MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

April 19, 2024

The meeting was held at 1:30 p.m. in Great Hall, Somerville House

SENATORS:

M. Adler
E. Ansari
G. Arku
S. Bahadoor
P. Barmby
M. Bassnett
G. Beckett
J. Beecroft
M. Bordignon
N. Borradaile
A. Bryson
J. Campbell
E. Chamberlain
B. Cheadle
S. Clarke
M. Cleveland
K. Coley
S. Feagan
L. Frederking
J. Garland
E. Gillies
L. Graham
M. Green-Barteet
N. Harney
S. Hayne Beatty
L. Henderson
K. Henricus
R. Heyden
A. Hodgson
J. Hutter
J. Ijam
M. Joanisse
I. Johnsrude
E. Kalaydjian
Z. Kamal
M. Kim
K. Kirkwood
D. Kotsopoulos
D. Laird
J. Langille
C. Lengyell
L. Lewis
J. Li
L. Logan
M. McGrath
M.H. McMurran
K. Meyer
M. Modeski
P. Pexman
G. Philip
S. Pitel
J. Plug
S. Powell
A. Puvirajah
L. Rehmann
D. Robinson
M. Sanita Lima
G. Santos
L. Shaw
A. Shepard
Z. Sinel
D. Smith
C. Steeves
F. Strzelczyk
J. Sutton
J. Toswell
C. Vanderlugt
J. Welch
S. Whitehead
G. Wild
J. Yoo
A. Zecevic

Observers: S. Ajak, R. Chelladurai, L. Cho, J. Doerksen, R. Isard, S. Lewis, M. McGlynn, O. Oloya, V. Sarkany, C. Waugh, J. Weststar.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I. Johnsrude offered a Land Acknowledgement.

MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

ITEM 2.0 – Minutes of the Meeting of March 15, 2024

It was moved by K. Kirkwood, seconded by B. Cheadle,

That the minutes of the meeting of March 15, 2024, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

A. Shepard, President and Vice-Chancellor, referred to the written report provided to Senate in advance of the meeting.

A. Shepard opened his remarks by announcing that a record number of Western faculty members received Early Researcher Awards from the Province of Ontario. He also shared the names of the Western faculty members who were awarded the title of Distinguished University Professor and provided updates on research funding achievements, such as projects that received funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation.

A. Shepard advised that the latest federal budget contains the largest research allocation in 18 years. Additionally, he mentioned that universities are now eligible for a GST exemption for new student residences.

A. Shepard concluded his report by sharing information on the admission numbers for the 2024-2025 academic year and acknowledging the exceptional work of the Office of the Registrar in recruitment and admissions.

REPORT OF THE PROVOST

F. Strzelczyk, Provost & Vice-President (Academic), reported on the updates and initiatives under her portfolio and began her report by congratulating the recipients of the Distinguished University Professor Award and Faculty Scholars Award.

F. Strzelczyk provided a brief overview of current leadership search efforts and announced that G. R. Little has been named the next Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian, effective Jul. 22, 2024. She expressed gratitude to Catherine Steeves for her service. L. Frederking has been appointed to the role of Senior Executive Advisor, Strategic Initiatives and Projects. Additionally, F. Strzelczyk informed Senate that J. Garland has decided to step down as Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, at the end of March 2025.

F. Strzelczyk continued her report acknowledging Senators from Brescia University College for their contributions to Senate and advised that this was their last meeting before the Brescia-Western integration.

REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT (RESEARCH)

P. Pexman, Vice-President (Research), provided an update on Western's research activities and began her remarks by sharing research funding successes, recognizing the work of researchers, scholars and the Research Office for their dedication and efforts. She advised that Western's SSHRC success rate is above the national average.

P. Pexman concluded her report by announcing Western's first Director of Research Security, Christopher van den Berg.

REPORT OF THE OPERATIONS / AGENDA COMMITTEE (OAC)

ITEM 6.1 – Amendments to the Senate By-Laws

On behalf of the Operations/Agenda Committee, E. Chamberlain presented the Amendments to the Senate By-Laws for approval.

It was moved by E. Chamberlain,

> That on the recommendation of the Operations/Agenda Committee (OAC), Senate approve that effective April 19, 2024, the Senate By-Laws be amended as shown in Item 6.1.

CARRIED

ITEM 6.2 – Report of the Senate Committee on University Teaching Awards (SUTA): Recipients of Western's Excellence in Teaching Awards for 2023-24

The recipients of Western's Excellence in Teaching Awards were presented during the Senate meeting for information.

REPORT OF THE SENATE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Senate Nominating Committee, J. Toswell provided a brief report regarding the work of the Nominating Committee and advised on the order of the nominating process.

ITEM 7.1 – Vice-Chair of Senate

Alison Hearn was nominated by the Nominating Committee and Randal Graham and Donna Kotsopoulos were nominated from the floor of Senate to serve as Vice-Chair of Senate. An election was held following the Senate meeting and Donna Kotsopoulos was elected to serve as Vice-Chair of Senate for a term from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

ITEM 7.2(a) – Operations/Agenda Committee (OAC)

Miranda Green-Barteet, Marc Joanisse and Tara Mantler were acclaimed to the Operations/Agenda Committee (OAC) as members of Senate for terms from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2026.

