



# Meeting Minutes

Trent University  
 Alumni Association  
 Council Meeting  
 Alumni House  
 Saturday, January 16, 2016

<b>Meeting called by:</b>	Jess Grover	<b>Type of meeting:</b>	217 <sup>th</sup> Alumni Council Meeting
<b>Facilitator:</b>		<b>Note taker:</b>	Sylvia Hennessy
<b>Attendees:</b>	Sebastian Cosgrove, Donald Fraser, Jess Grover, Lee Hays, Maile Loweth Reeves, Jessica Rogers, Karen Sisson, Robin Sundstrom, Bob Taylor Vaisey  Phone: Gary Cubitt, Wei Lynn Eng , Charlene Holmes, Vidal Guerreiro, Jessica Lee		
<b>Guests:</b>	Julie Davis, Leo Groarke, Steve Kylie		

## Minutes

<b>Agenda item:</b>	Welcome & President's Remarks	<b>Presenter:</b>	Jess Grover
<b>Discussion:</b>	As Below		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thank you for attending</li> <li>• Round table introductions</li> </ul>		

<b>Agenda item:</b>	Minutes of the 216 <sup>th</sup> Alumni Council Meeting	<b>Presenter</b>	Jess Grover
<b>Discussion:</b>	As Below		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion to approve minutes</li> <li>• Robin Sundstrom brought attention to a typing error on the second page; University &amp; Alumni Update - third bullet, incorrect: Tent Lands Plan, correction: Trent Lands Plan</li> <li>• Motion to accept, Karen Sisson seconded the motion</li> <li>• All in favour</li> </ul>		

**Note: Correction has been completed**

<b>Agenda item:</b>	Agenda	<b>Presenter</b>	Jess Grover
<b>Discussion:</b>	As Below		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Move to approve the agenda</li> <li>• All in favour</li> </ul>		

<b>Agenda item:</b>	Board of Governor Alumni Representation discussion	<b>Presenter:</b>	Steve Kylie
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<b>Discussion:</b>	As Below
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- Thank you for the opportunity to attend this meeting; I am here as a Nominating and Governance Committee member of the Trent University Board of Governors
- As a member of the committee, I was involved in a governance review completed by Robert Bond of Robert B. Bond Consulting last year; Robert interviewed many people and made 29 recommendations
- Robert acknowledged that having two appointed designated alumni representatives on the BOG could result in a situation where only the interest of the represented constituents are brought forward; these representatives are not permitted to chair committees which can prevent them from sharing their knowledge, expertise, and the BOG utilizing their talent; limited term appointments also pose challenges for recruiting; currently the number of alumni members on the BOG presents a strong voice and influence; moving forward, the goal is to build the best BOG and implement best practices
- I see a problem with having alumni representation on the BOG for two years without being a full BOG member; I was appointed as an alumni designate and didn't realize it was a two-year limited term, until six months into the position; I would like to highlight the awkwardness this created for me in not being considered to potentially chair a committee, or give me the opportunity to utilize my areas of expertise
- The committee recognizes that perhaps we didn't engage the TUAA Council as much as we should have before bringing forward these recommendations; the committee will present recommendations to the BOG that there should be guaranteed seats for alumni on the BOG; I conclude that this proposal is a win-win situation for the university; it allows all skills to be utilized, guarantees seats on the BOG, and allows each BOG member to fulfill their judicial duty to the university
  
- **Jess Grover opened the floor for discussion**
  
- **Robin Sundstrom** – alumni designates on the BOG are treated somewhat differently; it takes a while to get to know the complexities of the university and the TUAA, and how things work; alumni are a source of income to the university, it is important that they do not feel disenfranchised; alumni are also concerned that there is no formal relationship with the BOG or Nominating and Governance Committee at this time, therefore, recommendations from TUAA are not considered
- **Gary Cubitt** – I listened carefully to the history and background; I believe that the recommendation of guaranteed alumni seats on the BOG is a good idea and will allow alumni board members full leadership opportunities; I believe it is a win-win situation for the TUAA and the university
- **Jess Grover** – I have had countless meetings with alumni to discuss this issue; we have reached the point where a lot of considerations are being dealt with, and we are making steps in the right direction; there will always be issues that present change; we will continue to evolve around governance issues – this is not the end of conversation; I believe we are moving forward to address short term issues and long term goals
- **Bob TV** – I have concerns with this proposal, my concerns are: method of election, the TUAA constitution will require a change, TUAA governance review should be completed before we move forward with this proposal
- **Robin Sundstrom** - I am not as worried about our constitution as the timing of these proposals - is there a reason for rushing this decision?
- **Steve Kylie** - we are already practicing Robert's recommendations and we thought this issue would be fairly straight forward; we are just about to unravel a recruitment plan; if we are making new adjustments, we have to make them now
- **Julie Davis** – part of Robert's job was to review the process of Pan College governance; his goal was not to align with other universities but rather to recommend governance leadership and promote best practices.
- **Steve Kylie** - Trent can be a leader in governance models, the common goal is - what is in the best interest of the university
- **Leo Groarke** – the committee has discussed this issue a lot; I think the board will want to resolve this and move on; everyone needs to ask themselves – is this proposal better for alumni than the current process?; TUAA can always come back to the BOG to discuss these or other issues; it would be a shame to miss this opportunity; this is just a step along the way
- **Robin Sundstrom** – I agree that the proposed resolution is better; would an elected, as opposed to an appointed position to the BOG, be best for the university; would it bring more alumni into to the process?
- **Lee Hays** – currently, we put together a short list of alumni names to recommend to the BOG; this proposal would broaden the process, and allow TUAA members to submit the names of potential alumni BOG members
- **Jess Grover** - speaking to Bob's comment, this is an appropriate time for the TUAA to take stock of our practices and processes, and make recommendations; having the presentation today has been wonderful; I feel everyone has the university's best interest at heart
- **Vidal Guerreiro** - a little more historical information may be necessary to provide answers to questions that council members may have

