



MEETING OF THE SENATE

Monday, April 28, 2025
3.30pm to 5.30pm

House of Learning, HL190

AGENDA

The public Senate meetings are live streamed, and at the meeting time, non-Senators may [click here to join the meeting](#). The live-stream of the meeting is recorded, and are used to assist with preparing the minutes. Once the minutes of a meeting are approved, the recording is deleted.

1. **Call to Order** — Joel Wood
 - a. Remarks from the Chair
 - i. Territorial Acknowledgment
 - ii. Welcome new senator
 - a. Aleece Laird (alumni senator)

Page 1 2. **Adoption of Agenda**

Page 3 3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

- a. Minutes of senate meeting of March 24, 2025 (For Decision)

Page 7 4. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

- a. TRU Bold (For Decision; [Notice of motion](#) served March 24, 2025) — Shannon Wagner
 - i. Letter from Chair, Board of Governors
 - ii. Comments (3) received during notice of motion period

Page 8

Page 11 5. **Reports of Officers**

- a. President and Vice-Chancellor
 - i. President's Report to Senate (Information)

6. Reports of Committees

- Page 20 a. Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (Items for Decision) — Joel Wood
- b. Educational Programs Committee (Information) — Robert Chambers
 - Page 25 i. March 2025
 - Page 26 ii. April 2025
- Page 28 c. Steering Committee (Items for Decision) — James Sudhoff
- Page 29 d. Research Committee (Information) — Shannon Wagner
- Page 30 e. Graduate Studies Committee (Information) — Jillian Harvey

7. Business

- Page 31 a. Winter 2025 election results (Information) — Mike Bluhm
- Page 33 b. 2026-2027 proposed senate meeting dates (For Decision) — Scott Blackford

8. Presentation

- a. PLAR Update — Susan Forseille

9. Question Period

10. Next Senate meeting

- a. The next regular meeting of Senate is on Monday, May 26, 2025 from 3.30pm-5.30pm in the Brown Family House of Learning, Room HL190.

11. Termination of Meeting



MEETING OF THE SENATE

Monday, March 24, 2025
3.30pm to 5.30pm

House of Learning, HL190

MINUTES

Present:

Brett Fairbairn (Chair of Senate), Greg Anderson, Gillian Balfour, Doug Booth, Susan Butland, John Church, Yasmin Dean, DeDe DeRose, Katia Dilkina, Sean Donlan, Will Garrett-Petts, Greg Garrish, Tania Gottschalk, Derek Knox, Sasha Kondrashov, Gurjit Lalli, Laura Lamb, Rita Leone, Jim Lomen, Ben Lovely, Krish Maharaj, Daleen Millard, Waqar Mulk, Mugesh Narayanasamy, Jamie Noakes, John Patterson, Baldev Pooni, Gordon Rudolph, Rani Srivastava, Anne Terziel, Joanna Urban, Mark Wallin, Darren Watt, Juliana West, Joel Wood (Vice-Chair of Senate)

Regrets:

Jason Bermiller, Michael Bluhm, David Carter, Rohini Ranganatha

Absent:

David Cormier, Melba D'Souza, Michael Henry, Rayyan Khan, Heather MacLeod,

Executives and Others Present:

Brian Daly (Vice-President, Advancement), Matt Milovick (Vice-President Administration and Finance), Shannon Wagner (Vice-President, Research), John Sparks (General Counsel and Corporate Secretary), Charlene Myers (Manager, University Governance), Lynda Worth (University Governance Coordinator)

1. Call to Order

B. Fairbairn, chair of senate, called the meeting to order at 3:31pm.

a. Remarks from the Chair

i. Territorial Acknowledgment

B. Fairbairn delivered the territorial acknowledgment.

ii. Acknowledgment of departing senator

B. Fairbairn thanked departing senator Greg Garrish (alumni senator) and presented him with a certificate.

2. Adoption of Agenda

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that the agenda be adopted as circulated.*

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

a. Minutes of senate meeting of February 24, 2025

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the senate meeting of February 24, 2025 be approved as circulated.*

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

a. New Policy ED X-X Research Ethics Board

G. Balfour presented this proposed new policy, for which notice of motion had been served on February 28, 2025. No comments were received during the notice period.

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that senate approve the proposed new policy, Research Ethics Board, as circulated.*

5. Reports of Officers

a. President and Vice-Chancellor

i. President's Report to Senate

President Fairbairn highlighted some of the matters in his written report, a copy of which had been circulated with the agenda package. He also spoke to two other matters, namely recent funding received for wildfire and the upcoming federal election. B. Fairbairn noted that the federal election was on the same date as the next senate meeting. He added that he had asked the secretariat to

investigate whether giving people time to vote would lead to any potential conflict in this regard and that he would let senators know.

b. Provost and Vice-President Academic

G. Balfour presented her report, a copy of which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

6. Reports of Committees

a. Academic Planning and Priorities Committee

G. Balfour, chair of the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (APPC), presented the committee's report.

The report contained one item for notice of motion, namely the new TRU academic plan, the proposal for TRU Bold, which B. Fairbairn noted would come up for consideration at the next meeting, and that the decision would be about what advice to provide to the board about TRU Bold. He then invited G. Balfour to present information about the proposal, which she did.

The report from APPC also contained four items for information, to which G. Balfour spoke.

b. Budget Committee of Senate

Chair of the Budget Committee of Senate, G. Balfour, presented the committee's report, for information.

i. 2025-2026 Budget

G. Balfour and M. Milovick presented the 2025-2026 budget. Questions and answers ensued.

c. Steering Committee

J. Sudhoff, chair of the Steering Committee, presented the committee's report.

The report contained two items for decision, namely appointments to senate committees and proposed guidelines for submission of materials for senate agenda packages.

