



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

December 1, 2023

The meeting was held at 1:33 p.m. in Room 1R40, Arts & Humanities Building

SENATORS:

L. Abdelellah	J. Herrera	P. Pexman
E. Ansari	S. Hodgson	S. Pitel
G. Arku	J. Hutter	J. Plug
K. Arora	J. Ijam	S. Powell
P. Barmby	J. Jin	A. Puvirajah
M. Bassnett	M. Joannis	C. Robinson
J. Beecroft	I. Johnsrude	D. Robinson
J. Binoy	A. Jokhu	B. Rubin
M. Bordignon	E. Kalaydjian	G. Santos
N. Borradaile	Z. Kamal	L. Shaw
K. Bressette	M. Kim	A. Shepard
A. Bryson	H. Kirk	Z. Sinel
E. Chamberlain	K. Kirkwood	D. Smith
B. Cheadle	D. Laird	C. Steeves
K. Choi	J. Langille	F. Strzelczyk
S. Clarke	C. Lengyell	J. Sutton
M. Cleveland	J. Li	J. Toswell
K. Coley	A. Liu	R. Ventresca
R. DeKoter	L. Logan	C. Vanderlugt
S. Feagan	D. Malloy	J. Welch
D. Ferri	C. A. Marshall	S. Whitehead
L. Frederking	M. McGrath	J. Wild
J. Garland	M. H. McMurrin	J. Yoo
B. Gillies	K. Meyer	A. Zecevic
M. Green-Barteet	L. Miller	
N. Harney	M. Modeski	
L. Henderson	K. Moore	
K. Henricus	K. Olson	

Observers: S. Ajak, R. Chelladurai, L. Cho, J. Doerksen, R. Isard, S. Lewis, M. Machado, M. McGlynn, V. Sarkany, J. Weststar

The Chair expressed gratitude to L. Miller for her service as Vice-Provost (Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies) and advised that Kamran Siddiqui has been appointed to this role for a five-year term effective January 1, 2024.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

K. Coley offered a Land Acknowledgement.

MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

S.23-195 **ITEM 2.0 – Minutes of the Meeting of November 10, 2023**

It was moved by G. Santos, seconded by C. Steeves,

That the minutes of the meeting of November 10, 2023, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

S.23-196 **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

The President's Report, distributed with the agenda, contained information on the following topics: the Blue-Ribbon Panel; the appointment of the new Canada Excellence Research Chair; a generous \$3 million donation from an alumna; as well as accolades and a leadership update.

In his remarks, A. Shepard, President & Vice-Chancellor additionally commented on the following items:

- A notice about the upcoming Senate Holiday Reception immediately following the Senate meeting.
- The outcome of the Senate Information Session held on November 24, 2023.
- Starting January 2024, Senate meetings will be held in the Great Hall, Somerville House.
- Western has achieved a record level of research funding.
- The upcoming fundraising campaign and the ongoing efforts involved.

S.23-197 **REPORT OF THE PROVOST**

F. Strzelczyk, Provost & Vice-President (Academic) provided a verbal report on the updates and initiatives under her portfolio.

The Provost began her report with a brief recap of the Senate Information Session held on November 24 regarding Brescia's proposed integration with Western University. The presentation was included in the agenda package. The Provost provided insights into the negotiation process with UWOFA, discussed the achieved resolution, and outlined the plans for formalizing the binding agreement.

Senate Minutes
December 1, 2023

J. Doerksen, Vice-Provost (Students), commented on Brescia's proposed integration from the student perspective and informed Senate regarding the anticipated number of students expected to join Western this spring.

M. McGlynn, Vice-Provost (Academic Planning, Policy & Faculty), shared details about Western's commitment to providing employment opportunities, including both full-time and part-time positions, to Brescia's permanent faculty and staff.

S. Lewis, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs), provided a brief overview of the proposed integration from Western's academic programming perspective, including modules with parallels at Western, modules distinct to Brescia and the prospective pathway for changing the administrative home of Brescia's programs. Additionally, she noted that after the four-year commitment is met, units will determine the future course of action for Brescia programs.

The Provost noted that the four-year Brescia/Western Integration budget plan will be presented next spring, following the standard procedure, along with the 2024-2025 University budget.

