

To: Senators of the Thompson Rivers University (TRU) Senate
From: Aleece Laird, TRU Senator – Alumni Representative
Date: October 17, 2025

Subject: Rationale for Including an In-Camera Portion on the TRU Senate Meeting Agendas

As part of our commitment to good governance and adherence to Robert's Rules of Order, I propose that each Senate meeting include a designated in-camera or closed section on the agenda. This practice ensures the Senate has a structured opportunity to discuss sensitive or confidential matters in accordance with best practices.

Including an in-camera portion serves several key purposes:

- **Protects Confidentiality:** Allows discussion of personnel issues, legal matters, or other confidential topics that should not appear in the public record.
- **Upholds Transparency and Process:** Demonstrates accountability and prevents the Senate from entering closed sessions informally.
- **Supports Candid Discussion:** Provides a safe environment for open dialogue among Senators about sensitive issues.
- **Protects the Organization:** Ensures confidentiality is handled appropriately, with clear documentation that a session occurred but without disclosing confidential details.
- **Reinforces the Senate's Independence:** Allows Senators to meet without staff present when necessary, supporting objective oversight and fiduciary responsibility.

This addition will help balance transparency with confidentiality, support effective oversight, and protect both the integrity of the Senate's deliberations and the Senate itself. I would recommend that an in-camera session is a standing item on the agenda which will allow for Senators to raise confidential matters or debrief.

If the Senate agrees, a number of items will need to be addressed including a two-stage in-camera session, parameters around attendance at in-camera sessions, a designate to record information to ensure actions are captured, and other items in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

Suggested Motion:

That the Thompson Rivers University Senate include an in-camera session as a standing item on its regular meeting agendas, to be held at the end of each meeting, in accordance with the rules and procedures outlined in Robert's Rules of Order and applicable university policies regarding confidential matters.