George Philip and Jenna Ijam were acclaimed to OAC as members of Senate for terms from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

ITEM 7.2(b) – Senate Committee on Academic Curriculum and Awards (ACA)

Kelly Olson, Anton Puvirajah and Anne Simon were acclaimed to the Senate Committee on Academic Curriculum and Awards (ACA) as members of Senate for terms from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2026.

Andrew Johnson, Gal Raz and James Voogt were acclaimed to ACA as faculty members for terms from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2026.

Aliya Jokhu was acclaimed to ACA as an undergraduate student for a term from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

Shahnaz Shahid Ali was elected to ACA as a graduate student for a term from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

ITEM 7.2(c) – Subcommittee on Program Review – Undergraduate (SUPR-U)

Sydney Buhrow, Sima Kootar and Tunajjina Mahboob were nominated by the Nominating Committee and Brooklin Begg and Olivia Matthews were nominated from the floor of Senate to the Subcommittee on Program Review – Undergraduate (SUPR-U). An election was held following the Senate meeting and by majority of the votes Sydney Buhrow and Olivia Matthews were elected to serve as undergraduate student representatives on SUPR-U for terms from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

There was a tie for the third SUPR-U undergraduate student position. Brooklin Begg and Tunajjina Mahboob received an equal number of votes. As stated in the Adopted Policies and Procedures of Senate, the tie has been resolved by lottery conducted by the Secretary of Senate and Brooklin Begg was selected to serve as an undergraduate student representative on SUPR-U for a term from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

ITEM 7.2(d) – The Subcommittee on Undergraduate Academic Courses (SOC)

Rosanne Abdulla and Gildo Santos were acclaimed to the Subcommittee on Undergraduate Academic Courses (SOC) as faculty members for terms from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2026.

Amy Horton was nominated from the floor of Senate and was acclaimed to SOC as a faculty member for terms from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

Angeli Cooke and Noah Zabian were acclaimed to SOC as undergraduate students for terms from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

ITEM 7.2(e) – Senate Committee on Academic Policy (Policy)

Nicole Campbell and Michael Fox were acclaimed to the Senate Committee on Academic Policy as faculty members for terms from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2026.

Laura Graham and Ken Yeung were nominated from the floor of Senate and were acclaimed to the Senate Committee on Academic Policy as faculty members for terms from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2026.

Kathleena Henricus was acclaimed to the Senate Committee on Academic Policy as an undergraduate student for a term from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

Alexander Zero was acclaimed to the Senate Committee on Academic Policy as a graduate student for a term from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

ITEM 7.2(f) – Senate Committee on University Planning (SCUP)

Blaine Chronik and Zoë Sinel were acclaimed to the Senate Committee on University Planning (SCUP) as members of faculty, who are members of Senate at the time their term on the Committee begins, for terms from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2026.

Shawn Whitehead was nominated from the floor of Senate and was acclaimed to SCUP as a member of faculty who is a member of Senate at the time the term on the Committee begins, for a term from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

Rachel Halaney was acclaimed to SCUP as an administrative staff representative for a term from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2026.

Jenna Beecroft was acclaimed to SCUP as an undergraduate student for a term from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

Chloe Cheung and Matheus Sanita Lima were acclaimed to SCUP as graduate students for terms from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

No nominations were received for the postdoctoral representative.

ITEM 7.2(g) – Senate Committee on University Teaching Awards (SUTA)

Aleksandra Zecevic was acclaimed to the Senate Committee on University Teaching Awards (SUTA) as a faculty member for a term from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027.

Azmat Jehan was acclaimed to SUTA as a graduate student for the term from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

ITEM 7.2(h) – Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA)

Lina Dagnino was acclaimed as Chair of the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA) for a term from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

Torin Chiles, Caroline Dick, Charys Martin, Ken Kirkwood and Ruth Ann Strickland were acclaimed to SRBA as faculty members for terms from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2026.

Grace Achonu-Johnson, Alexandra Agyapong, Brooklin Begg, Eva Kamimura, Ankita Mishra and Jadyn Smith were nominated by the Nominating Committee, Ethan Da Costa and Sydney Buhrow were nominated from the floor of Senate. An election was held following the Senate meeting and Grace Achonu-Johnson, Alexandra Agyapong, Sydney Buhrow, Ethan Da Costa, Eva Kamimura and Ankita Mishra were elected to SRBA as undergraduate students for terms from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

Dana Broberg, Abdelmoneim Elnaggar, Pilar Rodriguez Mata and Manuel Spiller Marinho were acclaimed to SRBA as graduate students for terms from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

ITEM 7.2(i) – University Research Board (URB)

Augusto Riveros was acclaimed to the University Research Board (URB) as a member of the Faculty of Education for a term from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2026.

Sarah Gallagher was acclaimed to URB as a member of the Faculty of Science for a term from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2026.

Wade Wright was acclaimed to URB as a member of the Faculty of Law for a term from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2026.

Cheryle Séguin was acclaimed to URB as a member of the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry for a term from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2026.

Jana Starling was acclaimed to URB as a member of the Faculty of Music for a term from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2026.

Ana Luisa Trejos was acclaimed to URB as a member of the Faculty of Engineering for a term from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

Ethan Da Costa was acclaimed to URB as an undergraduate student for a term from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

Cara Davidson and Alexandra Lukawski were acclaimed to URB as graduate students for terms from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

No nominations were received for the postdoctoral representatives.

