



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

March 17, 2023

The meeting was held at 1:32 p.m. in Room 1R40, Arts & Humanities Building.

SENATORS:

M. Adler	D. Kotsopoulos	Z. Sinel
G. Arku	Y. Laforet-Fliesser	D. Smith
P. Barmby	D. Laird	C. Steeves
A. Baxter	J. Langille	L. Stephenson
M. Bordignon	L. Latif	L. Stoyles
A. Bryson	C. Lengyell	F. Strzelczyk
C. Burucúa	D. Lee	J. Sutton
E. Chen	M. McMurrin	J. Toswell
K. Choi	M. Milde	J. Watson
M. Cleveland	L. Miller	J. Welch
K. Coley	J. Minac	J. Yoo
M. Davison	K. Mooney	
R. De Koter	S. Morrison	
D. Ferri	I. Namukasa	
R. Forrester-Jones	B. Neff	
L. Frederking	C. Nicholls	
A. Fremeth	T. Orchard	
J. Garland	K. Pollock	
T. Granadillo	S. Powell	
N. Harney	A. Pyati	
L. Henderson	S. Roland	
R. Heydon	B. Rubin	
A. Hodgson	H. Samson	
T. Joy	A. Schuurman	
K. Kirkwood	A. Shepard	

Observers: C. Bressette, R. Chelladurai, J. Doerksen, K. Dufresne, D. Facca, S. Lewis, M. McGlynn, N. Narain, M. Stiegemeyer, J. Weststar

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Susan Lewis offered a Land Acknowledgement.

MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

S.23-42 **ITEM 2.1 – Minutes of the Meeting of February 16, 2023**

It was moved by J. Yoo, seconded by C. Steeves,

That the minutes of the meeting of February 16, 2023, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

S.23-43 **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

The President's Report, distributed with the agenda, contained information on the following topics: new research hub for pandemic preparedness; new fund to support graduate students; announcement of a partnership focused on clean energy; new federal guidelines focused on national research security; accolades; and a leadership update.

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

- The Spring Open House for prospective students will take place on Saturday, March 25, 2023. The President explained the importance of the event and encouraged Senators to consider volunteering to promote Western's programs to prospective students and their families.
- Engage Western including, President's Address and Breakfast is planned for Tuesday, April 11, 2023. Through this initiative, Western will strengthen its connections with the London community and promote Western's activities and future plans in the city and future plans. The President noted that proceeds from the event will be donated to the City of London's Health & Homelessness Fund for Change.
- The Blue-Ribbon Panel announced by the Government of Ontario to advise on the financial sustainability framework of the postsecondary education sector. Members from the business and academic communities. It is expected that these experts will conduct research and consult with stakeholders in the coming months in order to identify ways to improve the financial sustainability of the sector. Key findings will be announced at the end of the summer.
- The Sustainable Development Goals Week activities at Western.
- Congratulations Western community members who, among others, have been awarded.
- The President advised that the searches for the next Chancellor and Vice-President (Research) are underway.

In his final remarks, the President corrected the written Report and informed Senate that new measures aimed at protecting Canadian research had been announced by the Minister of Innovation, Science & Industry, François-Philippe Champagne.

S.23-44 **REPORT OF THE PROVOST**

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

F. Strzelczyk started her report with leadership updates and informed Senate that the appointments for the University Registrar and Vice-Provost (International) will be announced in the next week. The searches for the Vice-Provost (Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies) and the Director for the McIntosh Gallery are underway.

F. Strzelczyk advised on the creation of the Graduate Student Affordability Working Group and commented on the minimum guaranteed funding for PhD students.

F. Strzelczyk provided information regarding the Global Engagement Plan and her work with the Vice-President (Research) focused on internationalization in support of the Strategic Plan, Towards Western at 150. During the presentation, the timeline, for the creation of the Global Engagement Plan was outlined.

In regard to the conversion of Bayfield Hall into undergraduate residences, a clarification question was raised. C. Lengyell, Director of Housing advised that the conversion has been stopped and there will be no further transition at this time.

