



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

January 20, 2023

The meeting was held at 1:30 p.m. in Room 1R40, Arts & Humanities Building.

SENATORS:

M. Adler	E. Kalaydjian	A. Schuurman
G. Arku	M. Kim	A. Shami
K. Arora	K. Kirkwood	A. Shepard
P. Barmby	D. Kotsopoulos	D. Smith
A. Baxter	J. Lacefield	C. Steeves
F. Beier	D. Laird	L. Stoyles
I. Berry	J. Langille	F. Strzelczyk
J. Binoy	L. Latif	J. Sutton
M. Bordignon	D. Lee	D. Tempesta
A. Bryson	C. Lengyell	J. Toswell
S. Burke	A. Liu	J. Watson
E. Chen	M. McMurrin	J. Welch
K. Choi	M. Milde	J. Yoo
M. Cleveland	L. Miller	
K. Coley	K. Mooney	
M. Davison	S. Morrison	
R. De Koter	I. Namukasa	
G. De Viveiros	A. Nelson	
M. Fahmida	B. Neff	
D. Ferri	C. Nicholls	
T. Granadillo	J. O'Hagan	
A. Haque	T. Orchard	
N. Harney	A. Pyati	
L. Henderson	A. Robin	
K. Henricus	C. Robinson	
R. Heydon	S. Roland	
S. Hodgson	B. Rubin	
M. Joanisse	G. Santos	

Observers: C. Bressette, R. Chelladurai, J. Doerksen, K. Dufresne, E. Gardner, S. Lewis, M. McGlynn, O. Oloya, M. Stiegemeyer.

A. Shepard, President & Vice-Chancellor, welcomed Senators back from the winter holiday break.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Emilie Kalaydjian offered a Land Acknowledgement.

S.23-01 **MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING**

It was moved by M. Milde, seconded by S. Roland,

That the minutes of the meeting of December 2, 2022, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

S.23-02 **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

One item was requested to be added under Business Arising:

In follow up to a discussion at the December 2, 2022 Senate meeting regarding extending the operational hours of the library at Western University, a question from a Senator was received prior to the meeting.

The question was addressed during the discussion and question period.

S.23-03 **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

The President's Report, distributed with the agenda, contained information on the following topics: Western Research Excellence Awards program, Mustangs celebrate academic excellence, accolades, and leadership update.

In his remarks, the President additionally commented on the following items:

- Welcomed Senators to the first Senate meeting of 2023.
- Highlighted the visit of Marci Ien, Federal Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth, to Western University.
- With respect to student admission applications, the President noted that the deadline around consideration has passed, and applications continue to be strong in terms of quality and volume.
- The President advised that he was pleased to attend the Mayor's State of the City and noted that many issues were discussed, including homelessness, housing, and transit. The President met with Mayor Josh Morgan to reinforce the need of the City's attention on the student housing, bus service for students and pedestrian safety around Western.
- Highlighted the ongoing searches for leadership positions– including Vice-President (Research).

REPORT OF THE OPERATIONS / AGENDA COMMITTEE

S.23-04 **ITEM 5.1 Announcement of a Vice-Chair of the Operations/Agenda Committee**

Sophie Roland was elected as Vice-Chair of OAC in August 2022. In December, she was elected as Vice-Chair of Senate. As a result, she now serves as the Chair of OAC and the Committee has selected Constanza Burucúa to serve as Vice-Chair for the period from January 1 to June 30, 2023.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

S.23-05 ITEM 6.1 Membership – Senate Committee on Academic Policy (Policy)

Amala Poli was acclaimed to the Senate Committee on Academic Policy (Policy) as a graduate student for a term to June 30, 2023.

S.23-06 ITEM 6.2 – Membership – Operations/Agenda Committee (OAC)

Treena Orchard was acclaimed to the Operations/Agenda Committee (OAC) for a term to June 30, 2023.

REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY PLANNING

S.23-07 ITEM 9.0 Report of the Senate Committee on University Planning (M. Davison)

Matt Davison provided a brief update on the work of the Senate Committee on University Planning.

M. Davison began his report by outlining the confidential process of approving the list of the designated chairs, professorships and fellowships that was presented for Senate information under the Consent Agenda.

