

TRENT UNIVERSITY FACULTY ASSOCIATION
(TUFA)

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Friday October 4, 2013

Dr. Steven E. Franklin,
President & Vice-Chancellor
Trent University

Dear President Franklin,

I write on behalf of TUFA to provide feedback on the Draft Differentiation Policy Framework and ongoing Strategic Mandate Agreement discussions underway with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

Consistent with positions that the Union has previously taken with regard to academic and institutional planning, TUFA's view is that the principle of shared governance as captured in the Trent Act requires that University communities be appropriately consulted with respect to institutional priorities and, further, that collegial processes involving TUFA members -- from departmental governance to Senate and meetings of Faculty Council -- be fully engaged in any planning exercises relating to academic affairs. Past assertions by the Provost and Vice President Academic to this same effect lead us to conclude that the senior administration is on much the same page with respect to the imperative to engage our membership in any and all discussions of this University's development, mission, and mandate.

Second, we would urge you to stress in your own discussions with the Ministry, and at COU, the importance of recognizing and respecting the collective bargaining process and the stability it provides. The bargaining process provides a legal framework within which the University and its academic staff can explore and negotiate much of what now seems in play as a result of the Province's planning and restructuring exercises.

The TUFA collective agreement, for instance, contemplates very particular organizational structures (departments, professional schools), employment relationships (tenure, sabbaticals), and duties (teaching, research, services). And it is within this

context that any "transformative" changes must be fitted. This is not to say that TUFA is resistant to change or expects only the status quo from the University's leadership. Rather we stand ready, as ever, to engage the Employer in serious discussion over how best to ensure the health and vitality of this University. This is, after all, clearly in the best interest of our members and, in that spirit, we look forward to working with you in the coming months as these various provincial initiatives unfold.

With respectful greetings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D Newhouse".

David Newhouse,
President