

Trent University Alumni Advisory Council Constitution

Overview

The Trent University Alumni Advisory Council (“Council”) represents the alumni of Trent University. The purpose of the Council is to seek the advantages of members' advice, influence, and support with a diverse cross-section of regional, national, and international alumni. It is not a governance or oversight body but rather a dedicated group of alumni who offer invaluable advice and feedback on alumni programming. The Council supports the Trent Alumni Engagement & Services team in fostering connections between alumni and the University, advancing the institution's mission.

Composition

Eligibility: The following shall be considered members in good standing of the Council:

- Alumni who graduated from Trent University (Peterborough or Durham GTA Campuses);
- Any person who attended the University for at least one complete academic year as a full-time student, or the part-time equivalent, and is not currently studying for their first degree or diploma at the University;
- Any person holding an honorary degree from the University;
- Honorary alumni who has made a significant contribution to the life of the University selected by the Council.

- **Council Composition:**

- The Council can have between ten (10) and fifteen (15) members, all of whom are alumni, and may also include two (2) members who are at the time of their appointment a senior student at the University.
- The director, Alumni Engagement & Services, and the coordinators will also serve as members.
- The Council is committed to ensuring meaningful representation within its membership that reflects the diverse backgrounds of Trent alumni and students. To achieve this, the Council will strive for an appropriate balance between the Peterborough and Durham GTA campuses, as well as among college and degree affiliations. It will also consider geographical representation, including both domestic and international members, alongside diverse affiliations in business, government, and community sectors.
- The Council aims to incorporate a wide range of diversity in terms of age, gender, race, and ethnicity, ensuring that its composition mirrors the demographic richness of the Trent University alumni and the broader Trent community. This includes a commitment to inclusivity for individuals with disabilities and members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.
- Annual self and collective evaluations will support engagement, continuity, and Council renewal. This process will be led by the Co-Chairs of the Council.

- **Officers of the Council:**

- The Co-Chairs of the Alumni Council shall consist of the director, Alumni Engagement & Services and one (1) Co-Chair from the Council.
- The director, Alumni Engagement & Services will appoint the Co-Chair.
- The Co-Chairs will preside over meetings and focus Council activities on fulfilling its purpose.

- **Selection:** Members may apply or be recruited. A new member nomination form will be made available to all TUA members. Alumni will be invited to apply for vacancies on the Council annually. Nomination forms will be given a deadline for submission.

Following consultation, and in consideration of a skills and attributes matrix, the Co-Chairs will bring forward a list of candidates to the Council for input and ranking. The Co-Chairs of the Council will make the initial approach to candidates to assess interest and suitability. Once confirmed, the Council Co-Chairs will issue a formal invitation to join, and the Council will make the formal appointment.

- **Term:** Members are appointed for a three-year term and may be renewed for a second term. Priority is given to welcoming new members, but in certain cases, such as low membership, the Co-Chairs may extend an individual's term with the committee's approval.

Roles and Responsibilities

- **Advisory**
 - Provide advice to the director, Alumni Engagement & Services on strategic directions, annual priorities, Alumni programming and engagement activities. The Council will offer the unique perspective of alumni to ensure that the vision for alumni engagement & services aligns with alumni needs and interests.
- **Participatory**
 - Participate in the Alumni Awards & Recognition Committee (two (2) members annually).
 - Recommend candidates for the alumni member of the University Honours Subcommittee (voting).
 - Recommend candidates for the alumni member of the Official Visitors of Trent University Senate (non-voting).
 - Recommend candidates for the alumni representative on the Senate Teaching Awards Subcommittee.
 - Recommend candidates for alumni representative for the CUPE 3908-1 Award for Excellence in Teaching Selection Committee.
 - Approve new Council members.
 - Approve honorary members of TUAA.
- **Advocacy**
 - Working closely with the Alumni Engagement & Services Office to play an active ambassadorial and connecting role with fellow alumni as appropriate and opportune, in close coordination with the Office.
- **Individual Responsibilities**
 - Be knowledgeable of Trent and its alumni.
 - Maintain an understanding of the Trent Alumni Engagement & Services strategic plan.
 - Regularly attend and participate in Council meetings.
 - Consider other points of view, make constructive suggestions, and help make decisions that improve Alumni programming.
 - Demonstrates a commitment to Trent University through participation in alumni programming and philanthropy.
 - Maintain confidentiality of discussions.

Commitment

- Attend 3 virtual Council meetings per year.
- Serve as official alumni representatives of the institution.