ITEM 7.2(j) – Honorary Degrees Committee

Constanza Burucúa, Lisa Henderson, Allyson Page and Ricardas Zitikis were acclaimed to the Honorary Degrees Committee for terms from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2026.

Matheus Sanita Lima was acclaimed to the Honorary Degrees Committee as a student Senator for a term from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

ITEM 7.2(k) – Distinguished University Professor Selection Committee

Pauline Barmby and Kathy Hibbert were acclaimed to the Distinguished University Professor Selection Committee as faculty members who are Senior Scholars, for terms from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2026.

ITEM 7.2(l) – Faculty Scholar Selection Committee

Lorelei Lingard and Jason Neyers were acclaimed to the Faculty Scholar Selection Committee as faculty members who are Senior Scholars, for terms from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

ITEM 7.2(m) – Academic Colleague

Sophie Roland was acclaimed as Academic Colleague to the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) for a term from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2026.

ITEM 7.2(n) – Board of Governors

Shawn Whitehead was nominated by the Nominating Committee and Jane Toswell was nominated from the floor of Senate. An election was held following the Senate meeting and Jane Toswell was elected as a faculty member, who is a member of Senate at the time of election, to serve on the Board of Governors for a term from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2028.

ITEM 7.3 – Selection/Review Committee for the Dean of the Faculty of Education

Ken Coley, Matt Lebo and Geoff Wild were acclaimed to the Selection/Review Committee for the Dean of the Faculty of Education.

ITEM 7.4 – Selection Committee for the Dean of the Faculty of Law

Michael Kim, Rachel Forrester-Jones and Tracy Isaacs were acclaimed to the Selection Committee for the Dean of the Faculty of Law.

ITEM 7.5 – Membership – Operations/Agenda Committee (OAC)

Jeff Hutter was acclaimed to the Operations/Agenda Committee as a Senator for a term ending June 30, 2024.

REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC CURRICULUM AND AWARDS

ITEM 9.1 – Huron University College: Introduction of a Subject Area in "Animal Ethics and Sustainability Leadership"

On behalf of the Senate Committee on Academic Curriculum and Awards, S. Roland presented the Introduction of a Subject Area in "Animal Ethics and Sustainability Leadership".

It was moved by B. Cheadle, seconded by M. Kim,

> That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2024, a subject area in "Animal Ethics and Sustainability Leadership" be introduced by Huron University College and included in Category A for Breadth Requirements for Graduation, as shown in Item 9.1.

CARRIED

ITEM 9.2 – Huron University College and King's University College: Introduction of a Subject Area in "Islamic Studies"

On behalf of the Senate Committee on Academic Curriculum and Awards, S. Roland presented the Introduction of a Subject Area in "Islamic Studies".

It was moved by D. Smith, seconded by I. Johnsrude,

> That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2024, a subject area in "Islamic Studies" be introduced by Huron University College and King's University College and included in Category B for Breadth Requirements for Graduation, as shown in Item 9.2.

CARRIED

ITEM 9.3 – King's University College: Introduction of a Certificate in Ecological Justice and Climate Ethics

On behalf of the Senate Committee on Academic Curriculum and Awards, S. Roland presented the Introduction of a Certificate in Ecological Justice and Climate Ethics.

It was moved by I. Johnsrude, seconded by G. Philip,

> That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2024, a Certificate in Ecological Justice and Climate Ethics be introduced by King's University College as shown in Item 9.3.

CARRIED

REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY PLANNING (SCUP)

ITEM 10.1(a) – 2024-2025 University Operating and Capital Budgets

F. Strzelczyk, Provost & Vice President (Academic) and L. Logan, Vice-President (Operations & Finance), presented for approval the 2024-2025 operating and capital budgets (Appendix A).

F. Strzelczyk began her presentation by providing an overview of the external factors impacting the budget, including the provincial base grant freeze, the domestic tuition freeze extension to 2026-27 and challenges anticipated in 2024-25 arising from governmental and geopolitical uncertainty, including the cap on undergraduate study permits for international students.

F. Strzelczyk continued her report with information about the internal context and noted the continued alignment with Western's Strategic Plan priorities. Additionally, she commented on the incorporation of the Brescia-Western integration into the University budget.

F. Strzelczyk outlined the ongoing and new investments made through the budget. She additionally commented on housing, growth in full-time faculty hiring and new collaboration opportunities.

L. Logan, Vice-President (Operations & Finance), provided an overview of the 2024-2025 capital budget noting it supports Western's Long-Range Space Plan. She described the major capital projects currently underway, projects soon-to-start, and those that are currently in advanced planning stages. Expenditures for the 2024-2025 capital budget were outlined, including but not limited to construction, renovations, infrastructure, and modernization of academic facilities.

P. Pexman addressed a question of clarification from a Senator regarding the sufficiency of the budget allocation for Research Core Facilities.

A Senator raised a question of clarification regarding the number of unfunded students. R. Chelladurai, Associate Vice-President (Institutional Planning & Budgeting), advised on the numbers and indicated that they align with the levels seen in 2016-17.

A Senator expressed concerns as to the presentation of data regarding faculty and whether the numbers of new faculty hires could be broken down by categories, including full-time faculty, limited-term positions, and tenure-track appointments.

