

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE**

**April 16, 2021**

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The meeting was held at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom.

SENATORS:

Z. Al-Asamil	C. Harasym	C. Nolan
L. Archibald	L. Henderson	A. Pahargarh
P. Barmby	R. Heydon	J. Nord
A. Baxter	H. Hill	P. Peddle
J. Baxter	V. Hocke	S. Pitel
G. Belfry	S. Hodgson	S. Powell
L. Briens	D. Jeffrey	S. Prichard
D. Brou	T. Jenkyn	V. Radcliffe
C. Burghardt- Jesson	C. Jensen	L. Rigg
S. Burke	G. Kelly	S. Roland
C. Burucúa	J. Kitz	G. Santos
E. Chamberlain	D. Kotsopoulos	E. Sapuridis
L. Cipriano	K. Lawless	I. Savani
K. Coley	W. Lehmann	A. Shepard
J. Corrigan	L. Lewis	C. Steeves
J. Cuciurean	J. Li	G. Tigert
S. Datars Bere	L. Logan	J. Toswell
M. Davison	C. McLeod	G. West
R. Dekoter	M. McMurrin	S. Whitehead
J. Finegan	L. Melnyk Gribble	J. Wilson
R. Flemming	K. Mequanint	K. Yeung
L. Frederking	A. Meyer	J. Yoo
J. Garland	M. Milde	B.A. Younker
L. Ghattas	L. Miller	
K. Gibbons	K. Miller	
T. Granadillo	J. Minac	
R. Gros	S. Morrison	
	A. Nelson	

Observers: B. Baron, T. Belton, C. Bressette, R. Bgeginski, C. Brunette-Debassige, R. Chelladurai,  
J. Doerksen, B. MacDougall-Shackleton, J. Massey, M. McGlynn, M. Reesor, k. seanor

**Land Acknowledgement**

S. Roland offered a Land Acknowledgement.

S.21-69 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of March 12, 2021 were approved as circulated.

S.21-70 **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

The President's Report, distributed with the agenda, contained information on the following topics: COVID-19 update, accolades, and leadership updates.

The President additionally commented on the following items:

- The summer term will be offered entirely on-line. Athletic Camps will be suspended, and some summer camps will be delivered virtually.
- The Federal budget will be announced in the coming days. The University will be monitoring the announcement from a post-secondary education perspective for any funding that may be available for research or infrastructure.
- An outage of the OWL system caused all evening exams on April 15 to be postponed. Affected students will be contacted by their instructors on rescheduling the exam. The President reassured it was not a security breach, but a malfunction in the coding. The President thanked all colleagues and the staff at Western Technology Services for their efforts to ensure the system was functioning.
- The searches for Provost & Vice-President (Academic) and Associate Vice-President (Equity, Diversity & Inclusion) are both underway and moving ahead.

The President concluded his report by addressing the recent news concerning a post-secondary institution in Ontario, that is currently in a state of insolvency and dissolution of the relationship with its affiliates. The President reaffirmed that Western University has a very strong partnership with its affiliates and will continue to uphold it.

S.21-71 **UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA**

It was moved by R. Gros, seconded by S. Roland,

That the items listed in the Consent Agenda, except for ITEM 5.1(b), be approved or received for information by the Senate by unanimous consent.

CARRIED

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**REPORT FROM THE OPERATIONS/AGENDA COMMITTEE**

S.21-72 **Information Items Reported by the Operations/Agenda Committee on Unanimous Consent**

The following items reported by the Operations/Agenda Committee were received for information by unanimous consent:

- ITEM 5.1(a) – Senate Membership – Vacancies Filled by Appointment Information

**REPORT FROM THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY AND AWARDS**

S.21-73 **ITEM 5.2(a) Faculty of Information and Media Studies: Revisions to the Admission Requirements of the Major in Media, Information and Technoculture (MIT) and the Major in Media and the Public Interest (MPI) and Revisions to the “Admission Priority for First Year FIMS Students” Policy**

It was moved by R. Gros, seconded by S. Roland,

That effective September 1, 2021, the admission requirements of the Major in Media, Information and Technoculture (MIT) and the Major in Media and the Public Interest (MPI) be revised as shown, and That the “Admission Priority for First Year FIMS Students” policy be revised.

