



Canadian Association of University Teachers
Association canadienne des professeures et professeurs d'université

May 3, 2022

BY EMAIL: president@tru.ca; secretariat@tru.ca

Dr. Brett Fairburn
President and Vice-Chancellor
Thompson Rivers University
900 McGill Rd
Kamloops, BC V2C 0C8

Ms. Marilyn McLean
Chair, Board of Governors
Thompson Rivers University
900 McGill Rd
Kamloops, BC V2C 0C8

Dear President Fairburn and Chair McLean:

I am writing on behalf of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) representing 72,000 academic and professional staff at more than 120 universities and colleges across Canada. At the April 28-29 meeting of the CAUT Council, our governing body, the following motion was unanimously adopted by delegates:

WHEREAS in February 2021, Thompson Rivers University President Brett Fairbairn and the Chair of the TRU Board of Governors (BoG) Marilyn McLean received complaints regarding allegations of racism, misogyny, sexism and sexual harassment against TRU Vice President Finance and Administration Matt Milovick and Associate Vice President of People and Culture Larry Phillips.

WHEREAS the TRU President and BoG Chair have refused to put the respondents on paid leave pending the outcome of the investigation and have ignored calls to do so from: TRUFA, TRUSU, CUPE 4879, CUPE national, CAUT, TRUFA Decolonization Reconciliation Indigenization Standing Committee (DRISC), the TRUFA Equity Committee, the TRUFA Gender Equity Committee, petition signed by over 100 TRUFA members; as well letters written by departments.

WHEREAS on January 26th Thompson Rivers University Faculty Association (TRUFA) held a general meeting where a motion was passed to direct the TRUFA executive to hold a non-confidence vote on the leadership of TRU President Dr. Brett Fairbairn and TRU Board Chair Ms. Marilyn Maclean. 97% of the 100 members in attendance voted in favour of holding this vote.

WHEREAS the TRUFA Executive conducted the anonymous vote between February 2 and February 8th. The vote went out to 689 faculty members.

WHEREAS 80% of responding faculty (n=384) do not have confidence in the leadership of TRU President, Dr. Brett Fairbairn and 82% do not have confidence in the leadership of TRU Board of Governors Chair, Marilyn McLean.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT CAUT Council express its non-confidence in the President and Chair of the Board of Thompson Rivers University.

As you are aware, we have written to you earlier about this matter. It is unfortunate that the administration has failed to address the concerns of the faculty association and the broader academic community, such that it was necessary to take the rare step of conducting a vote of non-confidence. I urge you to resolve this matter immediately so that confidence in the administration may be restored.

Sincerely,



David Robinson
Executive Director

/ch

cc: Peter McInnis, President, CAUT
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Tara Lyster, President, Thompson Rivers University Faculty Association
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Brent Calvert, President, Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of British Columbia
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