M. Davison continued his report by providing an overview summarizing the work completed through the Office of the Ombudsperson.

M. Davison further described the Annual Budget Planning Process. The budget model and process were discussed at the SCUP meeting on November 21, 2022. In terms of process, units have currently submitted their budgets for discussion at the Senior-level. It is expected that the item on the Budget Planning Process will come forward at the upcoming SCUP meeting in February and then will proceed to the Senate.

M. Davison concluded his report by providing a summary of the progress on the current capital project of the Bioconvergence Centre.

REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH BOARD

S.23-08 ITEM 10.0 Report of the University Research Board (B. Neff)

Bryan Neff, Acting Vice-President (Research) provided a general overview on recent activities of Western Research and expanded on several items for the information of the Senate.

B. Neff presented the Terms of Reference for the Western Research Core Facilities Working

Group approved at the January 10, 2023 URB meeting. He outlined the steps that have been completed, are in progress, and are planned for further work by the Western Research Core Facilities Working Group.

B. Neff concluded his report by providing recognition of a number of awards and other distinctions honoring faculty members and students and emphasizing the importance of celebrating the achievements of the Western research community (Appendix A).

REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC COLLEAGUE

S.23-09 ITEM 11.0 – Report of the Academic Colleague (P. Barmby)

P. Barmby referred to the written report of the Academic Colleague for the January 20, 2023 Senate meeting provided in the Senate agenda package for information.

P. Barmby began her report by advising of [the COU's Accessibility Resources Website](#) and recommended it to the Senate as a functional resource.

P. Barmby further commented on the items mentioned in her report regarding students' preparedness for university, financial stability, the Auditor General's report on Laurentian University, and high school grade inflation concerns.

S.23-10 CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

REPORT FROM THE OPERATIONS / AGENDA COMMITTEE

Information Items Reported by the Operations / Agenda Committee

S.23-11 The following items reported by the Operations / Agenda Committee were received for information by unanimous consent:

- ITEM 12.1(a) – Schedule of Senate and Senate Committee Meetings (2023-24)
- ITEM 12.1(b) – Senate Membership – Vacancies Filled by Appointment
- ITEM 12.1(c) – Revised Schedule of Ceremonies – Spring Convocation 2023 (#321)
- ITEM 12.1(e) – Annual Report on Convocation Statistics – 2022

REPORT FROM THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC CURRICULUM AND AWARDS

S.23-12 ITEM 12.2.(a) – Faculty of Health Sciences, Arthur Labatt Family School of Nursing: Revisions to the Policy on Progression Requirements – Nursing

It was moved by M. Milde, seconded by S. Burke

That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Curriculum and Awards, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2023, the policy on Progression Requirements – Nursing be revised as shown in Item 12.2(a).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

S.23-13 **ITEM 12.2(b) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Introduction of a Graduate Diploma (GDip) in Climate Risk Assessment and Opportunity**

It was moved by M. Milde, seconded by S. Burke

That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Curriculum and Awards, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2023, a Graduate Diploma (GDip) in Climate Risk Assessment and Opportunity be introduced by the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies as shown in Item 12.2(b).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Information Item Reported by the Senate Committee on Academic Curriculum and Awards

S.23-14 The following item reported by the Senate Committee on Academic Curriculum and Awards was received for information by unanimous consent:

- ITEM 12.2(d) – Report of the Subcommittee on Program Review – Graduate (SUPR-G): Cyclical Reviews of the Graduate Programs in Civil and Environmental Engineering and Orthodontics

REPORT FROM THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY PLANING

S.23-15 The following items reported by the Senate Committee on University Planning were received for information by unanimous consent:

- ITEM 12.3(a) - Designated Chairs, Professorships and Faculty Fellowships Approved on Behalf of the Senate in 2022 by the Senate Committee on University Planning

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

S.23-16 The following items reported through Announcements and Communications were received for information by unanimous consent:

- ITEM 12.4(a) – Election Results – Selection Committee for the Vice-Provost (Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies)

S.23-17 **ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

The following items were removed from the Consent Agenda:

REPORT FROM THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC CURRICULUM AND AWARDS

ITEM 12.2(e) – New Scholarships, Awards and Prizes

A Senator requested this item be removed from the Consent Agenda as they had a concern regarding the proposed language on the Big Blue Bubble scholarship that may appear as an

internship rather than a scholarship. Furthermore, concerns were raised with respect to the decision-making process and interviews conducted by the Big Blue Bubble, which may be in contradiction with Western's rules.