R. Chelladurai addressed a question of clarification regarding one-time provincial funding.

In response to a question from an Official Observer, F. Strzelczyk provided the rationale for the operating reserve to be larger than is mandated by the Board of Governors and explained the necessity for an operating reserve to mitigate potential financial risks and ensure the stability of operations in uncertain circumstances.

It was moved by D. Laid,

> That Senate provide advice to the Board of Governors, through the President and Vice-Chancellor, recommending the approval of the 2024-25 University Operating and Capital Budgets as shown in Item 10.1(a).

CARRIED

ITEM 10.1(b) – 2024-25 Program Specific Fees and Other Supplemental Fees

REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH BOARD (URB)

On behalf of the University Research Board (URB), P. Pexman presented the report of the URB.

ITEM 11.1 – New MAPP policy: Policy 7.17 – Establishment, Governance and Review of Core Research Facilities

B. Neff, Associate Vice-President (Research), presented the new MAPP 7.17 – Establishment, Governance and Review of Core Research Facilities for discussion (Appendix B).

In his presentation, B. Neff highlighted the context and background surrounding the proposal, offering insights into the definition of Research Core Facilities. Additionally, he provided rationale for the creation of the Policy.

Senators were invited to review the proposed Policy and to provide feedback. Additionally, B. Neff noted that the Policy would be presented for approval at the next Senate meeting.

REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC COLLEAGUE

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

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

REPORT FROM THE OPERATIONS / AGENDA COMMITTEE (OAC)

Information Items Reported by OAC on Unanimous Consent:

- ITEM 13.1(a) – Senate Membership – Vacancies Filled by Appointment
- ITEM 13.1(b) – Revision to the Approval Level for SGPS Regulations (presented in the Report of the ad hoc Working Group – September 2022)

REPORT FROM THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY

ITEM 13.2(a) – Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry: Revisions to the "Dean's Honour List and Graduation "With Distinction"" Policy

It was moved by J. Welch, seconded by E. Chamberlain,

That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2024, the "Dean's Honour List and Graduation "With Distinction"" policy be revised as shown in Item 13.2(a).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

ITEM 13.2(b) – Faculty of Law: Revisions to the Policy on "Progression Requirements – Law"

It was moved by J. Welch, seconded by E. Chamberlain,

That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2024, the policy on "Progression Requirements – Law" be revised as shown in Item 13.2(b).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Information Items Reported by the Senate Committee on Academic Policy on Unanimous Consent:

- ITEM 13.2(c) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: SGPS Regulation: Visitor and Exchange Programs.

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

ITEM 13.3(a) – Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Department of Medical Biophysics and Faculty of Science: Withdrawal of the Honours Specialization in Medical Biophysics (Biological Science Concentration), Honours Specialization in Medical Biophysics (Physical Science Concentration), and Honours Specialization in Medical Biophysics and Biochemistry

It was moved by J. Welch, seconded by E. Chamberlain,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2024, admission to the following modules offered by the Department of Medical Biophysics in the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry and the Faculty of Science be discontinued:

Honours Specialization in Medical Biophysics (Biological Science Concentration)

Honours Specialization in Medical Biophysics (Physical Science Concentration)

Honours Specialization in Medical Biophysics and Biochemistry

And, that students currently enrolled in the modules be permitted to graduate upon fulfillment of the module requirements by August 31, 2027, and

That the modules be withdrawn effective September 1, 2027.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

ITEM 13.3(b) – Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry and Faculty of Science: Revisions to the Policy on "Medical Sciences First Entry"

It was moved by J. Welch, seconded by E. Chamberlain,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2024, the policy on "Medical Sciences First Entry" be revised as shown in Item 13.3(b).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

ITEM 13.3(c) – Faculty of Social Science, Departments of History and Political Science and Ivey Business School: Revisions to the Admission and Program Requirements of the Honours Specialization in International Relations and the Combined Honours Specialization in International Relations/HBA

It was moved by J. Welch, seconded by E. Chamberlain,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2024, the admission and program requirements of the Honours Specialization in International Relations and the combined Honours Specialization in International Relations/HBA be revised as shown in Item 13.3(c).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

ITEM 13.3(d) – Brescia University College: Withdrawal of the Major in Philosophy

It was moved by J. Welch, seconded by E. Chamberlain,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective May 1, 2024, admission to the Major in Philosophy currently offered by Brescia University College be discontinued, and

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

That the module be withdrawn effective September 1, 2025.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

ITEM 13.3(e)(i) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Major Modification to the Master of Engineering (MEng) in Mechanical and Materials Engineering

It was moved by J. Welch, seconded by E. Chamberlain,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective May 1, 2024, the Master of Engineering (MEng) in Mechanical and Materials Engineering be revised as shown in Item 13.3(e)(i).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

ITEM 13.3(e)(ii)– School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Major Modification to the Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS)

It was moved by J. Welch, seconded by E. Chamberlain,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2024, the Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) be revised as shown in Item 13.3(e)(ii).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Information Items Reported by ACA on Unanimous Consent:

- ITEM 13.3(f) – Dissolution of the Subcommittee for Western Approved Microcredentials (SWAM)
- ITEM 13.3(g) – Faculty-Specific Sessional Dates: Faculty of Education (2024-25)
- ITEM 13.3(h)(i) – New Donor-Funded Scholarships, Awards and Prizes
- ITEM 13.3(h)(ii) – New Western-Funded Scholarships, Awards and Prizes

Information Items Reported by the Honorary Degrees Committee:

- Honorary Degree Recipients- Spring 2024.