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that Senate appoint the proposed volunteers to serve on senate and other committees as follows:*

Budget Committee

Director: Kyle Olsen, University Relations

Educational Programs Committee

Faculty: Zeinab Teimoori, Science

Steering Committee

Dean: Mark Wallin, Arts

J. Sudhoff spoke to the document titled “Guidelines for Submission of Materials for Senate Agenda Packages”, a copy of which was circulated with the agenda package. A question and answer ensued.

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that Senate approve the guiding document for material submissions for Senate Agenda Packages, as circulated.*

d. University Tenure and Promotion Committee

The report from the University Tenure and Promotion Committee was presented by its chair, G. Balfour, and contained one item for decision, namely proposed revisions to the departmental standards for the School of Nursing.

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that senate approve the proposed revisions to the departmental standards for the School of Nursing.*

7. Question Period

The senate vice-chair, Senator Wood, chaired Question Period so that the president could respond to questions. Senators did not pose any questions.

8. Next Senate meeting

- a. The next regular meeting of Senate is on Monday, April 28, 2025 from 3.30pm-5.30pm in the Brown Family House of Learning, Room HL190.

9. Termination of Meeting

There being no further agenda items, the meeting terminated at 4:54pm.



April 2, 2025

President Brett Fairbairn
Chair, TRU Senate
Via email: president@tru.ca

Dear President Fairbairn,

I write to you in your capacity as chair of the TRU Senate. As you know, the board will be considering the adoption of the new academic and research plan for TRU known as TRU Bold.

Under section 10 of the *Thompson Rivers University Act*, the board must seek the advice of senate on this matter. This was discussed at the last board meeting and it was settled that I would write to you formally seeking the advice of senate regarding the adoption of TRU Bold. Please accept this letter as the request from the board to senate for senate's advice on this subject.

The board looks forward to receiving advice from senate on this important subject.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hee Young Chung".

Hee Young Chung
Chair, TRU Board of Governors

From: [Trent Tucker](#)
To: [Secretariat](#)
Subject: Comments on TRU Bold proposal...
Date: Thursday, 27 March 2025 09:02:12 AM

Hi

Per the request for comments on the TRU Bold proposal going forward to the Senate — here are my thoughts:

Given that the new President for TRU will be announced any day now as well as the fact that our current Provost and lead proponent on the TRU Bold plan will be leaving the institution over the next few months, I would suggest that the TRU Bold plan be shelved or tabled for the time being. From my experience in both industry and academia, when new senior leaders are announced, they inevitably begin a visioning exercise to craft a strategic mandate suited to their liking for the next five years of their new term in office. What's to say that the new President or the next Provost in a year's time won't have a different vision / mission / goals for the University? Will TRU spend precious time and money starting down the road toward TRU Bold only to have the roadmap change with new senior academic leadership? In a nutshell, I have no issues with the TRU Bold plan itself, I am concerned about the circumstances that will no doubt impact the implementation of that plan. Shelving the plan does not diminish the work that has already gone into developing it – if the next Provost wishes to pick up the plan and run with it, that's fine.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Trent Tucker

Trent Tucker, PhD, MBA

MBA Program Coordinator
Associate Teaching Professor (Business Analytics)
Bob Gaglardi School of Business and Economics
Thompson Rivers University

778-471-8546

tru.ca/gaglardi

From: [Courtney Mason](#)
To: [Secretariat](#)
Subject: TRU Bold...
Date: Wednesday, 02 April 2025 08:41:25 AM

Dear Colleagues at Senate,

I would like to communicate my support for the TRU Bold Plan. I have witnessed this presentation several times in different contexts, and I was always impressed with the vision. Specifically, I appreciated the integrated learning approach (that reshapes OL), the focus on research that matters to our catchment regions (including with Secwepemc communities), and the engagement with the TRC Calls to Action.

After TRU recently celebrating 20 years since becoming a university, I believe that it is time to chart a new direction that respects our origins but also recognizes the current landscape of opportunity and constraint that modern universities operate. I would like to congratulate those that worked on this Bold vision for the future of TRU.

Sincerely,
Courtney Mason.

Courtney W. Mason, PhD.
Professor,
Canada Research Chair,
Rural Livelihoods and Sustainable Communities,
Thompson Rivers University,
Annex N, Office 119
805 TRU Way,
Kamloops, B.C. Canada
V2C 0C8
Phone: (250) 828-5446
<https://courtneymason.trubox.ca/>

Thompson Rivers University campuses are located on the traditional lands of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc (Kamloops campus) and the T'exelc (Williams Lake campus) within Secwépemc'ulucw, the traditional and unceded territory of the Secwépemc. TRU also serves the peoples of nearby territories including the St'at'imc, Nlaka'pamux, Nuxalk, Tsilh'qotin, Dakelh, and Métis peoples.

From: [Mark Salopek](#)
To: [Secretariat](#)
Cc: [TRUOLFA President TRUOLFA Site](#)
Subject: Bold Initiative - response to request for feedback
Date: Thursday, 10 April 2025 08:37:33 AM

Dear Mr Hee-Young Chung, Chair, TRU Board, et al.

I am writing to express concern about the Bold initiative which supposes that 'halo programs' will resolve the demographic and economic challenges facing the university. Furthermore, one must wonder about the viability of the initiative when considered in the context that it was imagined and spear-headed by the former Provost and Vice-President, who has since departed, and is now being considered on the eve of the appointment of a new President, and yet to be appointed Provost. I am also concerned that the proposed flexible learning pathways will cannibalise the Open Learning Division, a distinctive academic and financial strength of the University, for the purpose of buttressing the demographic, social realities, and weaknesses of TRU in the post-secondary environment. It is in this context I urge the Board to set aside discussion and judgement on the Bold Initiative, and to first engage more fully with the new administration, Open Learning faculty, and other members of the university to define a meaningful path to success without disrupting or causing injury to non-halo programs or the Open Learning Division.

