing changes to systems and business processes, reviewing Trent's three-year degree option, advocating for space in Oshawa and working on developing or expanding partnerships with other institutions including Queens' University, George Brown College and UOIT. A potential initiative with partners in the health care sector would also be under consideration during this time.

The President provided updates on university advocacy issues and other developments at the federal and provincial levels. She identified health and safety, security, and energy/environmental efficiency as current policy interests for the provincial government. The President observed that the Auditor-General's report, which described the deferred maintenance challenge facing Ontario universities, had helped to reinforce the need for annual facilities renewal grants as suggested in the Rae Report. Trent would be emphasizing to the Province the need to have this year's level of one-time funding (\$2.2 million) made available for facilities renewal on an annual basis. The President noted the likelihood of a 10-15 year capital planning framework for universities and commented on the provision of special funding for particular capital projects such as the \$45 million library/commons space at Ryerson.

Reporting on 101 applications for fall 2008, President Patterson noted that overall applications were down by 3.3% due to a decrease in applications to the Concurrent Education program, which typically attracts many more applicants (1700+) than can be accommodated. With this Education number excluded from the calculation, Trent's applications were up by about 3% in most other program areas. This increase was still lower than the provincial average of 5.1% and the University was working with Noel Levitz to

address conversion and retention challenges. Applications for Oshawa were up modestly with more applications from mature students expected later in the term.

Deferred Maintenance. Vice-President O'Leary called attention to the annual report on deferred maintenance, noting that Trent's total requirement was \$17 million for academic space--with an additional \$17 million needed for residences and ancillaries. He explained that most funding received for facilities renewal has to go into behind-the-scenes upgrades that do not enhance the appearance of the buildings. He noted that upcoming renovations at Catharine Parr Traill College and the Athletics facility would help reduce deferred maintenance costs for those areas. Mr. O'Leary felt that while the Auditor-General's report had confirmed the validity of many of Trent's practices, it also underlined the need to give attention to strategic priorities as well as to immediate deferred maintenance requirements. He confirmed that the University would continue to search out other types of government programs that could yield additional funds for initiatives to support energy efficiency, accessibility and PCB removal.

Emergency Preparedness. Vice-President O'Leary reported on steps taken in the area of emergency planning since the Board's last discussion. These included the development and implementation of an emergency management plan, installation of a campus-wide communications system to broadcast messages, establishment of an intervention team to deal with behavioural concerns, ID cards for employees, a more secure card access system for residences, and two tabletop exercises in crisis management for the senior administrative team. On February 22, the University would participate in a full emergency simulation exercise with the police which would test not only emergency response, but also the University's internal and external communications plans.

Endowed Chairs and Professorships Program. The Board considered a proposed policy to regulate the establishment of endowed chairs and endowed professorships. This policy had been reviewed in detail by key administrators and both Faculty Board and Senate had been consulted. Based on the recommendation of the Advancement Committee, the Board resolved:

THAT the *Endowed Chairs and Professorships Program Policy* dated November 16, 2007, attached as Appendix A to the master copy of these Minutes, be approved.

Conflict of Interest Policy, Employees and Students. The Board considered a proposed conflict of interest policy that would apply to employees and student committee members and meet the requirements of the federal research granting councils. It was noted that the policy dealt with the disclosure of conflicts, but that more detailed procedures and practices for implementing the policy would be developed by management. In accordance with the Executive Committee's recommendation, the Board resolved:

THAT the *Trent University Conflict of Interest Policy (January 2008)*, attached as Appendix B to the master copy of these Minutes, be approved.

Student Elections, Board of Governors. At its recent meeting, the Nominating & Governance Committee had endorsed a proposal to have elections for the student seats on the Board of Governors conducted electronically by the University Secretariat. The Trent Central Student Association, which had previously conducted these elections on the Board's behalf, had not expressed any major concerns about this approach and it was believed that using WebCT for these elections would help to enfranchise part-time and Oshawa students. Based on this recommendation, the Board resolved:

THAT Item 3(b) of Special Resolution III.1 (Appointment of Members of the Board of Governors) be amended to read as follows:

Two seats are reserved for students taking one or more courses at the University. Nominations result from elections by and from among the students of the University conducted by the University Secretariat.

The meeting was adjourned.

Nancy Simmons Smith
Secretary

Reid Morden
Chair

Susan Bartsch
Recording Secretary

Appendices:

- A *Endowed Chairs and Professorships Program Policy* dated November 16, 2007
- B *Trent University Conflict of Interest Policy (January 2008)*