DISCUSSION AND QUESTION PERIOD

The full text of the 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:

A few questions were submitted with respect to the strike by the University's Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTA) by Senators and an Official Observer prior to the Senate meeting. These questions concerned the prospective impact on the upcoming exams and academic integrity, the lack of information provided, issues related to safety and security, and the possible impact on undergraduate students.

F. Strzelczyk recognized the significance of the University's GTAs' work, reporting that the bargaining parties had returned to the table for mediation talks. With respect to the administration of exams, F. Strzelczyk informed Senate that the Office of the Registrar had organized trained staff to assist. She commented on the potential impact of the strike and outlined the strategies to be adopted for different scenarios. F. Strzelczyk stated that safety is the key priority for the University and assured Senate that summer and intersession courses would be delivered as planned.

The Chair deferred a question related to the impact of the GTAs strike on undergraduate research interests while the bargaining is ongoing.

S. Lewis, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs), addressed a question regarding the support provided to undergraduate students during the exams period, in light of the GTA strike.

A Senator raised a question regarding the prospective timeline for the negotiation process. F. Strzelczyk stated that it is Western's top priority to reach an agreement.

A Senator raised concerns regarding rumors suggesting that fire alarms systems had been turned off. F. Strzelczyk assured Senators that fire alarm systems are operating properly, and the security staff are in place to monitor them, preventing any disruptions. She noted that this practice is common during exams and large events.

In response to a question regarding the fire security system, L. Logan stated that the process was developed in cooperation with the London Fire Department and works accordingly.

In response to a question regarding channeling updated information to administrative staff, F. Strzelczyk stated that the administration will address these concerns.

A Senator raised concerns regarding the current procedures in place that do not allow graduate students to retain full internal funding if they receive an external grant. F. Strzelczyk noted this will be a subject of discussion in the future.

A Senator raised concerns regarding the issue that the PeopleSoft system has become so integrated into the Western infrastructure that it could be irremovable, along with doubts about its optimal functionality.

R. Chelladurai commented on the implementation process for the PeopleSoft system, stating that the system functions properly and there is no intention to change it.

The Chair expressed gratitude to Senators from Brescia University College, as well as to the President of University Students' Council (USC) and the President of the Society of Graduate Students for their service and dedication, as it was their last Senate meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

_____ _____

A. Shepard
Chair

A. Bryson
University Secretary

2024-25 Operating and Capital Budgets

Presentation to Senate

April 19, 2024

Western

1

External context

- Provincial base grant frozen at 2016-17 level (block grant)
- Domestic tuition rates:
  - Rolled back 10% in 2019-20 and frozen through 2026-27
  - Undergraduate domestic out-of-province tuition to increase by 5%
  - Tuition anomaly increases in undergraduate computer science and MOS
- Flexibility with international tuition rates
- Jan 2024 – new two-year cap on undergraduate study permits
  - Western allocated 1,048 provincial attestation letters, shared 200 with Affiliates
- Modest one-time government funding recently announced

Internal context

- Overall enrolment growth (since 2018-19):
  - Primarily domestic
  - International undergraduate growth aspirations
- Moving to 2nd year of 3-Year Plan in 2024-25
  - Budget structure/approach remains unchanged
  - Multi-year commitments made last year being honoured
- Slowing-down new incremental funding commitments
- Bresca-Western Integration
  - fully integrated into Budget

Priorities for this cycle

- Continued alignment with Strategic Plan priorities, including building on investments in recent years:
  - Engineering expansion
  - Faculty/staff complement growth
  - Space/facilities: long-range space plan
  - IT infrastructure renewal/expansion
  - Student financial aid programs
  - Undergraduate summer research internships (USRI) and post-doc programs

New major investments this year

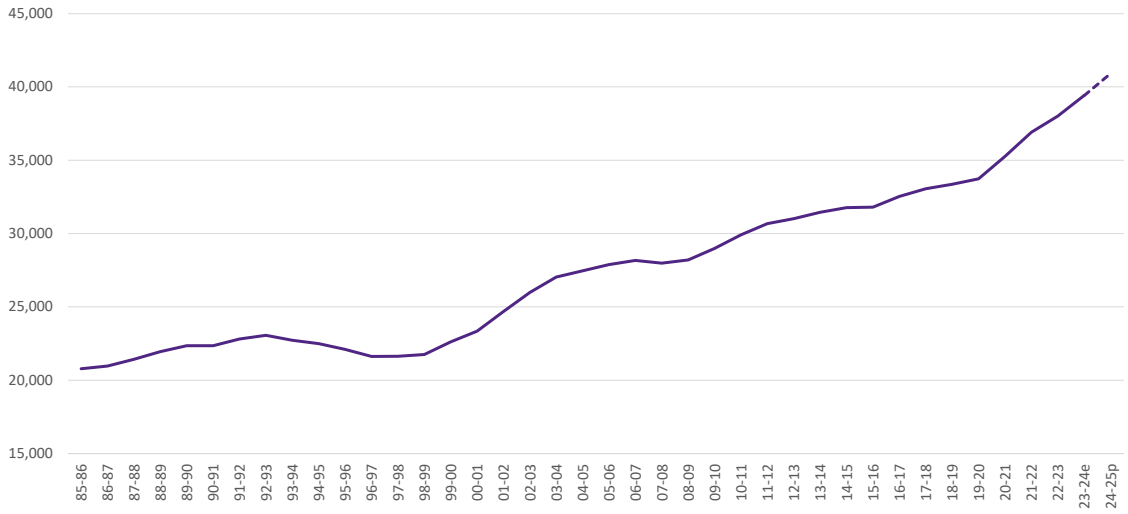
1. **Enhancing our scholarship and research impact**
   - Support of Research Institutes ($13.5M)
   - Canada Foundation for Innovation Matching Funds ($10.0M)
   - Support for Core Research Facilities ($1.0M)
   - Western Academy for Advanced Research (WAFAR) ($500K)
2. **International undergraduate recruitment**
   - Recruitment awards and housing guarantee
3. **Investment in Social Science ($2.5M Base)**
4. **Aerospace Training Hub ($2M)**

