

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

February 16, 2023

The meeting was held at 1:32 p.m. via Zoom.

SENATORS:

M. Adler	M. Kim	S. Powell
P. Barmby	K. Kirkwood	A. Pyati
A. Baxter	D. Kotsopoulos	C. Robinson
J. Binoy	J. Lacefield	S. Roland
M. Bordignon	Y. Laforet-Fliesser	H. Samson
A. Bryson	D. Laird	M. Sanita Lima
S. Burke	L. Latif	A. Shepard
C. Burucúa	C. Lengyell	D. Smith
K. Choi	D. Lee	C. Steeves
M. Cleveland	A. Liu	L. Stephenson
K. Coley	L. Logan	F. Strzelczyk
G. De Viveiros	D. Malloy	J. Sutton
D. Ferri	C. Marshall	D. Tempesta
L. Frederking	M. McMurrin	J. Toswell
R. Forrester-Jones	M. Milde	J. Watson
A. Fremeth	L. Miller	J. Welch
J. Garland	J. Minac	S. Whitehead
B. Gillies	K. Mooney	J. Yoo
T. Granadillo	I. Namukasa	
A. Haque	B. Neff	
N. Harney	A. Nelson	
L. Henderson	C. Nicholls	
A. Hodgson	T. Orchard	
M. Joannis	T. Peace	
T. Joy	K. Pollock	

Observers: C. Bressette, R. Chelladurai, J. Doerksen, D. Facca, E. Gardner, J. Hussain, R. Isard, S. Lewis, M. McGlynn, O. Oloya, R. Strickland.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Thomas Peace offered a Land Acknowledgement.

MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETINGS

It was moved by M. Milde, seconded by C. Steeves,

That the minutes of the meeting of January 20, 2023, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

S.23-20 **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

The President's Report, distributed with the agenda, contained information on the following topics: Black student scholarships and recipients celebrated, the grand re-opening of the D.B. Weldon Library following a renovation, Ivey faculty ranking third globally in sustainability research, seeking nominations for 2023 Green Awards, Ivey's year of centennial celebrations, accolades, and a leadership update.

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

- The conclusion of Linda Hasenfratz's four-year term as Western's 23rd Chancellor on June 30, 2023. Senators were reminded that the deadline for submitting nominations is March 2, 2023.
- The upcoming Spring Open House on Saturday March 25, 2023. The President explained the importance of that event and encouraged Senators to consider volunteering to promote Western's programs for prospective students and their families.
- Searches remain underway for the Vice-Provost & Associate Vice-President (International), Vice-President (Research), University Registrar and Vice-Provost (Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies) and are moving ahead.
- The President thanked Michael Milde, whose second term as Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities ends this summer and announced the Acting Dean, Jan Plug from the Department of English and Writing Studies.
- The U15 Presidents meeting in Ottawa; the President noted governmental efforts that are underway to increase the involvement of the university sector in research security.

S.23-21 **REPORT OF THE PROVOST**

F. Strzelczyk, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) presented the verbal report and commented on several items under the academic portfolio for the information of the Senate.

F. Strzelczyk noted the ongoing search for the Vice-President (Research) is nearing completion, and the announcement is expected to be made soon. Furthermore, the search for the University Registrar continues and the search for the Vice-Provost (Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies) was launched.

F. Strzelczyk provided an update on the budget and planning. A brief overview of the Global Engagement Plan was also presented with respect to the internationalization process. As part of the updates on enrolment, the Provost further described the new admission strategy.

F. Strzelczyk commented on the graduate students' housing and funding. She acknowledged

the student housing issue has become an increasing challenge over the last year due to the high cost of living expenses and inflation. Some senior leaders recently met with representatives of the Society of Graduate Students (SOGS), which advocates on behalf of graduate students. The Provost acknowledged the substantive SOGS' Report on housing and food insecurity (Appendix A).

To address the questions that were received prior to the meeting from graduate student Senators, F. Strzelczyk presented slides with information regarding Western's efforts on graduate student funding, comparison across the U15 and the further steps planned to be taken in order to handle the affordability issue (Appendix B).

F. Strzelczyk announced the launching of the SOGS Bursary Fund with over \$500,000 for the next 3-year cycle to address the urgent needs of graduate students. She also advised that SOGS's membership fees can be redirected to other important graduate students' issues. The Provost concluded the report by expressing her gratitude to representatives of SOGS for their work.