Dr Mark Salopek
Thompson Rivers University
Open Learning Division - Humanities and Economics
900 McGill Road
Kamloops, B.C.

Tel: 250-852-6976

I'm proud to support the educational and career needs of open learning students, and to be a member of the Thompson Rivers University Open Learning Faculty Association.

Note — Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the April 28 meeting, as I will be travelling.

TRU WELCOMES INCOMING PRESIDENT AIRINI — As I am sure you are aware, TRU's Board recently announced that Dr. Airini has been appointed as TRU's next President and Vice-Chancellor. Her five-year term begins July 1.

Many of you will remember Dr. Airini from her time as Dean of Education and Social Work at TRU (2014–2021). She's most recently served as Provost and Vice-President Academic at the University of Saskatchewan and brings deep experience in higher education leadership, research, and teaching in Canada and internationally.

The search process for TRU's next president began last April and was comprehensive, involving representatives from across TRU, including faculty, staff, students, Indigenous communities, and alumni.

Dr. Airini's academic background includes degrees from New Zealand and Canada, including a PhD from UBC. Her research focuses on student success in higher education, and she's published widely while leading major research and development projects. She has also advised governments and international agencies on education and food security policy.

TRU hosted informal welcome events on April 7 in Kamloops and April 8 in Williams Lake. Details on her formal installation as president will be shared soon. Please visit the [presidential search page](#) to learn more about Dr. Airini's extensive background, qualifications and achievements.

TRU WILDFIRE RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP WITH WAWANESA INSURANCE — Wawanesa Insurance has become the first insurance provider to invest in wildfire-related research at TRU, contributing \$75,000 to support a new project on community wildfire resilience.

The project, led by Will Garrett-Petts and Cheryl Gladu through TRU's Community and Cultural Mapping Research Group, will examine public awareness and uptake of FireSmart principles, particularly in smaller communities.

The research forms part of the broader TRU Wildfire initiative, which brings together research, education, training, and innovation to address wildfire challenges. It includes contributions from TRU faculty, students, municipal staff, and community partners.

TRU is home to the Institute for Wildfire Science, Adaptation and Resiliency and holds two Canada Research Chair positions dedicated to wildfire science, the only university in Canada to do so.

TRU will launch certificates and diplomas in wildfire science and wildfire communications in September 2025 as part of the initiative.

Wawanesa's funding is provided through its Climate Champions program, which supports community-based climate resilience efforts across Canada.

EAGLE MACE AT TRU WILLIAMS LAKE COMMENCEMENT — A new ceremonial mace featuring a bald eagle carved from moose antler by Esk'etemc artist Wilfred Robbins Sr. will be introduced at TRU's Williams Lake commencement on May 30, 2025. The mace will be used annually and displayed year-round on campus.

Robbins, a hereditary chief descendant and self-taught carver, created the eagle (Spełqwéqs) to reflect its cultural role as a messenger in Secwépemc and Indigenous traditions. He began working with antler 20 years ago and is known for his distinctive carving technique, shaped by careful observation and practice. This marks the first time his work will be formally exhibited. [Read the full TRU Newsroom story \(with pics of the mace\) here.](#)

TRU, SKEETCHESTN PROMISE TO WORK TOGETHER — Recognition, respect and shared purpose — these are the foundational elements of an affiliation agreement between the Skeetchestn Indian Band and TRU signed on April 17. Skeetchestn Kukpi7 Eddy Jules and TRU President Brett Fairbairn signed the agreement at a ceremony at the band's John Jules Professional Building.

In the agreement, TRU acknowledges Skeetchestn's right to lead educational efforts in ways that align with Secwépemc methods of teaching and learning. TRU committed to working with the band to create new programs, training opportunities and supports that reflect community needs and priorities, whether it's in trade and technical training, academic paths or mental-health supports grounded in culture.

TRU will also ensure the Skeetchestn Indian Band has a voice in university governance. This includes a recommendation for a seat on the Qelmúcw Affairs Committee of the Senate and an ongoing commitment to regular dialogue, collaboration and accountability.

TRU, INTERIOR HEALTH PARTNERSHIP DISCUSSION — TRU met with Interior Health in March to explore opportunities for deeper collaboration in response to shared challenges, including workforce shortages, rising service demands, and the need for regionally relevant training and research.

TRU emphasized its role in educating healthcare professionals — from nurses to respiratory therapists — and expressed interest in co-developing programs to address specific hiring needs within IH. Discussion included how to retain more TRU graduates in the region and whether upskilling pathways could support career mobility for existing IH staff.

On the research side, TRU shared examples of applied work in Indigenous health and wildfire-related health impacts. Both areas offer potential for joint projects that support long-term wellness and prepare communities for climate-related health risks.

TRU reiterated its commitment to being a responsive, solutions-focused partner and welcomed continued conversations on how its education and research capacity can support IH priorities.

2025 HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS — Thompson Rivers University will award four honorary degrees at its spring convocation ceremonies on June 3 to 5, 2025. The recipients are being recognized for their exceptional service to the community, education, and public life:

- Kyé7e Jean Sandy William, a respected Indigenous knowledge keeper, educator, and Secwepemctsín language advocate from St'élxelcenc (Williams Lake) First Nation.
- Fiona Chan, philanthropist and long-time TRU supporter, known for her leadership in education, health care, and the arts.
- Frank Quinn, lawyer, developer, and former TRU Board Chair, instrumental in TRU's university transition and the creation of its law school.
- Terry Lake, former Kamloops mayor, MLA, and BC Minister of Health, recognized for his leadership in public health and post-secondary education.

These degrees represent TRU's highest form of community recognition.

FEDERAL WILDFIRE TRAINING FUNDING AT TRU — TRU has received nearly \$1.7 million in federal funding from Natural Resources Canada to support wildfire training and research through the Fighting and Managing Wildfires in a Changing Climate – Training Fund. Over three years, the funding will support training for up to 260 wildland firefighters and 18 local response agencies, particularly in rural areas.

