



## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE**

**April 17, 2026**

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The meeting was held at 1:33 at the Ronald D. Schmeichel Entrepreneurship and Innovation Building, Room 4106

### **SENATORS:**

Y. Al-Ani	L. Graham	I. Namukasa
C. Alcantara	M. Green-Barteet	A. Nocilla
A. Ali	A. Hassan	V. Parsa
A. Awawdeh	N. Harney	I. Paul
K. Backtash	D. Heap	A. Pero
B. Begg	J. Herrera	P. Pexman
K. Big-Canoe	A. Hearn	R. Ramachandran
A. Bryson	M. Joanisse	W. Ritchie
N. Campbell	I. Johnsrude	J. Redden
K. Choi	M. Khimji	B. Rubin
C. Chung	S. Knabe	S. Schmid
S. Clarke	T. Layton	A. Shchepetkina
N. Coates	H. Li	A. Shepard
K. Coley	G. R. Little	K. Siddiqui
L. Davis	L. Lingard	D. Sirek
M. Davison	M. Lebo	D. Smith
M. El-Sakka	L. Logan	F. Strzelczyk
G. Fanchini	B. Lovie	X. Wang
D. Ferri	A. Lukawski	L. Waller
R. Forrester-Jones	J. Makaran	K. Yeung
A. Fremeth	T. Mantler	N. Zaban
R. Gillis	G. McAuley	
J. Gemson	G. Metson	
C. Giannacopoulos	Z. Nadeem	

### **Observers:**

C. Bressette, R. Chelladurai, S. Hayne Beatty, S. Hendrikx, J. Hutter, S. Lewis, E. Marshall, M. McGlynn, O. Oloya, V. Sarkany, R. A. Strickland, M. Yenson

## **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

M. Green-Barteet offered a Land Acknowledgement.

## **MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING**

### **ITEM 2.0 – Minutes of the Meeting of March 13, 2026**

It was moved by A. Ali, seconded by B. Lovie,

That the minutes of the meeting of March 13, 2026, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

## **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

In addition to the written report provided in advance of the meeting, A. Shepard, President & Vice-Chancellor, expressed appreciation to the members of the Western Communication team for their work, highlighting Western's strong presence in both global and national news. The President highlighted several high-profile stories featuring Western researchers, noting how these achievements continue to strengthen the university's research impact and enhance its global presence through international collaboration.

The President continued his report with remarks on the excellent response to Western's Spring Open House and provided an update on his ongoing meetings with alumni, noting the positive engagement and valuable feedback.

The President advised Senate that Western was named a top regional employer for the third consecutive year and expressed his appreciation to the Human Resources team for their efforts.

Additionally, the President invited members of Senate to attend the upcoming event with Nobel Prize winner Peter Howitt on April 20.

In closing, the President provided a presentation to highlight the major capital projects that are currently underway and commented on the funding sources supporting ongoing campus development (Appendix A).

The President responded to a question of clarification regarding the Alumni Hall renovations project and explained that, in order to return Convocation ceremonies to campus, an alternate venue is being considered, as Alumni Hall can no longer accommodate the University's growing needs.

In response to questions from Senators, the President commented on plans for the potential expansion of campus parking facilities, strategies in place to mitigate potential risks associated with construction noise, particularly in research-sensitive areas, and outlined plans for new learning spaces designed to accommodate larger class sizes, particularly in

light of the University's strategy to increase the number of in-person exams.

### **REPORT OF THE PROVOST**

F. Strzelczyk, Provost & Vice-President (Academic) referred to the written report provided in the agenda package and recognized the newly named Distinguished University Professors and Faculty Scholars, offering congratulations on their outstanding achievements.

The Provost continued her report with an update on Western International College, noting that admission offers to both graduate and undergraduate students continue to be issued on a rolling basis.

The Provost commented on the launch of the Artificial Intelligence Resource Centre, emphasizing its role in advancing structured and responsible AI adoption across the University.

### **ITEM 4.1 – Future of Teaching and Learning: Strategic Action Areas**

S. Lewis, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs), provided a presentation on the Future of Teaching and Learning Strategic Action Areas, outlining the project's primary goals and strategic objectives.

During the presentation, S. Lewis commented on the consultations held, highlighting key findings from the surveys and outlining the draft recommendations that were presented to Senate. Additionally, she commented on the work of the Steering Committee and the plan for further implementation of the recommendations.

In responding to a question of clarification, the Vice-Provost (Academic Programs) advised that approximately 90% of students report having medium or high levels of practical learning experience through experiential learning initiatives.

S. Lewis responded to a question and commented on the ongoing efforts to develop programs that can support students experiencing anxiety.

### **REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT (RESEARCH)**

In addition to the materials provided in advance of the meeting, P. Pexman, Vice-President (Research), provided a brief update on recent initiatives led by Western Research and began her report by commenting on the Undergraduate Summer Research Internships (USRI) program. P. Pexman emphasized that interest in the program is still high, and students may begin their internships as of May 1.