The Provost concluded her report by outlining the various activities planned for the implementation after the binding agreement is signed. She pointed out that, as part of this process, matters falling within the Senate's purview will be addressed as appropriate.

In response to a question, F. Strzelczyk clarified that the Brescia Preliminary-Year Program will undergo modifications to meet the evolving needs and expectations of students.

A Senator raised a question of clarification regarding the plans for the Library at Brescia University College after integration. Catherine Steeves, Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian, noted that, at this point, it has not been decided, emphasizing that the nature of the library services offered on campus reflects the academic programs and specific requirements of the location.

In response to a question regarding the financial aspect of the proposed Brescia/Western Integration and Brescia's budget deficit, the Chair provided comments on the assumed assets and liabilities, including those related to land and buildings. Additionally, the Chair noted that financial matters are not under Senate purview and that the financial figures for Brescia are publicly accessible.

S.23-198 **REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT (RESEARCH)**

P. Pexman, Vice-President (Research), provided a general overview of Western's research activities and began her remarks by highlighting the record amount of research funding acquired in 2022-23, along with the growing numbers of new applications for the upcoming year. Gratitude was expressed to the faculty and staff members who were involved in the funding application process.

P. Pexman continued her report by noting that regarding the governmental research security initiative, a list of sensitive research areas has not been released yet. To safeguard research, Western has appointed a Research Security Officer and posted a new position for the Director of Research Security.

Senate Minutes
December 1, 2023

P. Pexman continued her report by advising on the potential benefits for Western to become a signatory to the Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), aiming to enhance evaluation methods for the output of research.

P. Pexman also reported on the Animal-Based Research Transparency Initiative and discussed the recent efforts made in this regard.

In response to a question about the potential downsides of signing DORA, P. Pexman mentioned that, for the institution, it might lead to an increase in workload, but the benefits will outweigh the drawbacks.

In response to a question, P. Pexman advised that the core principles of DORA align with the practices and standards of major funding institutions.

S.23-199 **REPORT OF THE OPERATIONS / AGENDA COMMITTEE (OAC)**

ITEM 6.1 – Brescia-Western Integration

Senate acknowledges Brescia University College (Brescia) as a longstanding and important affiliate and partner of The University of Western Ontario (Western) and is sensitive to the current context in which Brescia seeks to find a new future for itself through integration with Western.

Senate notes that changes to any existing academic programming at Brescia and Western following the proposed integration will be brought forward to Senate for deliberation and voting in accordance with its authority and process. Senate also notes that the overarching concern of Senate is that the quality of programs at Western should not be impacted by the integration.

Senate acknowledges the ongoing negotiations between Western and Brescia with the intent that they will enter into a binding memorandum of agreement regarding the integration in the near future.

It was moved by E. Chamberlain,

That Senate supports and recommends the integration of Brescia University College and The University of Western Ontario as contemplated in the Memorandum of Understanding dated September 21, 2023.

CARRIED

REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY

S.23-200 **ITEM 8.1 – Revisions to the Policy on “Progression Requirements – Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.)”**

On behalf of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy, M. Cleveland presented the revision to the Policy on “Progression Requirements – Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.)”.

Senate Minutes
December 1, 2023

It was moved by M. Cleveland,

That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2024, the policy on “Progression Requirements – Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.)” be revised as shown in Item 8.1.

CARRIED

REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY PLANNING (SCUP)

S.23-201 ITEM 10.1 – Update on the Budget Planning Process and Guidelines

F. Strzelczyk, Provost & Vice-President (Academic) presented an update on the budget planning process and associated guidelines outlined in the written report in item 10.1.

The Provost advised that the University is currently in the second year of the three-year budget cycle. She provided details on the steps and timeline involved in reviewing and preparing for the 2024-25 budget, adding the advantages of a multi-year budget and highlighting that the budget priorities are in alignment with the strategic plan.

The Provost addressed a question of clarification regarding the required approval by the Provost for new direct-entry undergraduate courses before proceeding through the Senate committee approval process to be eligible for revenue-sharing funding.

In response to a question regarding the potential changes to revenue with respect to the recommendations of the Blue-Ribbon Panel, the Chair advised that the budget will be based on no provincial tuition or grant increases and there are no specific expectations set regarding potential increases to tuition or grants.