Delivered through TRU Wildfire and in partnership with the BC Wildfire Service, the project focuses on applied research and advanced training to meet the demands of a changing climate and evolving wildfire behaviour. The initiative aims to remove cost barriers, strengthen community preparedness, and integrate research-informed, adaptive training into local and regional wildfire response systems.

THE ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES SHOULD BE A CENTRAL PLANK IN EVERY PARTY PLATFORM — The following is my op-ed that ran on Castanet on April 9:

As the federal election campaign reaches the midpoint, U.S. President Donald Trump's tariffs continue to dominate the headlines.

It's understandable, as the president's assault on global trade bears the potential to affect Canadian jobs, investment, and the cost of everyday life. One recent news article predicted that chaos, competition and uncertainty are coming for the job market.

I strongly believe Canadian universities are a big part of the solution. Universities will help people adapt and retrain. Universities will connect people to future jobs and will help generate ideas and new businesses that bring more balance to our economy.

Universities don't usually feature in (election) campaign slogans, but they should.

Institutions such as Thompson Rivers University are central to the country's future. We train the workforce, conduct critical research and anchor regional economies. If we want a Canada that is more resilient, skilled and ready for global uncertainty, we need to talk about how we support our post-secondary institutions.

TRU educates more than 29,000 students annually, including many from rural and remote parts of British Columbia. It employs more than 2,000 people and contributes directly to the local economy through salaries, student spending and partnerships with employers. Each year, hundreds of graduates from TRU enter the workforce in critical areas, including healthcare, trades, education, business and law. Many stay in the region. According to a recent estimate, those graduates add millions to the local economy annually.

Nationally, Canada's universities contribute more than \$45 billion in economic activity and support more than 400,000 jobs, according to Universities Canada. Graduates earn, on average, 24 per cent more than those without degrees — a difference that compounds over a lifetime. These are not abstract figures. They represent the possibility of a better future for anyone who wants to work, buy a home and raise a family in a place like Kamloops.

The post-secondary system is showing strain. Unpredictable federal policies around international students are putting real pressure on institutions like TRU. Many such students, who bring ambition, skills and long-term plans to remain in Canada, no longer see this country as a meaningful or worthwhile destination. As a result, universities such as TRU, face growing needs in Canada with flat or declining funding.

We aren't asking government to make up the difference. We will manage our resources, limited as they are, to deliver as much as possible of the education, training and innovation Canadians need. But we need governments to provide stable policies and help us promote Canada abroad as the terrific educational destination it truly is. International education is a significant part of how Canada will build the new global connections and partnerships our country needs to thrive.

International students aside, there are other aspects of post-secondary education that candidates should know about and discuss on the campaign trail. What commitments will political parties make to ensure TRU can continue to train the nurses, teachers, engineers, tradespeople, lawyers and business leaders our communities need?

What federal programs will be in place to support the expansion of student housing, the renewal of campus infrastructure and the development of new programs that respond to changing workforce demands? And what new partnerships might emerge between the federal government and universities to support applied research tied to regional needs, such as wildfire prevention and recovery, rural healthcare or clean energy?

Universities are more than simple educational institutions. They offer tools for solving real-world problems, drive local economies, are one of the few public systems still capable of giving individuals and communities the skills and abilities to weather tough times and build resilience, which is something Canadians need now more than ever.

This election will inevitably be decided on big themes — Trump, trade, global instability, affordability and growth. But if we ignore the quiet issues, including how to support the institutions that anchor our communities, we undermine Canada’s future prosperity.

So, to all candidates, including those in Kamloops, Thompson and Cariboo regions — please don’t forget to talk about the role universities play. Don’t speak only in terms of costs, speak about capacity, value, the kind of Canada we want to build and how your parties will help universities continue to make a difference for Canadians.

Universities aren’t a side issue. They are central to what comes next.

CONGRATULATIONS, 2025 MERIT AWARD WINNERS! — Every year, TRU faculty and staff make extraordinary contributions that change the lives of our students, colleagues and wider community for the better. Through a process involving peer nominations and review, committees from the Research Office, the Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT), People and Culture and Open Learning recommend a few for special recognition.

I am pleased to announce this year’s Merit Award recipients:

Faculty Excellence Awards:

Dr. Natasha Ramroop Singh, Faculty of Science

Dr. Manu Sharma, Faculty of Education and Social Work

Award for Excellence in Interculturalization:

Dr. Gloria Ramirez, Faculty of Education and Social Work

Dr. Jenna Woodrow, Faculty of Arts

No team nominations received this year

Teaching Excellence Awards for Open Learning Faculty Members:

Dr. Georgann Cope Watson, Open Learning
Dr. Tara Chambers, Open Learning

Awards for Excellence in Research and Scholarship:
Dr. Robert Hanlon, Faculty of Arts

Distinguished Service Awards:
Karime Jolly, Regional Centres
Elizabeth Templeman, Faculty of Student Development
Alicia Ashcroft, Student Services
Shannon James, IT Services

President's Distinguished Scholar Award:
Dr. Rod McCormick, Faculty of Education and Social Work

President's Distinguished Teacher Award:
Dr. Trent Tucker, Bob Gaglardi School of Business and Economics

Congratulations to these colleagues for their outstanding teaching, research and service!

We will celebrate our Merit Awards recipients and dedicated colleagues receiving Long-Term Service pins at the President's Annual Merit and Long-Term Service Awards ceremony on May 28, from 9 to 11 a.m. in the Grand Hall, CAC. I hope to see you there.

This year, the recipients of the two presidents' awards will be recognized at Spring Convocation ceremonies. Dr. Trent Tucker will be at the TRU Gaglardi ceremony on June 4 at 2:30 p.m. and Dr. Rod McCormick will be at the EDSW ceremony on June 5 at 10 a.m.