<b>Agenda item:</b>	University Update	<b>Presenter:</b>	Leo Groarke
<b>Discussion:</b>	As Below		
NA			
<b>Agenda item:</b>	ER&A Update	<b>Presenter:</b>	Julie Davis
<b>Discussion:</b>	As Below		
<p><b>University Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two new programs – developed around health and sciences</li> <li>• Enrolment numbers are very positive, we are beating enrolment targets; our growth and increased enrolment is due to a number of factors that include: greater profiling, marketing initiatives</li> <li>• Leo has mentioned that a review of Traill College will take place this term; we will meet with many groups to focus on the sustainability of the college, there are many things to consider: deferred maintenance, it is a graduate college with empty offices and un-utilized space; this review will bring interesting perspectives on how to deal with these challenges; there is no plan for Traill College at this time</li> <li>• Finance and Property Meeting – Julie, Michael Eamon and the Heritage Committee, are working on how to address property maintenance challenges; consideration will be given to the fact that Trent is unique in architectural buildings; we will work/consult with our Physical Resources Department, Heritage Committee, and BOG to ensure that the heritage issues are being considered; repair to buildings will be funded by philanthropic assets</li> </ul> <p><b>Finance, ER&amp;A Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our focus is raising funds for the new Student Centre and seeking tenders on construction; we have reached a good target for fundraising - \$2 million has been raised; now turning to alumni with a goal of raising \$2 million, we have a matching gift opportunity of \$750,000 raised to date, each alumni gift will be matched, and first time alumni gifts will be double matched</li> <li>• Tenders for the Bata Library project will visit next week</li> </ul>			
<b>Agenda item:</b>	Trent Alumni Strategic Directions Update	<b>Presenter:</b>	Jess Grover
<b>Discussion:</b>	As Below		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion about the Alumni Strategic Plan endorsed by the BOG</li> <li>• As a council we need to identify a few pieces of the plan that we need to work on; I ask that everyone think about taking ownership of tasks, particularly in year one</li> <li>• Donald reported that the first section of the online pod cast library is complete; request for TUA Council members who are engaging with alumni to refer them to our web and social media sites; the numbers visiting our social media sites are starting to grow</li> </ul> <p>• <b>Leadership Volunteers</b></p> <p><b>Calendar</b> - Lead, Vidal Guerreiro Group Members: Robin Sundstrom, Jessica Rogers, Sebastian Cosgrove</p> <p><b>Governance Review</b> – Lead, Jess Grover Group Members: Jessica Rogers, Vidal Guerreiro, Robin Sundstrom</p> <p><b>Advisory Committee (Life After Trent)</b> – Lead, Robin Sundstrom Group Members: Maile Loweth Reeves, Charlene Holmes, Jessica Rogers</p> <p><b>College Liaison</b> – Lead, Jessica Rogers Group Member, Bob Taylor Vaisey</p>			

**Volunteer Plan** – Lead, Karen Sisson  
 Group Members: Jessica Lee, Jessica Rogers, Jess Grover

- Jess will contact leadership role volunteers in the near future
- Update on volunteer roles will take place at the next meeting on April 2<sup>nd</sup>

<b>Agenda item:</b>	Trent Alumni Support of Recruitment Initiative	<b>Presenter:</b>	Lee Hays
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<b>Discussion:</b>	As Below		
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- We are planning a new out of province recruitment initiative that involves support from our alumni
- If alumni successfully recruit or refer out of province students to Trent, the student and the alum will receive a Trent hoodie
- We will send information about this initiative to out of province alumni through e broadcast; there will be an area on the student application form to list the recruiter

<b>Agenda item:</b>	Administrative – AODA training & Confidentiality / Volunteer forms	<b>Presenter:</b>	Lee Hays
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<b>Discussion:</b>	As Below		
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- We are required to complete AODA training online; Lee will forward the link to each council member - please complete
- Sylvia will follow up with those who have not completed privacy forms

<b>Agenda item:</b>	Wrap up & Next Meeting, Apr 2, Durham Campus	<b>Presenter:</b>	Jess Grover
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<b>Discussion:</b>	As Below		
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- Next meeting will be on Saturday, April 2, 2016 at Durham Campus
- Room 110