The cost of the proposed transition housing for undergraduate students was clarified by F. Strzelczyk.

In responding to a question regarding the announced PhD minimum guaranteed funding support package, F. Strzelczyk advised that it will be effective Sept. 1, 2023 and apply to all incoming students.

[*Secretariat note*: Subsequent to the meeting, an update was noted to the initiatives aimed at supporting graduate students. The minimum guarantee will apply to all funding-eligible Ph.D. students – effective 2023-24.]

A Senator expressed concerns regarding sustainability due to planned initiatives to increase international student enrollment. F. Strzelczyk commented on the prospective enrolment growth and provided an overview of how the university is addressing sustainability through an integrated planning process, including human resources, financial, and housing capacity consideration.

REPORT OF THE OPERATIONS / AGENDA COMMITTEE

S.23-45 **ITEM 5.1 – Amendment to the Terms of Reference of the Nominating Committee**

It was moved by L. Stoyles, seconded by D. Lee,

That on the recommendation of Operations/Agenda Committee, Senate approved that the Terms of Reference of the Senate Nominating Committee be revised as shown in Item 5.1, effective July 1, 2023.

CARRIED

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

S. Roland informed Senate of the upcoming Call for Nomination for all Senate committees on March 20, 2023.

S.23-46 **REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY**

M. Milde presented a verbal report on the work of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy.

He commented on the revision of the Policy on Academic Consideration - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs. There will be a public discussion on the proposed changes during the upcoming town hall sessions. It is anticipated that this new policy will replace the existing Policy on Academic Consideration for Medical Illness - Undergraduate Students.

M. Milde encouraged Senators to participate in the consultation process before the draft version is returned to the Policy Committee for further consideration.

A question of clarification regarding the undocumented reasons for academic consideration was addressed by M. Milde. He noted that work on this item will start not earlier than the next academic year.

REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC CURRICULUM AND AWARDS - Consent Agenda

REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY PLANNING – No Report

S.23-47 **REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH BOARD**

B. Neff, Acting Vice-President (Research) provided a general overview of the activities of Western Research and expanded on several items for the information of Senate, including recognition of a number of awards and other distinctions honoring faculty members and students. The presentation is attached to the minutes as Appendix "B".

B. Neff commented on the anticipated federal budget constraints in terms of initiatives for research and further targeted funding support for partnership with the Horizon European platform.

B. Neff provided a general overview of research security matters and security risks assessment. He stressed that the federal and provincial governments were expanding their research security mandates. It was noted that the core issue is potential security risks for Canada from working with high-risk foreign state actors. Further, no grants for research in sensitive areas will be funded without a risk assessment of potential partners. Guidelines on these matters are still to be determined. Additionally, information was provided regarding funding to eligible universities to strengthen their research security capacity.

S.23-48 **REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC COLLEAGUE**

P. Barmby presented the Report of the Academic Colleague for the March 17, 2023 for information.

A Senator raised a clarification question about the Blue-Ribbon Panel's mandate.

S.23-49 **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

REPORT OF THE OPERATIONS / AGENDA COMMITTEE

S.23-50 The following items reported through the Operation/Agenda Committee were received for information by unanimous consent:

- ITEM 12.1 (a) – Senate Membership – Vacancies Filled by Appointment
- ITEM 12.1(b) – Appointment of Officer of Convocation

REPORT FROM THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC CURRICULUM AND AWARDS

S.23-51 **ITEM 12.2(a)(i) – Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Department of Languages and Cultures: Withdrawal of the Major in German Language and Culture**

It was moved by C. Steeves, seconded by S. Roland,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2023, admission to the Major in German Language and Culture be discontinued, and

That students currently enrolled in the module be permitted to graduate upon fulfilment of the module requirements by August 31, 2025, and

That the module be withdrawn effective September 1, 2025.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