NEW TENURE AND PROMOTION 2025 — Tenure and promotion represent important milestones in any faculty member's career and are reflections of an individual's achievements over time in teaching, research and service as evaluated by peers.

It is my pleasure to announce the names of those faculty members who have recently been awarded tenure and/or promotion, effective July 1, 2025. Please join me in congratulating these individuals and wishing them continued success!

AWARDED TENURE

Bob Gaglardi School of Business and Economics:
Kai Bauman, Accounting, Finance and Law
Dr. Yanmin Gao, Accounting, Finance and Law

Faculty of Adventure, Culinary Arts and Tourism:
James Rodger, Adventure Studies

Faculty of Arts:

Dr. Joceline Anderson, Communication and Visual Arts / Literatures, Languages and Performing Arts

Dr. Wes Furlotte, Philosophy, History and Politics / Literatures, Languages and Performing Arts

Dr. Claudia Gonzalez, Psychology

Faculty of Education and Social Work:

Dr. Christie Fraser, School of Education

Dr. Pamela Gurney, School of Education

Karolyn Hendra, School of Education

Dr. Patricia Liu Baergen, School of Education

Faculty of Science:

Dr. Geoff Fink, Engineering

Dr. Muhammad Hanif, Engineering

Dr. Robin Kleiv, Physical Sciences (Physics)

Dr. Yasheng Maimaitijiang (Dr. Yasin Mamatjan), Engineering

Dr. Lucas Mol, Mathematics and Statistics

Dr. James Sudhoff, Veterinary Technology

Dr. Catherine Tatarniuk, Engineering

Faculty of Student Development:

Leanne Mihalicz, Career and Experiential Learning

Open Learning:

Marie Bartlett, Learning Design and Innovations

Stephen Doubt, Learning Design and Innovations

School of Nursing:

Lisa Dyck, Nursing

Devon Graham, Nursing

School of Trades and Technology:

Michael Chen, Construction Trades (Electrical Instrumentation)

Elise Menard Jonker, Construction Trades (Horticulture)

Jason Schapansky, Construction Trades (Electrical)

Gerry Sherk, Construction Trades (Electrical)

University Library:
Erin May, Library

AWARDED PROMOTION

Bob Gaglardi School of Business and Economics:

Dr. Salvador Barragan, Human Enterprise and Innovation, promotion to professor

Kai Bauman, Accounting, Finance and Law, promotion to associate teaching professor

Dr. Salman Kimiagari, Management, Information and Supply Chain, promotion to professor

Faculty of Adventure, Culinary Arts and Tourism:

James Rodger, Adventure Studies, promotion to associate teaching professor

Faculty of Arts:

Dr. Joceline Anderson, Communication and Visual Arts / Literatures, Languages and Performing Arts, promotion to associate teaching professor

Dr. Wes Furlotte, Philosophy, History and Politics / Literatures, Languages and Performing Arts, promotion to associate teaching professor

Dr. Claudia Gonzalez, Psychology, promotion to associate professor

Crystal Huscroft, Environment, Culture and Society, promotion to teaching professor

Dr. Catherine Ortnier, Psychology, promotion to professor

Faculty of Education and Social Work:

Dr. Christie Fraser, School of Education, promotion to associate teaching professor

Dr. Pamela Gurney, School of Education, promotion to associate teaching professor

Karolyn Hendra, School of Education, promotion to associate teaching professor

Dr. Patricia Liu Baergen, School of Education, promotion to associate professor

Faculty of Science:

Dr. Geoff, Fink, Engineering, promotion to associate professor

Dr. Muhammad Hanif, Engineering, promotion to associate professor

Dr. Robin Kliev, Physical Sciences (Physics), promotion to associate teaching professor

Dr. Yasheng Maimaitijiang (Dr. Yasin Mamatjan), Engineering, promotion to associate professor

Dr. Lucas Mol, Mathematics and Statistics, promotion to associate teaching professor

Dr. James Sudhoff, Veterinary Technology, promotion to associate teaching professor

Dr. Catherine Tatarniuk, Engineering, promotion to associate teaching professor

Faculty of Student Development:

Leanne Mihalicz, Career and Experiential Learning, instructional support II (senior co-op coordinator)

Open Learning:

Marie Bartlett, Learning Design and Innovations, promotion to instructional support II

School of Nursing:

Lisa Dyck, Nursing, promotion to associate teaching professor

Devon Graham, Nursing, promotion to associate teaching professor

School of Trades and Technology:

Elise Menard Jonker, Construction Trades (Horticulture), promotion to associate teaching professor

Jason Schapansky, Construction Trades (Electrical), promotion to associate teaching professor

Gerry Sherk, Construction Trades (Electrical), promotion to associate teaching professor

Darren Watt, Mechanical (Heavy Duty and Commercial Transport), associate teaching professor

University Library:

Erin May, Library, promotion to associate librarian

Amy McLay Paterson, Library, promotion to librarian

BLOCKING ACCESS TO DEEPSEEK — Due to security and privacy concerns, TRU has blocked access to DeepSeek, a Chinese artificial intelligence (AI) company popular for its advanced generative AI models.

When connected to TRU's network, users will be unable to access DeepSeek via mobile, desktop or web. However, if you have DeepSeek installed on a device, it could still work when connected to another network or using cellular data. IT Services strongly recommends removing the app to be safe on and off campus.

This move follows similar action taken recently by the federal government and other academic institutions after cybersecurity researchers identified significant security risks.

Third-party security assessments of DeepSeek found a wide range of data collection, including confidential and personal information, device data and keystrokes. All data collected is stored in the People's Republic of China, and there are concerns that the data is accessed by Chinese state-owned entities, despite DeepSeek's privacy policy. DeepSeek was also found to be extremely vulnerable to security exploits that could result in data leaks.

As an alternative, Copilot by Microsoft is a default AI tool in the Edge browser and Windows 11 and is available to TRU students and employees. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact IT Services through the [IT Services Portal](#).



THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC PLANNING AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE APRIL 2025 REPORT TO SENATE

The April 10, 2025, meeting of APPC was chaired by Dr. Gillian Balfour. The following items come forward from APPC to Senate:

FOR APPROVAL

- a. **Category III Proposal**, Mohamed Tawhid, Department of Mathematics and Statistics
Master of Science in Data Science

[Comparison](#) [All Fields](#)

Motion approved at APPC

On motion duly made and adopted, it is RESOLVED that APPC recommends to Senate the Master of Science in Data Science as presented.

- b. **Category III Proposal**, Cael Field, Department of Allied Health

Respiratory Therapy Diploma

[Comparison](#) [All Fields](#)

Motion approved at APPC

On motion duly made and adopted, it is RESOLVED that APPC recommends to Senate the Respiratory Therapy Diploma as presented.

- c. **Category III Proposal**, Tracy Christianson, School of Nursing

Master of Nursing Nurse Practitioner Program

[Comparison](#) [All Fields](#)

Motion approved at APPC

On motion duly made and adopted, it is RESOLVED that APPC recommends to Senate the Master of Nursing Nurse Practitioner as presented.

FOR INFORMATION

- a. [ESTR Program Review Mid-Cycle Report](#), Susie Safford, Associate Dean, Faculty of Education and Social Work and Saskia Stinson, ESTR Program Coordinator
- b. [EPC Category II Approvals](#), Rob Chambers, EPC Chair

SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

1. Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Supply Chain Management, Nancy Southin, Department of Management, Information, and Supply Chain

UNIVERSITY & EMPLOYMENT PREP

APPC REPORT TO SENATE APRIL 2025

2. EDCP 0600 Education and Career Planning: Provincial Level

NATURAL RESOURCE SCIENCE

3. NRSC 1120 Dendrology 1
4. NRSC 1220 Dendrology 2

CRIMINOLOGY

5. CRIM 1160 Introduction to Canadian Law and Legal Institutions
6. CRIM 2250 Sociological Explanations of Criminal Behaviour
7. CRIM 2520 Introduction to the Canadian Criminal Justice System

ENGLISH

8. ENGL 1021 Indigenous Literatures in Canada
9. ENGL 1111 Critical Reading and Writing
10. ENGL 2411 Indigenous Narratives in Canada

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION, ELEMENTARY

11. Bachelor of Education, Elementary, Pam Gurney, School of Education
12. EDST 3200 Applied Design, Skills, Technology, and Career Education
13. EDCD 3100 Child Development and Teaching

EDUCATION DELETION COURSES

14. EDEF 4150 Social Foundation of Education: Gender and Education
15. EDEF 4160 Education in Rural or Small Schools and Communities in British Columbia
16. EDIT 4700 Introduction to Distributed Learning
17. EDLL 3900 Total Physical Response: Methods for Teaching Secwepmectsin
18. EDLL 3910 Introduction to the Secwepemc Language 1
19. EDLL 3920 Innovative Language Teaching Practices for Aboriginal Language Classrooms
20. EDLL 4150 Children's Literature
21. EDLL 4160 Supporting Learners with Language and Literacy Difficulties
22. EDPR 1800 Indigenous Peoples Language Teaching Practicum 1
23. EDPR 2800 Indigenous Peoples Language Teaching Practicum 2
24. EDPR 3800 Indigenous Peoples Language Teaching Practicum 3
25. EDPR 3900 Indigenous Peoples Language Teaching Practicum 4
26. EDPR 4250 Education Practicum
27. EDPY 4200 Assistive Technologies in Special Education
28. EDPY 4210 Assessment of Learning Difficulties

APPC REPORT TO SENATE APRIL 2025

29. EDPY 4220 Field Experience in Special Education
30. EDPY 4230 Selected Topics in Special Education
31. EDPY 4300 Adapting and Modifying Programs
32. EDPY 4310 Learning Disabilities
33. EDPY 4320 Behaviour Management for Children in Regular
34. EDPY 4340 Differentiation in Mathematics
35. EDPY 4360 Programming for Children with Behaviour Disorders
36. EDPY 4380 Methodologies and Interventions for Beginning Reading and Writing
37. EDPY 4390 Fluency and Reading Comprehension
38. EDPY 4400 Methodologies and Interventions for Writing
39. EDPY 4410 Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
40. EDPY 4420 Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
41. EDPY 4430 Structuring School Discipline
42. EDPY 4440 Autism Spectrum Disorder
43. EDPY 4450 Leadership in Special Education
44. EDPY 4460 Functional Behaviour Assessment
45. EDPY 4470 Universal Design for Differentiated Instruction
46. EDPY 4480 Learning Disabilities in the General Education Classroom
47. EDPY 4500 Directed Studies - Inclusive and Special Education
48. EDPY 4800 Introduction to Special Education and Children with Learning Difficulties
49. EDPY 4810 Advanced Assessment of Learning Difficulties
50. EDPY 4820 Advanced Adaptations and Modifications
51. EDPY 4830 Assessment and Learning Practicum
52. EDPY 4840 Program Child Behaviour Disord
53. EDSC 4150 Environmental Education
54. EDSC 4160 Problem Solving in Science and Mathematics
55. EDSO 4150 Global Education
56. EDTE 3200 Sociology of Education
57. EDTL 1510 Indigenous Peoples Language Teaching Methodology 1
58. EDVP 4150 Music Curriculum and Instruction: Elementary
59. EDVP 4160 The Arts and Media Literacy
60. EDVP 4170 Music as Language, Language as Music: Intertextual Dialogues

