**TRENT UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED PERSONS**

MINUTES OF THE 60th GENERAL MEETING

11 May 2022

Trent Student Centre Room 2.02 at 10:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Gina Collins, Julie Crook, Janice Millard, Sandy Sisson, Mary Snack, Dale Standen, Tony Storey, Betty Tomlinson, Paul Wilson, Wayne Wilson

REGRETS: Bruce Cossar

Guests: Joanne Sokolowski, Hillary Wright, Tariq Al-Idrissi

1. Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 10:05 by Gina Collins.
2. Welcome and Co-Chair’s remarks: Gina Collins welcomed everyone to the meeting and made the following remarks: a) She pointed out that this is the first in-person TUARP General Meeting since October 2018 b) She reminded everyone to look at the latest edition of the [*TUARP Times*](file:///C%3A/Users/Janice/Downloads/TUARP_Times_v40_October_2021.pdf) and thanked Tony Storey for all his work on this publication.
3. Welcome to Joanne Sokolowski, Manager, Convocation & Alumni Relations.
4. Joanne said it’s been a very busy May and June with many Convocation events being held both in Peterborough and Durham. The 2022 graduates will have a traditional Convocation but in addition those who graduated during 2020 and 2021 (during the pandemic and could not assemble together) are able to also graduate in person in specially held ceremonies. Over 1000 volunteers assist in Convocation. Joanne thanks them and reminds TUARP members they too may volunteer. There are so many ceremonies this spring – 16 in all – that Trent is renting gowns and hoods from a private company. For further information go to [Convocation](https://www.trentu.ca/convocation/) on the Trent website.

b) Joanne next reported that Trent Day on April 8, 2022 was a success and raised $1,190,463 to support student spaces and financial aid and they collected over 1,000 pounds of food which was forwarded to area food banks.

c) The 50th anniversary of Homecoming events will be held in the fall of 2022 in person.

d) A new residence college with 400 beds will be built at Trent in the parking lot north of the Science Complex. It is targeted for completion in 2027.

e) The Board is looking at rebuilding the OC residence. This will be the 3rd rebuild there and will add 100 beds.

 4. Introduction of new members:

Staff – Betty Carr-Braint, Cultural Counsellor, Indigenous Studies, Louise Fish, Director, Risk Management, Danial Swinnerton, Preventative Maintenance Assistant, Pauline Johnston, Manager Payroll & HRIS, Chris Los, Instructional Tech/RM Ctrls & Training, Computer Services, Denise Hartwick, Caretaker, Brenda Whetung, Security Guard, Karen Foster, Nursing Enrolment Advisor, Michele Venton, Caretaker, Wayne Craft, Manager, Environmental Services, Donna Hoard, Senior Manager Account Services, Paul Heard, General Maintenance Worker

Faculty – Margaret Steffler, English, Barbara Marshall, Sociology, Marisa Scigliano, Librarian, Jean

Luyben, Librarian.

1. Observances: Staff: Leona Moher, Caretaker, Mary Amyotte, Chemistry Lecturer

Faculty: Cathy Graham, Nursing, Konrad Kinzl, Ancient History.

6. Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the meeting of October 27, 2021 via Zoom were approved by a motion of Tony Storey and seconded by Dale Standen.

1. Business arising: There was no business arising.
2. Financial report: John Casserly submitted a financial statement. Our net worth is $2,850.98. We raised $320 in dues had expenses of $10 for bank fees.
3. Pension matters: There were no matters to report except that the switch to the Ontario’s University Pension Plan system for Faculty pensions has just gone ahead in May.
4. Guest Speaker: Dr. Tariq Al-Idrissi, Vice-President Finance and Administration.

Tony introduced Tariq. As of May 3rd Tariq was confirmed in this new position. Previously he had been Associate Vice-President for Information Technology here at Trent.

* 1. Pensions: The move for the TUFA pension plan to go to the University Pension Plan (as discussed in earlier TUARP minutes) has gone ahead. This benefits the University by relieving it from having to set aside funds to cover potential “solvency payments” (money needed to pay out if Trent University closed) and “growing concern” budget deficits. Because of this move as of Dec. 1 the University saved $4-5 million in payments. Trent is looking toward OPSEU and other groups to set up similar plans to the UPP.
	2. COVID: Trent took the step to bring back in-person learning earlier than other institutions. They observed all health guidelines at both Peterborough and Durham campuses. $6.5 million from the Province helped cover extra costs brought on by COVID and there still could be more costs.
	3. Space: We have a growing enrolment and this puts pressure on university space. When we return to “normal” and even if some staff continue to work remotely, there will be many more students than there were pre-pandemic and by 2027 we will be in crisis.
	4. New Building: As described by Joanne (above) a new 400 bed residence building will be constructed. It will be done as a public/private partnership . The rooms will be rented via a private company: Trent will collect the housing fees for them and then we will lease back administrative and teaching space in the building. The construction cost is estimated to be $120 million.
	5. Government Funding: All universities suffer from government underfunding because government funding has not accounted for inflation for 11 years; Trent has 24% more students enrolled for which there is government funding. 10 years ago government provided 45% of our funding; now it is 35%. It is suggested that the student number corridors be adjusted upward.
	6. Non-Government Funding: Trent has tried to diversify funding sources by leasing land to the Clean Tech Commons and to the proposed Seniors Village (as discussed in earlier TUARP minutes). This model of public/private residences is another mechanism.
	7. Online Teaching: COVID has for Trent been its largest experiment in online learning. It has minuses especially when it relates to lack of interpersonal connection and lack of the development of social skills. However, Trent is putting time and investments into increasing online offerings. Trent is even looking at whole online degrees. Since all other universities have online degrees, we need to choose our degrees carefully. During the pandemic we offered our international students online courses and starting this fall we expect them to appear in person. Still Trent still prides itself on in-person and interactive instruction and we will continue to focus on that.
	8. Anti-Racism: Tariq was Chair of Trent’s Anti-Racism Task Force and a [report](https://www.trentu.ca/artf/) was generated with recommendations

Gina Collins thanked Tariq for his talk.

1. Community Announcements: a) Gina reported that the [Peterborough Regional Science Fair](https://www.peterboroughsciencefair.com/) was held virtually and five students were selected to attend the Virtual Canada Wide Science Fair (CWSF) in Fredericton, New Brunswick May 16th to 20th, 2022. Calvin Karthik, a 14 year old Grade 10 student at Kenner has been quite successful in past fairs. He was selected to Team Canada to compete at the Virtual Regeron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) May 8th to 13th, 2022 in Atlanta, Georgia. Results for CWSF and ISEF can be found on the website [youthscience.ca](https://youthscience.ca/)
2. b) Gina also reported that the Annual Staff Golf Tournament will take place again this year on June 20 at Liftlock Golf Club. Please [register](https://mycommunity.trentu.ca/eventregistration1) if you wish to attend.
3. Any Other Business: Gina asked if anyone has any pictures from previous TUARP events to send them to her or Danielle Britton.
4. Adjournment at 11:30: moved by Tony Storey; seconded by Janice Millard

Respectfully submitted

Janice Millard, Secretary