CARRIED

S.21-74 **ITEM 5.2(b) – Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry: Revisions to the Admission Requirements of the DDS Program (Dental Aptitude Test)**

It was moved by R. Gros, seconded by S. Roland,

That the admission requirements of the DDS program be revised as shown, effective July 1, 2021 for the 2021-2022 application cycle.

CARRIED

S.21-75 **ITEM 5.2(c)(i) – Faculty of Science, Department of Earth Sciences: Introduction of a Major in Geophysics**

It was moved by R. Gros, seconded by S. Roland,

That effective September 1, 2021, a Major in Geophysics be introduced by the Department of Earth Sciences in the Faculty of Science.

CARRIED

S.21-76 **ITEM 5.2(c)(ii) – Faculty of Science, Department of Earth Sciences: Revisions to the Admission and Program Requirements of the Honours Specialization and Specialization in Geophysics for Professional Registration**

It was moved by R. Gros, seconded by S. Roland,

That effective September 1, 2021, the admission and program requirements of the Honours

Specialization and Specialization in Geophysics for Professional Registration be revised as shown.

CARRIED

S.21-77 **ITEM 5.2(d) – Faculty of Social Science, Department of Geography and Environment: Introduction of a Major in Climate Change and Society**

It was moved by R. Gros, seconded by S. Roland,

That effective September 1, 2021, a Major in Climate Change and Society be introduced by the Department of Geography and Environment in the Faculty of Social Science.

CARRIED

S.21-78 **ITEM 5.2(e) – Faculty of Social Science, Department of Geography and Environment and Ivey Business School: Revisions to the Admission and Program Requirements of the Honours Specialization in Urban Development and the Combined Honours Specialization in Urban Development/HBA**

It was moved by R. Gros, seconded by S. Roland,

That effective September 1, 2021, the admission and program requirements of the Honours Specialization in Urban Development and the Combined Honours Specialization in Urban Development/HBA be revised as shown.

CARRIED

S.21-79 **ITEM 5.2(f)(i) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Introduction of a Graduate Diploma (GDip) in Executive Healthcare Leadership**

It was moved by R. Gros, seconded by S. Roland,

That effective January 1, 2022, pending Quality Council approval, a Graduate Diploma (GDip) in Executive Healthcare Leadership be introduced by the Ivey Business School and the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry.

CARRIED

S.21-80 **ITEM 5.2(f)(ii) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Revisions to the Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA)**

It was moved by R. Gros, seconded by S. Roland,

That effective September 1, 2021, the Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) be revised as shown.

CARRIED

S.21-81 **ITEM 5.2(f)(iii) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Introduction of a new Milestone for the PhD in Music and the Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA)**

It was moved by R. Gros, seconded by S. Roland,

That effective September 1, 2021, a new milestone requiring doctoral students to complete the online TCPS-2 CORE tutorial on research ethics be introduced for the PhD in Music and the Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA).

CARRIED

S.21-82 **Information Items Reported by the Senate Committee on Academic Policy and Awards**

The following items reported by the Senate Committee on Academic Policy and Awards were received for information by unanimous consent:

- ITEM 5.2(g) – SUPR-U Report: Cyclical Review of the Undergraduate Programs in Chemical and Biochemical Engineering
- ITEM 5.2(h) – New Scholarships and Awards

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

S.21-83 **ITEM 5.1(b) – Revised Senate Meeting Dates – May and June 2021**

ITEM 5.1(b) was removed from the consent agenda due to a concern raised by a Senator regarding the change of the Senate meeting date. The Senator inquired if more changes are to be expected.

The President responded that this is an exceptional circumstance and he does not foresee other upcoming changes to Senate meeting dates. He clarified the change was to grant the strategic planning committee time to allow them to present the plan to the Board of Governors for approval in a timely manner.

M. Davison noted the strategic planning process is vital to frame the future direction of the University, and it is crucial that Senate is involved in this process as much as possible. The additional weeks are required to provide appropriate time to review and incorporate the feedback received from Senate, prior to bringing it forward to Senate for recommendation to Board.

E. Chamberlain noted this is a historic move as no other Senate dates have ever been moved.

**REPORT FROM THE OPERATIONS/AGENDA COMMITTEE**

SS.21-84 **ITEM 7.1 – Nominating Committee Membership**

The following members were acclaimed to the Nominating Committee:

M. Cleveland (SS), Z. Sinel (Law), L. Stephenson (SS), for a term to June 30, 2023, and A. Schuurman (AH), for a term to December 31, 2021.

**REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

S.21-85 **ITEM 8.1(a) – Vice-Chair of Senate**

E. Chamberlain (Law) was acclaimed as the Vice-Chair of Senate, for a term to June 30, 2022.

S.21-86 **ITEM 8.1(b) – Operations/Agenda Committee (OAC)**

The following members were acclaimed to the Senate Operations/Agenda Committee:

P. Barmby (Sci), D. Connelly (HSci), D. Laird (Schulich), A. Nelson (SS), V. Radcliffe (Ivey) for a term to June 30, 2023, J. Chazi (UNDG), for a term to June 30, 2022.

S.21-87 **ITEM 8.1(c) – Senate Committee on Academic Policy and Awards (SCAPA)**

The following members were acclaimed to the Senate Committee on Academic Policy and Awards:

J. Cuciurean (Mus), D. Kotsopoulos (Edu), M. Workentin (Sci), K. Yeung (Sci), for a term to June 30, 2023, C. Gallant (UNDG), for a term to June 30, 2022.

A nomination was received from the floor. C.A. Davidson (GRAD) was acclaimed, for a term to June 30, 2022.

S.21-88 **ITEM 8.1(d) – Senate Committee on University Planning (SCUP)**

The following members were acclaimed to the Senate Committee on University Planning:

D. Kibilds (Admin. Staff), D. Brou (SS), S. Burke (HSci), R. Gros (Schulich), S. Pitel (Law), for a term to June 30, 2023.

Additional nominations were received from the floor. M. Estaiteyeh (GRAD) and J. A. Nord (GRAD) were acclaimed, for a term to June 30, 2022.

S.21-89 **ITEM 8.1(e) – University Research Board (URB)**

The following members were acclaimed to the University Research Board:

A. Nelson (SS), O. Branzei (Ivey), J. Nassichuk (AH), J. Lacefield (Engg), L. Misener (Hsci), for a term to June 30, 2023.

Additional nominations were received from the floor. A. Grzyb (FIMS) was acclaimed, for a term to June 30, 2023. C. A. Davidson (GRAD) and C. Keun Sun Park (GRAD) were acclaimed, for a term to June 30, 2022.

S.21-90 **ITEM 8.1(f) – Honorary Degrees Committee**

The following members were acclaimed to the Honorary Degrees Committee:

A. Chant (Admin. Staff), J. Cardy (HSci), B. Garcia (Schulich), D. Keddy (Admin. Staff), for a term to June 30, 2023, I. Berry (UNDG), for a term to June 30, 2022.

S.21-91 **ITEM 8.1(h) – Distinguished University Professor Selection Committee**

The following members were acclaimed to the Distinguished University Professor Selection Committee:

D. Bentley (AH), J. McNeil (Sci), for a term to June 30, 2023.

S.21-92 **ITEM 8.1(i) – Faculty Scholars Selection Committee**

The following members were acclaimed to the Faculty Scholars Selection Committee:

J. Gilroy (Sci), C. Smeenk (AH), for a term to June 30, 2023.

S.21-93 **ITEM 8.1(j) – Nominating Subcommittee to Nominate a Senator from the General Community**

The following members were acclaimed to the Nominating Subcommittee to Nominate a Senator from the General Community:

K. Mooney (Mus), V. Smye (HSci), for a term to June 30, 2023.

S.21-94 **ITEM 8.1(k) – McIntosh Gallery Committee**

The following members were acclaimed to the McIntosh Gallery Committee:

J. De Souza (Mus), for a term to June 30, 2022, and L. Miller (Vice-Provost, SGPS), for a term to June 30, 2023.

S.21-95 **ITEM 8.1(l) – Advisory Committee for the Office of the Ombudsperson**

The following member was acclaimed to the Advisory Committee for the Office of the Ombudsperson:

A. Walsh (SS), for a term to June 30, 2023.

S.21-96 **ITEM 8.2 – Selection/Review Committee for the Vice-Provost (School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies)**

An additional nomination was received from the floor. An election was held following the Senate meeting. The Senate representatives on the Selection/Review Committee for the Vice-Provost (School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies) are: D. Kotsopoulos (Dean, Faculty of Education), Y. Babenko-Mould (HSci), L. Cipriano (Ivey), Z. Khan (Schulich).