APPC REPORT TO SENATE APRIL 2025

61. PHED 1100 Basketball
62. PHED 1120 Outdoor Activities
63. PHED 1140 Aquatics
64. PHED 1160 Soccer
65. PHED 1190 Volleyball
66. PHED 1240 Golf
67. PHED 1280 Games Contest & Relays
68. PHED 2000 The Analysis of Performance of Team Games, Activities and Sports from Pedagogical and Coaching Perspectives
69. PHED 3000 Service and Learning Project
70. PHED 3450 Contemporary Issues in Health and Physical Activity
71. PHED 3660 Advanced Movement Education
72. PHED 4350 Fitness Assessment and Exercise Prescription

LAW


73. LAWF 3200 Law and Film
74. LAWF 3210 First Nations Governance and Economic Development
75. LAWF 3220 First Nations Business and Taxation
76. LAWF 3230 Municipal Law
77. LAWF 3240 International Dispute Resolution
78. LAWF 3250 Sexual Offences: Prosecution and Defence

c. GSC Category II Approvals, Jill Harvey, GSC Chair

1. BUSN 6330
2. BUSN 6270
3. EDUC 5030
4. EDUC 5040
5. EDUC 5190
6. EDUC 5240
7. EDUC 5250
8. EDUC 5260
9. EDUC 5270
10. EDUC 5300
11. EDUC 5400
12. EDUC 5600

APPC REPORT TO SENATE APRIL 2025

Respectfully submitted on April 10, 2025, by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gillian Balfour". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gillian Balfour, Chair, Academic Planning and Priorities Committee

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS COMMITTEE (EPC)
REPORT TO SENATE FOR MARCH 2025

The following approvals from the March 5, 2025 meeting of the Educational Programs Committee (EPC) are reported to Senate for information purposes:


For Information

- i. Gratitude to departing committee member, Susan Purdy, Faculty of Science

Category I modifications

- i. BIOL 2130 Cell Biology
- ii. ENGL 3740 Milton's Paradise Lost
- iii. HLSC 4650 Health Sciences: Pathophysiology 3
- iv. NURS 1740 Nursing Practice 1: Introduction to Nursing Practice
- v. PHYS 3590 Intermediate Experimental Physics II
- vi. PSYC 3360 The Psychology of Language
- vii. SCMN 3320 Supply Chain Management
- viii. SCMN 3330 Procurement Management
- ix. SCMN 4310 Operations Management
- x. SCMN 4320 Logistics Management

Respectfully submitted on March 13, 2025 by



Robert Chambers, Chair, Educational Programs Committee



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS COMMITTEE (EPC) REPORT TO SENATE FOR APRIL 2025

The following approvals from the April 2, 2025 meeting of the Educational Programs Committee (EPC) are reported to Senate for information purposes:

Category I modifications

1. Bachelor of Arts, Major in English
2. Bachelor of Science, Major in Ecology & Environmental Biology
3. CRIM 1161 Introduction to Canadian Law and Legal Institutions
4. CRIM 2251 Sociological Explanations of Criminal Behaviour
5. EDAE 4100 Arts Education
6. EDCO 4200 Communications 2
7. EDEF 3200 Theoretical Frameworks of Education
8. EDFN 4200 Indigenous Culture and Learning
9. EDIE 4100 Inclusive Education
10. EDLL 3100 Learning to Read and Write: K-3 Focus
11. EDLL 3200 Learning through Reading and Writing: 4-7 Focus
12. EDMA 3100 Mathematics 1
13. EDMA 3200 Mathematics 2
14. EDPE 3100 Physical and Health Education Methods
15. EDPE 4150 Elementary Physical Education: Instruction
16. EDPR 3100 Practicum 1
17. EDPR 3200 Practicum 2
18. EDPR 4100 Practicum 3
19. EDPR 4200 Practicum 4. Certification Practicum
20. EDSC 3200 Science Methods
21. EDSL 4200 Second Language with Focus on French or Secwepemctsin
22. EDSO 3200 Social Studies Methods
23. EDSO 4150 Global Education
24. EDTL 3100 Foundations of Teaching and Assessment
25. EDTL 3200 Teaching and Learning: Focus on Unit Planning and Assessment
26. EDTL 4100 Assessment and Cross-Curricular Connections

EPC REPORT TO SENATE APRIL 2025

27. ELGS 3910 English Language for Graduate Studies Composition and Structural Inquiry
28. HLTH 1155 Personal Care and Assistance (Skills Practicum))
29. HLTH 1301 Practice Experience in Multi-Level or Complex Care
30. HLTH 4521 Assessment and Intervention Approaches to Problematic Substance
31. HLTH 4531 Assessment and Intervention Approaches in Concurrent Disorders
32. LAWF 3120 Designing Legal Expert Systems
33. LAWF 3130 Mergers & Acquisitions
34. LAWF 3140 Securities Law
35. LAWF 3150 Elder Law
36. LAWF 3160 Access to Justice
37. LAWF 3170 The Business of Practicing Law
38. LAWF 3190 Law and Religion
39. LAWF 4060 Davies Corporate/Securities Moot
40. LAWF 4070 National Family Law Negotiation Moot
41. LAWF 4080 Immigration, Refugee, and Citizenship Law Moot
42. SCMN 3321 Supply Chain Management

Respectfully submitted on April 10, 2025 by

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Chambers', with a stylized, cursive script.