Western

Budget 2024-25 5

5

Total FTE enrolment at Western

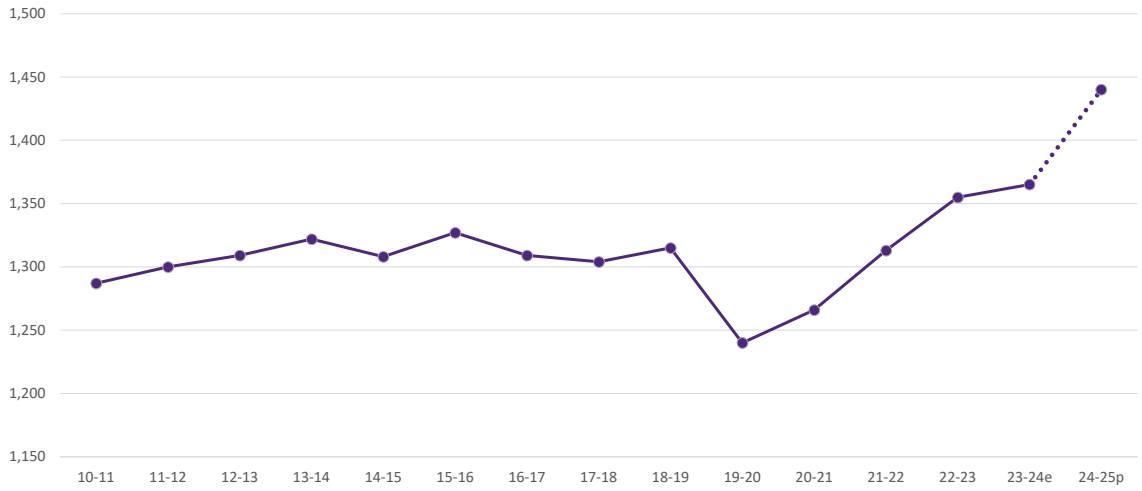


Western

Budget 2024-25 6

6

Total full-time faculty

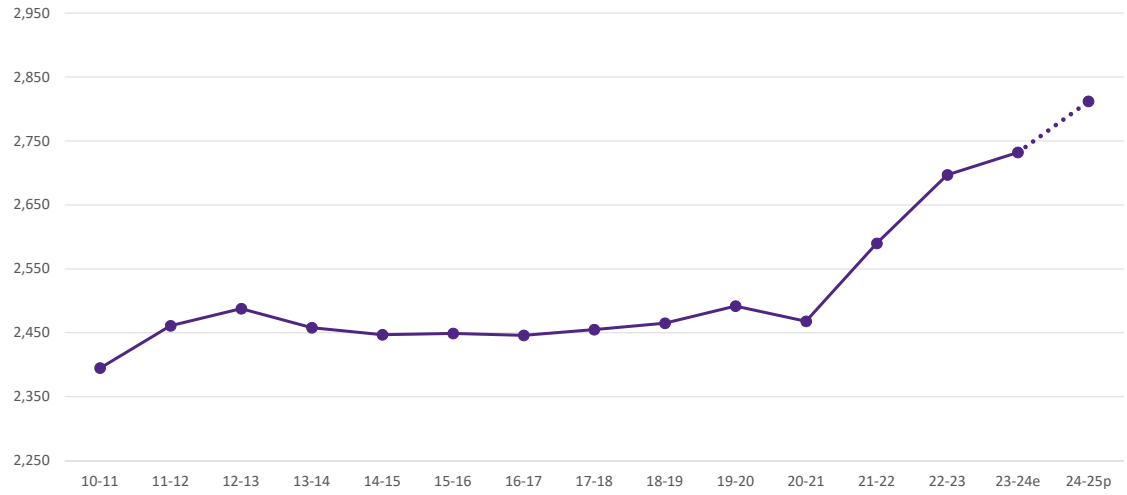


Western

Budget 2024-25 7

7

Total full-time staff



Western

Budget 2024-25 8

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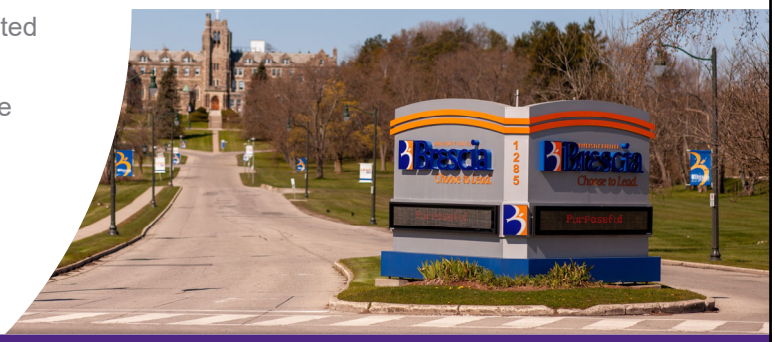
Brescia-Western integration