S.23-52 **ITEM 12.2(a)(ii) – Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Department of Visual Arts: Withdrawal of the Minor and Certificate in Photography and the Minor in Art History and Studio Art**

It was moved by C. Steeves, seconded by S. Roland,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2023, admission to the Minor and Certificate in Photography and the Minor in Art History and Studio Art be discontinued, and

That students currently enrolled in the programs be permitted to graduate upon fulfilment of the program requirements by August 31, 2025, and

That the programs be withdrawn effective September 1, 2025.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

S.23-53 **TEM 12.2(b) – Faculty of Health Sciences, School of Kinesiology: Revisions to the Program Requirements of the Honours Specialization in Clinical Kinesiology**

It was moved by C. Steeves, seconded by S. Roland,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2023, the program requirements of the Honours Specialization in Clinical Kinesiology offered by the School of Kinesiology in the Faculty of Health Sciences be revised as shown in Item 12.2(b).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

S.23-54 **ITEM 12.2(c) – Don Wright Faculty of Music, Department of Music Research and Composition: Revisions to the Admission and Program Requirements of the Specialization in Music Administrative Studies**

It was moved by C. Steeves, seconded by S. Roland,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2023, the admission and program requirements of the Specialization in Music Administrative Studies offered by the Department of Music Research and Composition in the Don Wright Faculty of Music be revised as shown in Item 12.2(c).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

S.23-55 The following items reported through ACA were received for information by unanimous consent:

- ITEM 12.2(e)(i) – Undergraduate Sessional Dates (2023-24)
- ITEM 12.2(e)(ii) – Faculty-Specific Sessional Dates (2023-24)
- ITEM 12.2(f) – New Scholarships, Awards and Prizes

S.23-56 **ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

12.2(d) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Revisions to the Master of Arts (MA) in Art History and Curatorial Studies and the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Art and Visual Culture.

A Senator requested this item be removed from the Consent Agenda as they had a concern as to whether the rationale for the removal of the language requirement for students enrolled in

the Master of Arts (MA) in Art History and Curatorial Studies and the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Art and Visual Culture could be considered to better reflect the reasons for the changes.

L. Miller, Vice-Provost (Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies), responded that many of the graduate programs, through the cyclical review process, were revised to exclude the second language requirement. She noted that the rationale for the change is the limited access to second language learning on our campus. She emphasized the fact that assessment of competency of second language fluency often means that the student incurs an additional cost.

L. Miller advised that the rationale should be revised to address the factors more appropriately to avoid the potential interpretation as perpetuating negative stereotypes.

The motion was tabled for the future consideration of the rationale for the elimination of the second language requirement.

S.23-57

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.

1. A Senator asked whether the university community would be advised of the recently released app “Speak Out” by the London Police and if the national risk assessment tool for gender-based violence could be used at Western.

J. Doerksen, Vice-Provost (Students) acknowledged the importance of using the newly designed risk assessment tool for preventing gender-based violence once it is released and commented on the National collaborative framework to address and prevent sexual and gender-based violence at post-secondary institutions. He emphasized Western University's substantive efforts in that area.

J. Doerksen commented on the newly announced app for sexual assault victims “Speak Out” and its prospective promotion across campus. He advised that the collected data could be used to determine areas with increased safety risk around the city.

A Senator emphasized the importance of informing students about existing technology to report if they are a survivor of violence.

2. Senators raised concerns regarding the delay in announcing the undergraduate research internship program.

A. Shepard provided a historical overview of the university's efforts and successes in conducting research internships for students.

B. Neff advised that internship programs will open on March 23, 2023. He noted that previously this program was financed through one-time funds. B. Neff announced an increase in stipends and a three-year funding commitment for the program. It is anticipated that the program will roll out earlier next year.

3. Following a request for further information regarding the University's plan in respect of the first-year residence guarantee in the face of increasing first-year enrollment numbers, F. Strzelczyk, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) addressed this question during her report.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:36 p.m.

A. Shepard
Chair

A. Bryson
University Secretary