Robert Chambers, Chair, Educational Programs Committee

**Steering Committee
Report to Senate**

April 9th 2025

1. **APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES**

The Steering Committee recommends the following volunteers for appointment by Senate:

a. International Affairs Committee

Faculty Senator:

- **Anne Terwiel**, Adventure, Culinary Arts and Tourism

b. Teaching and Learning Committee

Faculty:

- **Gul-e-Rana Mufti**, Arts (2nd term)
- **Candace Walker**, Nursing (2nd term)

Senator:

- **Gordon Rudolph**, Teaching Staff Open Learning

c. Research Committee

Faculty Senator:

- **John Church**, Science

d. Academic Integrity Committee

Faculty:

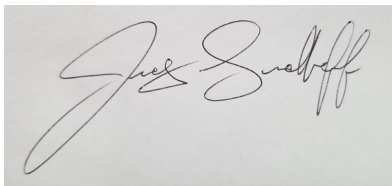
- **Candace Walker**, Nursing

- *Motion: That Senate approve the volunteer appointments to the Senate Standing Committees as mentioned.*

Respectfully submitted,

Kukwstsetsemc (Thank you)

James Sudhoff, DVM
Chair, Steering Committee of Senate





THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH COMMITTEE OF SENATE

REPORT TO SENATE

**Submitted by Shannon Wagner, Vice-President
Research**

The Research Committee of Senate is proud to submit its 2024-25 annual report to Senate which highlights the Committee's involvement in advancing research at TRU.

As part of its role, the Research Committee undertook an annual review of the university's Strategic Research Plan (2022-27) and initiated a discussion about the process to have a renewed plan by 2027. In support of its mandate and Strategic Research Plan initiatives, the Committee:

- Recommended the establishment of two new TRU Research Groups: the Brain Health Coalition and the Community and Cultural Mapping Research Group
- Reviewed the completion plan for Canada Research Chairs at TRU
- Recommended an updated policy procedure for groups and centres
- Reviewed and recommended changes to the Research Integrity Policy and Research Ethics Board Policy
- The Committee invited presentations on emerging topics such as:
 - Predatory publishing
 - TRU's Internal Grants
 - Open Access publishing
 - AI and Research
- Accepted an annual report and presentation from the All My Relations Research Centre

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shannon Wagner'.

Dr. Shannon Wagner
Vice-President Research, on behalf of the Research Committee of Senate

GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE OF SENATE**2024-2025 REPORT TO SENATE
Submitted by Jill Harvey, Chair**

Over the past 12 months (April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025) the Graduate Studies Committee of Senate met ten times and accomplished the following:

- Reviewed 16 new and/or changes of graduate courses for existing programs, including minor changes
- Reviewed changes to the MNNP programs
- Established two ad-hoc subcommittees
 - Terms of Reference and Membership
 - Faculty Participation in Graduate Studies
- Reviewed and recommended 52 faculty applications for graduate-level instructor, associate or full supervisor status
- Reviewed stacking rules for internal awards to graduate students
- Established sub-committees to adjudicate awards for:
 - Governor General's Gold Medal for Graduate Studies
 - Ken Lepin Award
 - Sherman Jen Award
- Presentations to GSC
 - Gillian Balfour – TRU Bold
 - Shannon Smyrl – Curricular Governance and DQAB Update
 - Joey da Costa – Library Access for Graduated Students
 - Noah Arney – Graduate Curricular Governance Policy (ED8-5)

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Harvey
Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee

To: Senate
From: Michael Bluhm, AVP Enrolment Services and University Registrar
Date: March 21, 2025
Subject: **Thompson Rivers University Winter 2025 Election Results**

Winter 2025 election results for positions on the Board of Governors, Senate, the Planning Council for Open Learning and the TRU University Trust Board of Directors.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Two (2) Student representatives for the appointment term, one year—September 1, 2025, to August 31, 2026.

Nominees

Valentine Otoide	Elected	280 votes
Amisha Patel	Elected	221 votes
Inderpreet Bains		196 votes

SENATE

Four (4) Student representatives for the appointment term, one year—September 1, 2025, to August 31, 2026.

Nominees

Inderpreet Bains	Elected by acclamation
Ishan Kapoor	Elected by acclamation
Mishal Nizar	Elected by acclamation
Brandon Ogle	Elected by acclamation

Two (2) Faculty representatives for the appointment term, three years, September 1, 2025, to August 31, 2028, from the following faculties/schools:

Faculty of Education and Social Work

Nominees

Dr. Oleksandr (Sasha) Kondrashov	Elected by acclamation
Dr. Juliana West	Elected by acclamation

Faculty of Science

Nominees

Vacant – no nominations

Faculty of Student Development

Nominees

Vacant – no nominations

School of Trades and Technology

Nominees

Brad Kozubski

Elected by acclamation

Ryan Munden

Elected by acclamation

PLANNING COUNCIL FOR OPEN LEARNING (PCOL)

One (1) TRU Open Learning Student representative for the appointment term, one year—September 1, 2025, to August 31, 2026.

Nominees

Kaitlyn Diamond	Elected	94 votes
Thomas Smith		55 votes
Natalia Bereznicki		41 votes
Nicolas Matthews		40 votes
Lauren Collier		37 votes
Caedyn Lennox		16 votes

TRU COMMUNITY TRUST BOARD OF DIRECTORS

One (1) TRU Student representative for the appointment term, one year—September 1, 2025, to August 31, 2026.

Nominees

Vacant – no nominations – to be filled by fall by-election

One (1) Faculty representative for the appointment term April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2028.

Nominees

Vacant – no nominations



MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 9, 2025

TO: Senate

FROM: Charlene Myers, Manager, University Governance

SUBJECT: Proposed Senate meeting dates for 2026-2027 Academic Year

Senate meeting dates for the 2026-2027 Academic Year are proposed below.

In accordance with Article VIII (2) (a) of the Senate Bylaws, it is the duty of the Chair of Senate “to call meetings of the Senate as provided in these Bylaws and in the Act.” Further, Article IX (1) (a) of the Senate Bylaws provides that “Regular meetings of the Senate shall normally be held monthly, except in July and August.”

Senate meetings are typically held monthly from September to June and on the fourth Monday of each month, except during the months of December and June when the meeting occurs on the second Monday.

2026-2027 Academic Year

September 28, 2026

October 26, 2026

November 23, 2026

December 14, 2026

January 25, 2027

February 22, 2027

March 22, 2027

April 26, 2027

May 17, 2027 – moved to the third Monday, as May 24 is Victoria Day

June 14, 2027