- 35 faculty members and 80 staff members joining Western
- ~700 current Brescia students projected to continue at Western in 2024-25
- Brescia campus and facilities become part of Western
- Budget aspects fully integrated into Western Budget



Brescia-Western integration:

Projected operating budget integration ($M)

	2024-25	2025-26+
Revenues		
Government Grants	$8.79	$8.97
Tuition Fees	$5.61	$5.52
Affiliation Fee	-$2.56	-$2.56
All Other	$0.38	$0.68
Total	**$12.22**	**$12.61**
Expenditures		
Employees joining Western	$9.62	$8.36
Student Financial Aid	$1.50	$1.50
Facilities-related and Other	$1.89	$1.93
Total	**$13.01**	**$11.79**
Net Position	**-$0.79**	**$0.82**

Summary of 2024-25 Operating Budget

Western

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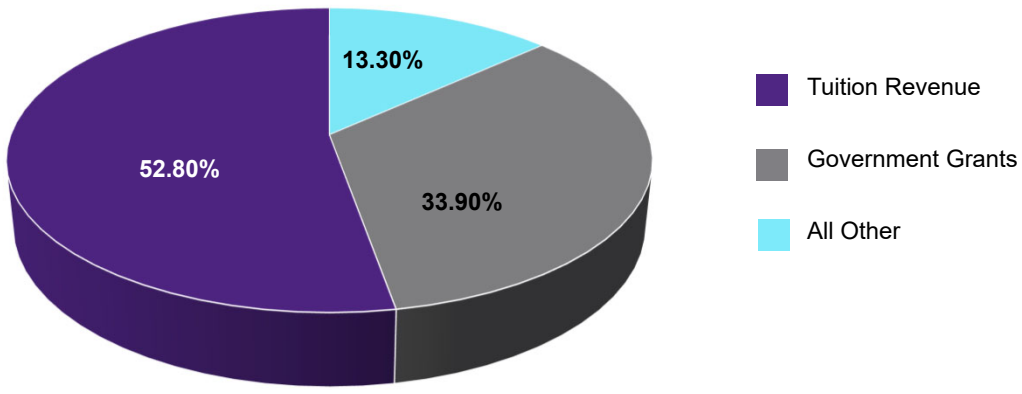
Projected 2024-25 operating revenues
(Total = $930.4M)



Western

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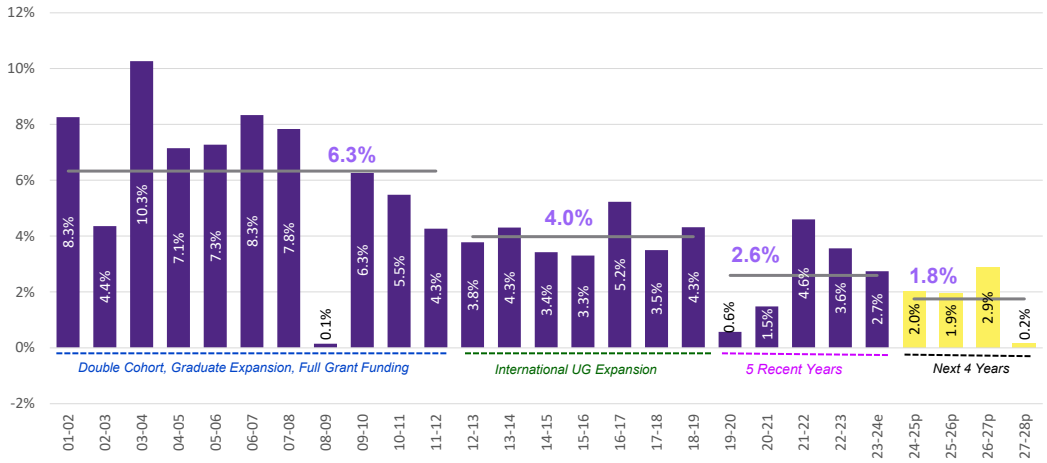
Operating Revenues: Annual % change
2001-01 to 2027-28p