S.21-97 **ITEM 8.3 – Selection/Review Committee for the Vice-Provost (Academic Programs)**

The following members were acclaimed to the Selection/Review Committee for the Vice-Provost

(Academic Programs):

A. Pahargarh (Student), K. Coley (Dean, Faculty of Engineering), T. Isaacs (Associate Dean, Academic, Faculty of Arts & Humanities), Bipasha Baruah (SS), K. Yeung (Sci).

S.21-98 **ITEM 8.4 – Selection/Review Committee for the Dean of the Faculty of Law**

The following members were acclaimed to the Selection/Review Committee for the Dean of the Faculty of Law:

S. Hodgson (Dean, Ivey), P. Barmby (Sci), J. Baxter (SS).

**REPORT FROM THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY AND AWARDS**

S.21-99 **ITEM 9.1 – Report of the Subcommittee on Teaching Awards (SUTA): Western’s Excellence in Teaching Award Winners for 2020-21**

John Cuciurean presented the recipients of the Western’s Excellence in Teaching Awards for 2020-21.

**REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY PLANNING**

SS.21-100 **ITEM 10.1 – 2021-22 University Operating and Capital Budgets**

It was moved by R. Gros, seconded by S. Roland,

That Senate provide advice to the Board of Governors through the President and Vice-Chancellor, recommending the approval of the 2021-22 University Operating and Capital Budgets shown in ITEM 10.1(a).

CARRIED

S. Prichard, Acting Provost & Vice-President (Academic) and R. Chelladurai, Associate Vice-President (Planning, Budgeting & Information Technology) provided Senators with a presentation on the 2021-22 University Operating and Capital Budgets, provided as ITEM 10.1(a). The presentation highlighted the planning and budgetary contexts, impact of COVID-19, new initiatives and priorities, operating reserve forecast, and an overview of the 2021-2022 capital budget.

The presentation also highlighted the following items:

- Enrolments exceeded projected figures
- Impact of COVID-19 on Ancillary Units
- No update received on the Province’s tuition framework rates for 2021-22. Revenue forecasts are based on a “no change” assumption to domestic tuition rates
- Updates on priorities and initiatives from last year’s budget



- In response to the pandemic, significant additional one-time costs (totaling \$18.2 million) in the following areas: on-line course development, I.T. infrastructure expansion, pandemic supplies, facilities planning and modifications to ensure a safe campus, virtual student services, and health and safety initiatives
- Total operating revenue is projected to be \$833.1 million, an increase of 3.2% over 2020-21
- Total expenditures are projected to be \$829.2 million, a decrease of 1.6% over 2020-21

As the strategic plan is underway, six themes have emerged to represent the University's priorities for the next year. S. Prichard highlighted the budget response to the six priority themes:

- 1. Faculty and Staff Renewal:** Plans for 94 proposed new faculty positions and 42 new staff positions within the faculties and an additional 100 new proposed staff positions. This is the largest increase in faculty and staff positions proposed and for which the budget accounts in many years.
- 2. Enhancing Student Experience:** A recent external review identified 48 recommendations highlighting the need to support accessibility to ensure the full engagement and success of all students. A student advisory committee and a working group with campus-wide representation are being established to guide the development of the action plan to implement the recommendations. In support of this priority, a sum of \$1 million in one-time funding in 2021-22 is being allocated.
- 3. Support for Scholarship/Research Initiatives:** Expansion of investments in the Vice-President (Research) Portfolio. A proposed new unit will be led by a new Associate Vice-President (Innovation & Strategic Partnerships), who will assume oversight responsibility for WORLDiscoveries and the Western Research Parks. S. Prichard discussed additional investments to the Postdoctoral Fellowships Program, funding support for the development of a Clinical Research Platform that will focus on clinical studies, support of University-level Research Institutes, and the construction of Interdisciplinary Research Facilities.
- 4. Investments in Curriculum Enhancement:** As a complement to the Interdisciplinary Research Initiatives Program (IDRIs), one-time \$2 million funding will be allocated for the development of interdisciplinary courses/programs. Also, a sum of \$1 million in one-time funding is being recommended to support Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) curriculum development, and \$1 million in one-time funding in support of Indigenizing University curriculum.
- 5. A Safe and Sustainable Campus Physical Infrastructure that Supports our Academic Needs:** The University signed the Paris Pledge for Action to significantly reduce Green House Gas Emissions. In order to meet these commitments, Western has made significant investments (over \$35 million over the last 4 years). In this budget, an additional \$10 million in one-time funding to support our campus-wide sustainability initiatives will be provided. Also, a one-time \$10 million in funding is proposed to support the Open Space Strategy, an initiative that involves projects aimed at the transformation to a more pedestrian friendly campus.
- 6. Preparing for our Next Strategic Plan:** The next Strategic Plan is expected to be presented for approval in June 2021. In anticipation of the goals and directions of the Strategic Plan, the following are being recommended for the 2021-22 budget:
  - A sum of \$20 million in one-time funding to support the implementation of priorities recommended in the new Strategic Plan.

