

Rita Leone

Candidate for Non-Faculty Representative

TRU Board of Governors

Associate Director, IT Client Services
20 years at Thompson Rivers University



I am seeking the opportunity to serve as your non-faculty representative on the TRU Board of Governors. After 20 years at TRU, I have a deep appreciation for our university, our community, and the role we play in the lives of students and the communities we serve.

Leadership and institutional experience

As Associate Director, IT Client Services, I lead the IT Service Desk, desktop and endpoint services, classroom technology and audiovisual services, and IT asset management. I collaborate across academic and administrative areas, balance competing priorities, and manage institutional resources responsibly. Throughout my career, I have led teams and contributed to university-wide technology and service improvements, working with colleagues at all levels.

University governance

I am a current TRU Senator, serving through December 2026, a previous member of the Senate Research Committee, and a current member of the Senate Budget Committee. These roles have broadened my understanding of institutional priorities, academic and administrative perspectives, financial pressures, and TRU's longer-term direction.

Education and professional development

My education and professional development include General Studies through TRU Open Learning, ITIL 4, IT Asset Management certification (ITAM), the TRU Leaders Program, Project Management Certification, and Harvard's Data Science Initiative Intensive in Agentic AI. I continue to develop my knowledge of leadership, technology, service delivery and artificial intelligence.

Sector and community involvement

I currently serve as a BCNET Program Chair, contributing perspectives and experience from higher education. I also participate in community and volunteer activities, including coordination and support for large-scale events.

My commitment to TRU

If elected, I would bring a practical, thoughtful and collaborative perspective to the Board. I believe effective governance means asking thoughtful and sometimes difficult questions, listening to different perspectives, considering the long-term impact of decisions, and stewarding university resources responsibly. I would serve with openness, integrity and respect, keeping the success of students and employees and the long-term interests of TRU at the centre of decisions.

I would be proud to represent TRU's non-faculty employees.