REPORT OF THE OPERATIONS / AGENDA COMMITTEE

S.23-22 ITEM 5.1 – Membership – Nominating Committee

Dale Laird was nominated from the floor of the Senate and was acclaimed to the Nominating Committee for a term to June 30, 2023.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

S.23-23 ITEM 6.1 - Membership – Subcommittee on Western Approved Micro-credentials (SWAM)

Katina Pollock was acclaimed to the Subcommittee on Western Approved Micro-credentials (SWAM) for a term to June 30, 2023.

S.23-24 ITEM 6.2 – Membership – Honorary Degrees Committee

Stacey Hann was acclaimed to the Honorary Degrees Committee for a term to June 30, 2023.

REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY

S.23-25 ITEM 7.1 – Revisions to the “Structure of the Academic Year” Policy (National Day for Truth and Reconciliation)

It was moved by M. Milde, seconded by C. Steeves,

That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2023 the “Structure of the Academic Year” policy be revised as shown in Item 7.1.

CARRIED with two opposed and two abstained.

A Senator raised the concern regarding possible issues with delivery of the required number of instructional days and scheduling classes. They noted that procedures for aligning an additional non-instructional day on Monday with the academic schedule for the term should be elaborated by the Senate. A Senator asked whether a non-instructional day could be considered last Friday of September to prevent its potential impact on the scheduling of classes and labs.

F. Strzelczyk, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) acknowledged the importance of observing for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation by creating opportunities for reflection. She also shared with the Senate practices of other Universities across Canada, and noted that the discussions with respect to the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation have taken place with the Office of Indigenous Initiatives.

C. Bressette, Vice-Provost & Associate Vice-President (Indigenous Initiatives) noted that the Office of Indigenous Initiatives will lead the observance this year with the help of various Faculties and the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

In response to a question from a Senator regarding the implementation process, F. Strzelczyk further advised that in consultation with the Office of Indigenous Initiatives, Faculties and Schools should explore opportunities to reflect on the significance of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

**REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC CURRICULUM AND AWARDS (ACA) -
Consent Agenda**

REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY PLANNING (SCUP)

S.23-26 **ITEM 9.1 – Subcommittee on Enrolment Planning and Policy (SUEPP) Report**

It was moved by M. Milde, seconded by C. Steeves,

That, on the recommendation of the SCUP, Senate approve the plans and processes for first-year, first-entry undergraduate enrolment for the University and Affiliated University Colleges as outlined in Item 9.1 and the use of the 2023-24, 2024-25, and 2025-26 enrolment projections as shown in Item 9.1 for University budget planning purposes.

CARRIED

In response to a question from a Senator regarding possibly increasing the number admitted to health care professionals' programs, F. Strzelczyk, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) advised that the particular quota for students in these fields is mandated by the government.

John Yoo, Dean of the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry confirmed that the number of student enrolments in health care is managed according to annually approved government regulations.

Jayne Garland, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, noted that the enrolment numbers for health specializations that are not mandated by the government reflected the current provincial funding situation due to the high tuition fees. Funding for expanding these places remains a point of advocacy in negotiations with the government. Additionally, she noted that nursing admissions had doubled over the previous year.

S23-27 **ITEM 9.2 – Update on Budget and Planning Process**

F. Strzelczyk Provost & Vice-President (Academic) presented an update on the budget planning process and commented on the following items:

- The budget planning cycle, timeline, and current budget model.
- The governmental grant and domestic tuition programs remain frozen at their previous levels.
- Emphasized the future goal to expand undergraduate international enrollment.
- Advised that the budget recommendations for the Faculties have been sent to the Deans and noted the change to IBA mechanism on the three-year trial basis.
- Highlighted funding for PhD students and announced continuing of Undergraduate Summer Research Internship Program and Post-doc Fellowship Program.
- Outlined the further steps that would occur before budget approval.

REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH BOARD – No Report

Report of the Academic Colleague – No Report

S.23-28 **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

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

S.23-29 **ITEM 12.2(a) – Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Department of Languages and Cultures: Renaming of the Honours Specialization and Specialization in Spanish Language and Hispanic Cultures and the Certificate in Practical Spanish**

It was moved by M. Milde, seconded by C. Steeves,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2023, the Honours Specialization in Spanish Language and Hispanic Cultures be renamed as the Honours Specialization in Spanish, and

That the Specialization in Spanish Language and Hispanic Cultures be renamed as the Specialization in Spanish, and

That the Certificate in Practical Spanish be renamed as the Certificate in Spanish, and

That students currently enrolled in the modules/certificate be permitted to graduate with the old name of the module/certificate on their diploma until August 31, 2026, upon request to the Office of the Registrar.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

S.23-30 **ITEM 12.2(b) – Ivey Business School and Faculty of Social Science, Department of Political Science: Revisions to the Program Requirements of the HBA / Honours Specialization in Political Science Combined Degree Program**

It was moved by M. Milde, seconded by C. Steeves,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2023, the program requirements of the HBA / Honours Specialization in Political Science combined degree program be revised as shown in Item 12.2(b).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

S.23-31 **ITEM 12.2(c) – Faculty of Engineering: Revisions to the Admission Requirements of the Biomedical Engineering Options**

It was moved by M. Milde, seconded by C. Steeves,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2023, the admission requirements for the following Biomedical Engineering Options be revised as shown in Item 12.2(c):

Chemical Engineering and Biomedical Engineering Option

Electrical Engineering and Biomedical Engineering Option

Mechanical Engineering and Biomedical Engineering Option

Mechatronic Systems Engineering and Biomedical Engineering Option

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

S.23-32 **ITEM 12.2(e)(i) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Introduction of a Master of Health Sciences (MHSc) in Global Health Systems**

It was moved by M. Milde, seconded by C. Steeves,

That on the recommendation of ACA, and conditional on approval by the Quality Council, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2023, a Master of Health Sciences (MHSc) in Global Health Systems be introduced as shown in Item 12.2(e)(i).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

S.23-33 **ITEM 12.2(e)(ii) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Introduction of a field in Health Equity and Sustainability in the Master of Health Sciences (MHSc) in Advanced Health Care Practice (AHCP)**

It was moved by M. Milde, seconded by C. Steeves,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2023, a field in Health Equity and Sustainability be introduced in the Master of Health Sciences (MHSc) in Advanced Health Care Practice (AHCP), as shown in Item 12.2(e)(ii).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

S.23-34 **ITEM 12.2(e)(iii) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Introduction of a field in Clinical Epidemiology and Research Management in the Master of Clinical Science (MCISc) in Advanced Health Care Practice (AHCP)**

It was moved by M. Milde, seconded by C. Steeves,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2023, a new field in Clinical Epidemiology and Research Management be introduced in the Master of Clinical Science (MCISc) in Advanced Health Care Practice (AHCP), as shown in Item 12.2(e)(iii).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

S.23-35 **ITEM 12.2(e)(iv) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Revisions to the Master of Science (MSc) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Mathematics and Withdrawal of the MSc and PhD in Applied Mathematics**

It was moved by M. Milde, seconded by C. Steeves,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective January 1, 2023, the Master of Science (MSc) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Mathematics be revised as shown in Item 12.2(e)(iv), and

That effective January 1, 2023, admission to the MSc and PhD in Applied Mathematics be discontinued, and

That students currently enrolled in the MSc and PhD in Applied Mathematics be permitted to graduate upon fulfillment of the program requirements by August 31, 2027, and

That the MSc and PhD in Applied Mathematics be withdrawn effective September 1, 2027.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

S.23-36 **ITEM 12.2(e)(v) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Introduction of a Flex-time Registration Option for the PhD Programs in the Faculty of Engineering**

It was moved by M. Milde, seconded by C. Steeves,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective May 1, 2023, a flex-

time registration option be introduced for the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programs in the Faculty of Engineering as shown in Item 12.2(e)(v).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

S.23-37 **ITEM 12.2(f) – Revisions to the Articulation Agreement for the Admission of Graduates of the Business-Finance Diploma Program at Fanshawe College into the Major in Economics or Major in Financial Economics**

It was moved by M. Milde, seconded by C. Steeves,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective February 16, 2023, the articulation agreement for the admission of graduates of the Business-Finance Diploma Program at Fanshawe College into the Major in Economics or Major in Financial Economics be revised as shown in Item 12.2(f).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