- A sum of \$2.5 million in one-time funding to the Vice-President (Advancement) Portfolio – in order to begin pre-planning for the necessary staff resources to support the next fundraising campaign.
- A sum of \$1 million in base funding for Western Communications to enhance the central communications infrastructure which plays an increasingly critical role in all aspects of promoting and communicating priorities.

A Senator submitted the following questions in advance, relating to the University Operating and Capital Budgets:

a). Budget page 2 states “We had set aside \$13.5 million in special one-time funding to support students impacted by COVID-19 and who are faced with financial pressures. From this, a sum of \$3 million was used to support our students through various programs which left about \$10.5 million unspent.” Were all student requests for student support related to the pandemic met, either from these or other available funds?

R. Chelladurai advised that in response to the pandemic, a number of programs were launched successfully in April, through which students received financial support. In addition to the funding from the central budget, the faculties also provided funding in various ways, and Advancement Operations launched the Student Relief Fund. The combined funding was approximately \$100 million in student financial aid. Through the combination of the funding, student requests and needs that came forward in terms of financial support were met.

A Senator inquired if the unspent \$10 million funding to support students impacted by COVID-19 will be carried over to continue to supplement bursaries and additional financial support, particularly at the graduate level.

R. Chelladurai advised that the remaining unspent \$10 million will not be carried over to a specific target; the funds will be built into the budget plan for next year. The University is aware of the financial challenges faced by graduate students during the pandemic. A needs assessment is currently underway to highlight the specific needs of graduate students. R. Chelladurai advised that graduate students are able to approach the Graduate Bursary Assistance office to seek financial support.

b). Budget page 8 states: “Faculties with substantial carryforward funds (which are one-time in nature) were provided with the option of exchanging carryforward funds for base funding at the rate of \$1 million carryforward for \$150,000 base budget. This option was made available in-year in the current year (2020-21).” Will this option be made available in 2021-22 and indeed in a subsequent year when it could be used effectively by a faculty?

S. Prichard responded that no decision has been reached on whether an option to exchange carryforward funds to base funds will be made available in the upcoming years. She noted the exchange option was in response to faculties looking to make further investments and increasing their base budget, particularly around faculty recruitment. S. Prichard advised a decision will be based on the carryforward funds and a discussion amongst the Deans, the Provost and the President.

c). Budget page 35 line 2 addresses spending \$15.5M on the Fieldhouse. Should this be being treated as an operating expense rather than as a capital project (and so left to the capital budget)?

L. Logan, Vice-President (Operations & Finance) responded that the University does not have a regular source of funding for capital projects. Funds are borrowed for some of the University's capital needs, in balance with other sources of funding within the capital structure of the University. L. Logan advised the Fieldhouse expense is appropriately defined in the budget to move the project forward.

A Senator inquired if there are ongoing discussions regarding altering the model that shapes the faculty renewal process. The Senator noted the current model does not allow for any significant renewal in the faculty of Arts and Humanities, which is continually losing faculty, meanwhile facing an increase in student enrolments.

S. Prichard responded that there are ongoing discussions in regards to budget models to support interdisciplinary work and faculty renewal. She noted that for the first time this year, the faculty of Arts and Humanities received a transfer of budget due to the large number of students from other disciplines who enrolled in classes in the faculty of Arts and Humanities.