S.23-202 ITEM 10.2 – Annual Report of the University Librarian

C. Steeves, Vice-Provost & Chief Librarian, presented the Annual Report of the University Librarian for 2022/23. The Report was provided in the agenda package.

In response to a question whether the Western Libraries survey results will be publicly available, C. Steeves advised that the results are for internal purposes and may be utilized upon request for accreditation purposes.

In response to a question regarding the silent study space, C. Steeves noted that a new silent study space will be created. This space will be enclosed to mitigate external noise, and there is a possibility that it will be supervised by staff.

S.23-203 REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC COLLEAGUE

P. Barmby presented the Report of the Academic Colleague referring to materials in the agenda for information.

S.23-204 **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

REPORT FROM THE OPERATIONS / AGENDA COMMITTEE (OAC)

S.23-205 **Information Items Reported by OAC on Unanimous Consent:**

- ITEM 13.1(a) – Senate Membership – Vacancies Filled by Appointment

REPORT FROM THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC CURRICULUM AND AWARDS (ACA)

S.23-206 **ITEM 13.2(a) – Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry: Renaming of the DDS Program for Internationally Trained Dentists**

It was moved by E. Chamberlain, seconded by G. Santos,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2024, the “DDS Program for Internationally Trained Dentists” be renamed as the Advanced Standing Program for International Dental Graduates”.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

S.23-207 **Information Items Reported by ACA on Unanimous Consent:**

- ITEM 13.2(c) – New Donor-Funded Scholarships, Awards and Prizes

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

S.23-208 The following items reported through Announcements and Communications were received for information by unanimous consent:

- ITEM 13.3(a) – Academic Administrative Appointments

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

S.23-209 - ITEM 13.2(b) – 2022-23 Annual Report of the Office of Academic Quality and Enhancement

A Senator requested this item be removed from the Consent Agenda as they wanted to have more information regarding the quality assurance audit that is currently underway at Western.

S. Lewis briefly commented on the Annual Report of the Office of Academic Quality and provided an update on the ongoing audit process. She provided information on the timeline for this process, the programs selected for review by the audit team, and recent meetings with various groups on campus that took place as part of the site visit. Additionally, it was advised that no areas of major concern were identified.

S.23-210 **DISCUSSION AND QUESTION PERIOD**

Senate Minutes
December 1, 2023

The full text of questions submitted in advance of the meeting was posted in the agenda at Item 15.0 prior to the meeting. The questions and responses are summarized below.

1. A Senator shared information regarding Western's historical participation in the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) and the positive impact of receiving detailed reports. However, despite initial access to data, the reports eventually disappeared, and a Senator was seeking information on student engagement, retention rates, and graduation rates, particularly in the context of the pandemic and broader societal changes.

S. Lewis provided a brief overview regarding the NSSE and advised that a Report regarding the results will be brought forward to Senate for information in January 2024.

2. Considering that November 1, 2023 is the lock-in date for finalized enrollment numbers, a Senator has requested an update on enrollment, including a breakdown of domestic and international students, as well as undergraduates, graduates, and other categories. They also requested whether the interactive dashboard could be located on the University website.

R. Chelladurai, Associate Vice-President (Institutional Planning & Budgeting), confirmed that the dashboard contains the latest information and is publicly available. Additionally, it was mentioned that time is required to finalize the data as of November 1, 2023.

3. A Senator expressed concerns over the absence of updates to gifts and naming policies in the past fifteen years. They particularly emphasized uncertainties surrounding donor scrutiny and naming guidelines, highlighting the need for clarity and addressing these concerns, especially in light of an upcoming fundraising campaign.

The Chair explained that Western follows the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) guidelines and standards regarding philanthropic activities of educational institutions. Regarding the upcoming campaign, ongoing collaboration with a consultant is in progress to review and assess the main policies.

4. An Official Observer raised a question of clarification regarding the budget allocated for reimbursing expenses for external examiners for student theses.

L. Miller, Vice-Provost (Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies), noted that, due to the change in the budget model, all graduate funding had been moved to the Faculty. Additionally, she shared the results of a recent survey regarding the coverage of travel expenses at other universities. There are very few institutions that provide honoraria for examiners, however they cover the travel expenses of external examiners, and in most cases, reimbursement takes place locally at the unit level.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:18 p.m.

Senate Minutes
December 1, 2023

A. Shepard
Chair

A. Bryson
University Secretary