The following items reported through the Subcommittee on Program Review were received for information by unanimous consent:

- S.23-38 – ITEM 12.2(g) – Report of the Subcommittee on Program Review – Graduate (SUPR-G): Cyclical Review of the Graduate Program in Business Administration
- ITEM 12.2(h) – New Scholarships, Awards and Prizes (Donor-Funded)
- ITEM 12.2(i) – New Western-Funded Scholarship

ITEMS FROM THE HONORARY DEGREES COMMITTEE

S.23-39 **ITEM 12.5(a) – President’s Medal for Distinguished Service**

It was moved by M. Milde, seconded by C. Steeves,

That Senate approve, on the recommendation of the Honorary Degrees Committee, the amendment to the Criteria for Selecting the President’s Medal for Distinguished Service award recipients as of February 16, 2023.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

S.23-40 **ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

ITEM 12.1(a) – Revisions to the Terms of Reference of the Honorary Degrees Committee

A Senator requested this item be removed from the Consent Agenda as they had a concern as to whether the procedures for revoking an honorary degree could be included in the Terms of Reference of the Honorary Degrees Committee. A second issue pointed out is a possible

conflict of interest between voting and non-voting ex-officio members of the Honorary Degrees Committee. A Senator further suggested that the Associate Director of Convocation should be a non-voting member.

Amy Bryson, University Secretary, advised that the Honorary Degrees Committee discussed the procedures for the rescission of an honorary doctorate, and it was decided that due to the extraordinary circumstance, any issues would be handled on a case-by-case basis.

It was decided that the revisions to the Terms of Reference of the Honorary Degrees Committee be tabled and sent back to the Honorary Degrees Committee for consideration.

ITEM 12.2(d) – Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry: Revisions to the Progression Requirements of the MD Program

It was moved by M. Milde, seconded by C. Steeves,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2023, the Progression Requirements of the MD Program in the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry be revised as shown in Item 12.2(d).

CARRIED

A Senator requested this item be removed from the Consent Agenda as they had a concern regarding the proposed language of the MD Program. Furthermore, concerns were raised with respect to the Equity, Diversity, Inclusivity and Decolonization (EDID) issues and as to whether it could be included in the program with respect to diversity.

J. Yoo, Dean of the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry advised that the following modification to Schulich programs has been made with respect to the accreditation process on the purpose of transition from time-based to competence-based education. He noted that the change in wording is an attempt to make the curricula more contemporary.

S. Venance, Vice Dean, Undergraduate Medical Education, at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, acknowledged that EDID are strategic priorities for the School. These priorities have been embedded into all curricula and governance procedures.

Additionally, J. Yoo mentioned the recent appointment of the Acting Associate Dean of EDID, at Schulich for guiding the commitment to EDID.

ITEM 12.4(a) – Vice-Provost’s Annual Report on Faculty Recruitment and Retention

A Senator requested that this item be removed from the consent agenda for clarification regarding the data presented on the faculty recruitment and retention report, particularly broken down by the gender factor with respect to equity issues. Moreover, this report is the first to include data that can be used to determine the effects of COVID on faculty numbers. The full text of questions submitted in advance of the meeting was posted in the Agenda at Item 14.0 prior to the meeting.

In response to questions regarding the report, M. McGlynn, Vice-Provost (Academic Planning, Policy & Faculty), clarified various metrics, including probationary teaching scholars, equity issues, retirements, limited-term appointments, presented data broken down by workload proportion and the increasing number of clinical faculty that reflect the clinical demand. In her comments, M. McGlynn stated that at this point it is too early to estimate the impact of COVID.

S.23-41 **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. The questions and responses are summarized below.

Following a request for further information regarding the efforts and plans of the University to support graduate students, F. Strzelczyk, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) addressed this question during her report.

A student Senator recognized the significant amount of effort put into the initiative. Prior to the implementation of the funding program, he outlined possible steps that may occur. He indicated that in addition to meeting with various groups and student representatives, support for the program continues to be provided. The document that outlines the student survey on housing and food insecurity is attached to the Senate Minutes (Appendix A).

A Senate Observer commented on housing and food insecurity issues experienced by graduate students and described SOGS initiatives. She additionally expressed gratitude to all participants who were involved in this process.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

A. Shepard
Chair

A. Bryson
University Secretary