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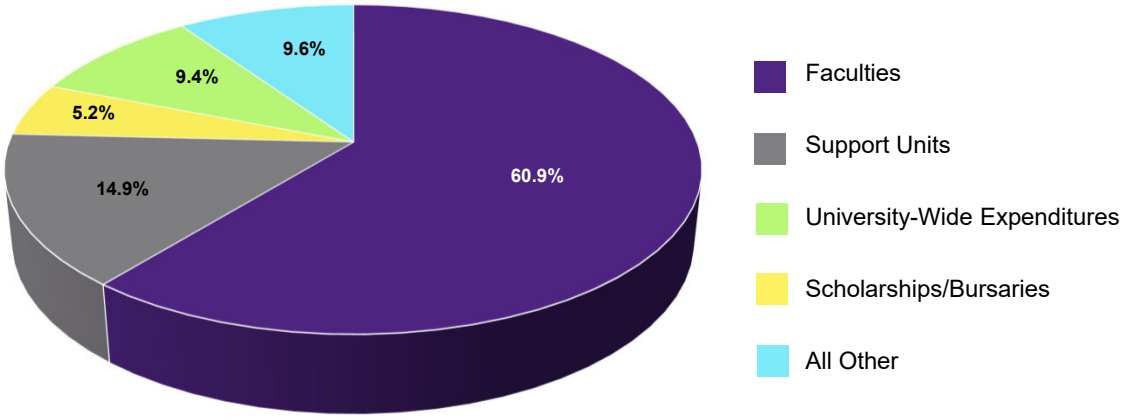
Projected 2024-25 operating expenditures
(Total = $930.2M)



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Summary of 2024-25 operating budget
(Table 2)

Revenue forecast	= $ 930.4M
Expenditure plan	= $ 930.2M

Projected in-year position: $0.2M

Projected operating reserve $51.6M

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Overall status of operating budget

- Balanced budget for 2024-25
- Operating reserve at nearly $52M
- A stable situation for the remaining two years of the current 3-year planning period*

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2024-25 Capital Budget

Western

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Next set of major capital projects

- Supports Long-Range Space Plan (page 36, table 13)
- Major Projects *underway, soon-to-start, or in advanced planning (Category 1)*
  - Weldon Library Modernization
  - Schmeichel Building for Entrepreneurship & Innovation
  - New Engineering Building
  - Bioconvergence Centre
  - Residences
  - Pathogen Research Centre Facility
  - University Drive Bridge Replacement

Western

Budget 2024-25 18

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Projects in various planning stages (category 2)

- Additional space for Health Sciences
- Social Sciences Centre realignment/expansion
- Western Commons – common/gathering spaces
- Multi-Sport Field house – with parking garage

Overview of 2024-25 Capital Budget

Total spending of $259.3M (table 14, line 10)

$154.6M for new construction

(Table 17, line 13)

$20.0M for major renovations

(Table 17, line 22)

$84.7M for all other expenditures

- Utilities and infrastructure
- Modernization of academic facilities
- General maintenance and modernization
- Housing and Ancillary projects

Questions & Discussion

Western

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Western

Research Core Facilities

Bryan Neff :: Associate Vice-President (Research)

1

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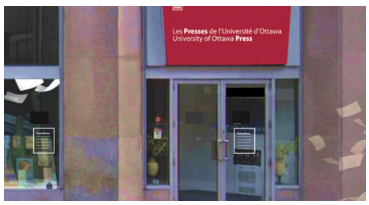
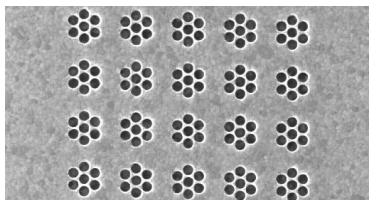
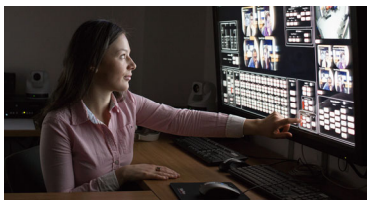
What is a Research Core Facility?







Core facilities provide services & activities that are generally too expensive, complex or specialized for individual researchers to provide themselves

1. Access to state-of-the-art research services & equipment
2. Dedicated staff, equipment & space
3. Available to any qualified user in an equitable & fair model
4. Institutional support & oversight

2

Western

Core Facilities Working Group

Members

Western Research

Faculties

Libraries

Existing core facilities

Mandate & Approach

Develop framework to define, designate, assess & sustain

One year of monthly meetings

Consulted facility directors & users, department chairs, Deans, Western leadership

Informed by peer institution policies & committees

3

Western

Why the Policy & Why Now?

Funding requirements & to address performance

Enhanced efficiency, access, collaboration & sustainability

Central repository to promote facilities

Business development & operational support

Promote interdisciplinarity by improving access

Facilitate strategic investment to support major initiatives

4

Western

Western's Definitition of a Core Facility

"A unit within the institution that provides users with access to state-of-the-art research services, analyses, instruments, technology, expertise, resources, and training that are typically too expensive, complex, or specialized to be maintained on their own.

The facility typically operates on a fee-for-service basis, supports multiple users, and is available to qualified users without any requirement for collaboration or co-authorship.

A core facility is recognized and supported by the institution, has a sustainability plan, and a clear governance and management structure. The facility provides benefits such as financial savings through economies of scale, expert operators, training opportunities, and reduced duplication of services and effort within the institution."

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Western

Core Facility Categories

	Faculty	Institutional
Oversight	Faculty or Department	Faculty & Vice-President (Research)
Establishment	Dean notifies Vice-President (Research)	Formal application assessed by Core Planning Group & Vice-President (Research)
Renewal	Annual	Typically, five-year term followed by formal renewal
Benefits	Access to institutional research supports (e.g., CFI, business development)	Same, plus Western Research Chair & budget unit eligibility

6

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Next Steps

Review & discuss with colleagues

↓

Connect with questions or comments
bneff@uwo.ca

↓

Formal Motion & Vote: May Senate

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