An Observer submitted the following question in advance, relating to the University Operating and Capital Budgets:

I want to start by commending Western's 2021-2022 Capital and Operating Budget. In several areas, the USC has found many of the investments to be extremely student-centric, particularly those towards the creation of the Office of an AVP EDI, Indigenous and EDI-focused curriculum improvements, as well as continued commitment to sustainability and improving our campus' environmental impact. I did, however, want to address the planned increase in international tuition. Following the initial impacts of the pandemic, students heavily voiced their opposition to the increases in international tuition that took place this past year. As a result, the USC called on the University to limit future tuition increases to 5% and 3% for incoming and returning international students respectively. In seeing increases of 8% and 4% for incoming and returning international students respectively in this year's budget, in the midst of a third wave where students continue to be heavily financially impacted by the pandemic, I on behalf of the USC wish to ask about the plans for these increases. Specifically, how much longer will increases continue at this rate? And in the name of predictability for students' financial needs, would the university agree to formally announce its plan for international tuition increases and the rates of increase each year?

R. Chelladurai responded that 85% of the University's operating budget is derived from tuition revenue and grants. The government has halted its grants to post-secondary institutions for over four years, and the budget assumes no increase in domestic tuition rates. In order to enable the academic endeavors and aspirations of the University, resources and funds must be made available through tuition. R. Chelladurai noted that international student tuition is in fact increasing, but at benchmark with the Ontario U6. Two new initiatives were launched in support of international students. The first initiative is the introduction of a pilot scholarship program to offer financial support for international students, under the direction of Western International. Furthermore, Western will announce a commitment to new and incoming international students; upon their enrolment, tuition rates will not increase by more than 4% per year in future years of study.

An observer inquired how the increases in tuition will be communicated to international students. The President responded that the Board of Governors is the formal authority to set tuition, therefore changes cannot be communicated until the Board approves the budget. The President noted changes are posted on the web, and ensured they will be communicated in a timely manner.

SS.21-101 **ITEM 10.2 – Strategic Planning Update**

M. Davison, Chair of SCUP, provided an oral update on the Strategic plan. The Strategic Plan Steering committee has been engaged in consultations by faculty and theme, and is in the process of integrating information into the initial draft.

T. Rice (Executive Director, Marketing Communications) provided Senators with a presentation on the process and phases of the Strategic Planning consultations.

The President thanked the Western community, including faculty, staff, and members of the Strategic Planning Steering committee for their efforts and collaboration to preserve and enhance Western's strengths. The President advised a draft of the Strategic Planning framework will be presented to Senate in May, with an opportunity for a large-scale discussion. A final draft will be presented in June.

A Senator inquired if members of Senate will be able to view an initial draft of the document to offer comments prior to the May Senate meeting.

The President responded that Senators will be presented with a draft prior to the upcoming Senate meeting in May, for an opportunity to provide comments and feedback. The delay to the June Senate meeting is intended to provide additional time to review and incorporate all of the feedback received at Senate, prior to bringing it forward in June.

SS.21-102 **ITEM 12.0 – Report of the Academic Colleague**

Senate received the Academic Colleague Report on the April 2021 meeting for information.

S.21-103 **DISCUSSION AND QUESTION PERIOD**

An Observer submitted the following question in advance:

**Follow-up Regarding Senate Elections**

I would like an update on the matter of Lecturers' right to vote in Senate elections. Western is the outlier among Ontario universities in forbidding Lecturers to vote or to stand for Senate election. Denying Lecturers the ability to participate in collegial governance is an equity issue, as this group is disproportionately female and precariously employed. The prospect of a non-voting observer seat at Page 182 Senate is not an advance, as meetings are already open and members of the audience can already request permission to speak.

The President advised there is no update on the matter of Lecturers' right to vote at Senate. The University is seeking legal advice on the proposal received.

A Senator expressed concerns regarding the University's financial state and the relationship with its affiliates, taking into consideration the recent news of insolvency of a post-secondary institution in Ontario.

The President reassured that Western University is in a highly-solvent financial state, through the efforts of its colleagues, faculty, staff members and students. The President advised that Western values its relationship with its affiliates, and is continually striving to strengthen the partnerships.

A Senator requested updates on class sizes in September. The President advised that Western plans to offer in-person classes in September, as vaccinations are becoming more available. Plans for class sizes must follow the government's guidelines, which have not been established. Information regarding class size and other safety protocols will be announced once the guidelines are definitive.

A Senator requested updates on the search for the Provost & Vice-President (Academic). The President noted the search is underway; the selection committee is currently working on consultations and profile building. The President thanked S. Prichard for her outstanding work in the Acting Provost & Vice-President (Academic) role.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

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A. Shepard  
Chair

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A. Bryson  
University Secretary