M. Davison provided Senators with the detailed clarification regarding the terms of reference for the new Big Blue Bubble Award in Gaming and short historical overview of similar scholarships. He further advised that MAPP 2.10 includes all structural information regarding the decision-making process. A clarification was provided that students are not obligated to participate in the work term and the short-list will be announced by the Department.

A Senator suggested that the proposed language might be changed to remove the word "final" selection.

ITEM 12.3(b) – Western Office of the Ombudsperson Annual Report 2021/22

A Senator requested this item be removed from the Consent Agenda for further clarification as the Report included information regarding the number of calls from parents. A concern was raised whether the disclosure of a student's personal information might violate Western's Privacy Policy.

Jennifer Meister, Ombudsperson, advised Senators that no student's personal records could be released outside the University, including to family members without the student's consent, but they can speak with parents about policies and procedures.

Jennifer Meister was asked to comment on the recommendation provided in the Ombudsperson Annual Report that the Senate Policy on Course Outlines be updated to include a statement that the make-up date for the final exam be included when known. As noted, this recommendation has not been followed up with the Associate Deans yet.

S.23-18

DISCUSSION AND QUESTION PERIOD

The full text of questions submitted in advance of the meeting were posted in the Agenda at Item 14.0 prior to the meeting.

1. A Senator asked if information on the Provost's Task Force on Academic Integrity could be provided to the Senate.

Following a request, Susan Lewis commented on the established Provost's Task Force on Academic Integrity. It was noted the importance of academic integrity for the quality of Western's Programs and for the reputation of the University in general.

S. Lewis commented on the work completed by the members of the Task Force and on the prospective steps for reducing violations of academic integrity. The membership list is appended to the Senate Minutes (Appendix B). In concluding her remarks, S. Lewis informed Senators that a final report with recommendations would be submitted to the Provost by April 2023.

In response to a question regarding the participation of faculty members in the framework under the Provost's Task Force on Academic Integrity it was confirmed the number of

members hold both administrative and faculty positions.

A Senator from the faculty of Law raised an issue concerning the impact of academic accommodation on academic integrity.

2. A Senator asked whether a policy or procedure could be created in respect of requiring Indigeneity at Western, noting that the Senator was unable to find any on the Office of Indigenous Initiatives website

Christy Bressette, Vice-Provost & Associate Vice-President (Indigenous Initiatives), provided an overview summarizing the work completed through Indigenous Post-Secondary Education Council and the newly formed National Association of Indigenous Leaders. The Guideline to affirming indigenous and indigeneity is under review and will be presented to the Senate for information, once finalized.

3. A Senator asked whether the Honorary Degrees Committee has a process in place for recommending to Senate the rescission of an honorary doctorate, and if not, recommended consider it.

Amy Bryson, University Secretary, advised that committee's terms of reference not include it and anticipated that any issues would be managed on a case-by-case basis. As part of the review process, the Secretary will refer this matter to the Honorary Degrees Committee for further consideration.

4. At the December Senate meeting, during discussion of the Annual Report of the University Librarian, a question was asked regarding the hours of operation of the libraries and the Law Library in particular. A follow-up question has been received from a Senator asking whether the library hours could be returned to their pre-pandemic schedule or be extended even further.

Chief Librarian, Catherine Steeves noted that they use an evidence-based approach to determine operations in the libraries, including looking at traffic, usage, and staff availability. She noted the impact of a reduction in user-services staff over the past few years due to budget constraints.

C. Steeves described the activities and services aimed at providing a dedicated quality space for students. She highlighted extended hours during the exam period with regards to access to the collection and study space.

A Senator pointed out the best practice from other universities around twenty-four-hour service and emphasized the importance of sustainable access to the professional libraries for students.

5. A Senator asked if the President would provide an update on the Chancellor Electoral Board.

A. Shepard noted that criteria for the selection of the next Chancellor have been established

and would be posted with the Call for Nominations during the coming week.
A. Shepard additionally commented on his reappointment.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

A. Shepard
Chair

A. Bryson
University Secretary