

TRENT UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED PERSONS  
MINUTES OF THE 51ST GENERAL MEETING

3 May 2017

Elders Gathering Space, First Peoples House of Learning, 10:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Peter Adams, Roy Bowles, John Breukelaar, Alan Brunger, Julie Crook, Margaret Doxey, Gloria Dunn, Alena Heitlinger, Ruth Hillman, Wayne Holtz, Gordon Johnston, Nancy Lewis, Ray March, Janice Millard, David Morrison, Doris Pereschuk, Manindra Shah, Mary Snack, Gillian Stamp, Dale Standen, Jim Struthers, Tom Symons, Morgan Tamplin, Rosalind Taylor, Betty Tomlinson, Wayne Wilson.

REGRETS: Bruce Cossar, Carol Ernest, Marilyn Haywood, Herman Helmuth, Barbara Johns, Peter Lewis, Eunice Lund Lucas, Anna McCalla, Doug McCalla, Sybil Nunn, Margaret Pierce, John Topic.

1.Call to Order. The meeting as called to order at 10:15 a.m. by Janice Millard (Faculty Co-Chair), Wayne Wilson (Staff Co-Chair)

2.Welcome and Co-Chairs' remarks. Janice Millard and Wayne Wilson welcomed members and thanked the Executive members for all their assistance. Janice invited suggestions from members for future guest speakers, and for anything else that TUARP might undertake. She welcomed Joanne Sokolow to outline this year's convocation event, which will involve seven separate ceremonies. Joanne invited members to volunteer to assist with the many tasks of convocation. The schedule of ceremonies, including awards and honorary degree recipients, may be found on the university website.

3.Introduction of new members.

Staff: Julie Crook, Rod MacDonald, Lorraine Andrew-Kingdon.

Faculty: Elizabeth Popham.

4.Observances.

Staff: Eugene McKeiver, Arthur Wells.

5.Minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes of the meeting of 26 October 2016 were circulated last November. They were approved on a motion by John Breukelaar and Jim Struthers.

6.Business arising.

a) A proposal to create an associate membership category in TUARP was put

forward by the Executive, moved by the Co-Chairs. The category would include long-term employees of Trent who were not members of the pension plans and therefore not automatically included in TUARP. The motion was approved.

7. Election of Members of the TUARP Executive. The Co-Chairs urged members to volunteer for terms of service on the Executive Committee.

8. Financial Report. Treasurer Gloria Dunn reported that the bank balance was steady at just over \$3,200.

9. Pension reports. John Breukelaar reported for staff. His report reflects the situation as of July 2016 and is the result of the Pension meeting in Nov 2016. There is still a large ( 60M\$ ) solvency deficit but it has declined in the past year. Some pensioners received an indexed increase to their pension. Investment performance is positive and is passive; no homeruns and no risk taking. TD is doing what we want them to do. The discussion among several universities around the Jointly Sponsored Pension Plan is still continuing. This plan would help with solving the deficiency problem.

Ray March reported for faculty. In addition to John's summary, Ray noted that the faculty pension committee undertakes a three-part review: 1) an audited review 2) a performance review and 3) an actuarial assessment. He reminded members that there are three major faculty cohorts of pensioners who are treated differently for complex reasons: those who retired before 1999; those who retired between 1999 and 2005; and those who retired in 2006 and after. The latter group received no increase in pension this year. He noted that major fee charges by CIBC increased by 33%, partly because the bank has found ways to increase the number of monthly transactions from one to fourteen. Members grumbled mightily at this news and appeared in sullen fury with the reminder that there was no escape, all banks engaging in similar practices.

10. Community announcements. Robert Clarke, University Librarian, was welcomed to outline the renovation of the Library between now and May 2018, and the schedule of moves and relocations involved. The project, undertaken by Perkins and Will architects, will cost \$18.5 million and requires the Bata Library building to be vacated in order to make the completion date. The terms of the federal government funding dictate the schedule. The project, temporary locations of various library departments and services, and schedules are explained in detail on the library website,

<https://www.trentu.ca/batatransformation/>. The biggest challenge was to find 750 study spaces to replace those lost in the library building during renovations. The approach appears to be one of polite commandeering of space around the university. Members expressed concern about the plan to winnow the collection, mostly books, by 50%, and about the criteria used to do so. The archival

collection will not be touched. News that the renovated building and services would continue to be called Bata Library was well received. The Co-Chairs and members thanked the University Librarian for his most informative presentation.

Bata: Library of the Future - Trent

University<<https://www.trentu.ca/batatransformation/>>

[www.trentu.ca](http://www.trentu.ca)<<http://www.trentu.ca>>

Trent University's iconic Bata Library is undergoing an amazing revitalization and transformation, starting this spring. Fueled by a recent \$8.1 million funding ...

11. Guest Speaker. Wayne Wilson welcomed Professor Emeritus Dr. Ian Sandeman, with whom he had worked for many years, to give his talk on "Coral and its Problems." Professor Sandeman, whose research has been primarily on the coral in Jamaica, began with an explanation of coral life. Coral, found throughout tropical seas, feed on algae through their polyps and tentacles at night, and secrete a skeleton which becomes a coral reef. Like trees, their skeletons produce rings that reveal periods of greater or lesser growth. Millions of tiny algae that live within coral tissue give the coral its colour and provide nutrient for the coral. Around the world coral is being stressed by changing conditions. Rising sea temperatures cause coral to expel algae which leads to coral bleaching and which, if extended over time, can kill the coral. Mining of coral for calcium and minerals is also a threat. The increase of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere and in the seas, in addition to increasing ocean temperatures, also is lowering the pH of the oceans, which poses a further mortal threat to coral. Professor Sandeman suggested that, unless global warming and the increase of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere are reversed, the prognosis for coral's survival is not good. Following many questions, Wayne Wilson thanked Professor Sandeman, accompanied by warm applause from members.

12. Other business. Members were reminded that they were invited to the Heart of Trent appreciation event at noon in the Great Hall.

The question was asked, what happens to one's Trent email address and files after one dies?

The next TUARP meeting will be 25 October 2017, location TBA.

13. Adjournment. On a motion by David Morrison, the meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Submitted by: D. Standen, Secretary pro tem