P. Pexman continued her report by highlighting the success of the SSHRC's Storytellers Challenge, noting that among 20 finalists nationally, three are Western students.

In concluding her report, P. Pexman provided an update on the newly launched research support tools at Western, highlighting both the automated grant feedback system and the Western Research Grants Repository.

## **REPORT OF THE OPERATIONS / AGENDA COMMITTEE (OAC)**

On behalf of the Operations/Agenda Committee (OAC), M. Joannis presented the report of the Committee.

### **ITEM 6.1 – Membership – Nominating Committee**

Ayesha Hassan was acclaimed to the Nominating Committee as an undergraduate student Senator for a term from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.

Haiyi Yan was acclaimed to the Nominating Committee as a graduate student Senator for a term from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.

Nicole Campbell was nominated from the floor and was acclaimed to serve on the Nominating Committee for a term from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2028.

### **ITEM 6.2 – Questions for Senate**

M. Joannis informed Senate that in accordance with the process established in the Adopted Policies and Procedures all the questions routed to Senate will be addressed during the meeting.

## **REPORT OF THE SENATE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

On behalf of the Senate Nominating Committee, G. Little provided the Nominating Committee report.

### **ITEM 7.1 – Vice-Chair of Senate**

Sophie Roland was acclaimed to serve as Vice-Chair of Senate for a term from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.

### **ITEM 7.2 – Membership – Operations/Agenda Committee (OAC)**

Brooklin Begg was acclaimed to OAC as a student Senator for a term from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.

Kate Choi presented the following nominations to the Operations/Agenda Committee.

Katie Big-Canoe, Michael Fox, Alfonso Nocilla, Rithwik Ramachandran and Joanna Redden were nominated by the Nominating Committee and Jose Herrera, Miguel Quinones-Mateu and Ken Yeung were nominated from the floor of Senate. An election was held following the Senate meeting and Katie Big-Canoe, Michael Fox, Alfonso Nocilla, Joanna Redden and Ken Yeung were elected to OAC as members of Senate for terms from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2028.

Geoffrey Robert Little was nominated by the Nominating Committee and Asad Awawdeh,

Ana Boller Krausz, Rayyan Kamal and Marisa Modeski were nominated from the floor of Senate. An election was held following the Senate meeting and Ana Boller Krausz, Geoffrey Robert Little and Marisa Modeski were elected to OAC as members of Senate for terms from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.

### **ITEM 7.3 – Membership – Senate Committee on Academic Policy (Policy)**

Jasmine Antonelli and Iman Faizi were nominated by the Nominating Committee and Senuli Weerasinghe was nominated from the floor of Senate. An election was held following the Senate meeting and Jasmine Antonelli and Senuli Weerasinghe were elected to the Senate Committee on Academic Policy as undergraduate students for terms from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.

Erfan Zarenia was nominated by the Nominating Committee and Antonia Yip was nominated from the floor of Senate. An election was held following the Senate meeting and Antonia Yip was elected to the Senate Committee on Academic Policy as a graduate student for a term from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.

Angela Borchert, Nicole Campbell, Mahmoud El-Sakka, Ken Yeung and Yi Zou were acclaimed to the Senate Committee on Academic Policy as faculty members for terms from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2028.

### **ITEM 7.4 – Membership – Senate Committee on Academic Curriculum and Awards (ACA)**

Hanna Thummel was nominated by the Nominating Committee and Youssef Seleem was nominated from the floor of Senate to the Senate Committee on Academic Curriculum and Awards (ACA). An election was held following the Senate meeting and Hanna Thummel was elected to ACA as an undergraduate student for a term from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.

Antonia Yip was acclaimed to ACA as a graduate student for a term from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.

Laura Graham and Andrew Johnson were nominated from the floor of Senate to ACA. As both are from the Faculty of Health Sciences, an election was held following the Senate meeting and Laura Graham was elected as a faculty member for a term from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2028.

### **ITEM 7.5 – Membership – Subcommittee on Program Review – Undergraduate (SUPR-U)**

Rachael Kotsopoulos, Ryan Martell and Sara Sharma were nominated by the Nominating Committee and Amrithaa Logeswaran and Sameer Hafeez 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 Ryan Martell and Sara Sharma were elected to SUPR-U as undergraduate students for terms from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.

There was a tie for the third SUPR-U undergraduate student position. Rachael Kotsopoulos and Amrithaa Logeswaran 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 Rachael Kotsopoulos was selected to serve as an undergraduate student representative on SUPR-U for a term from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.

#### **ITEM 7.6 – Membership – Subcommittee on Undergraduate Academic Courses (SOC)**

Jeff Binoy and Cristina Masciantonio were nominated by the Nominating Committee and Olivia Matthews was nominated from the floor of Senate to the Subcommittee on Undergraduate Academic Courses (SOC). An election was held following the Senate meeting and Cristina Masciantonio and Olivia Matthews were elected to SOC as undergraduate students for terms from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.

Selma Purac was acclaimed to SOC as a faculty members for a term from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2028.

#### **ITEM 7.7 – Membership – Senate Committee on University Planning (SCUP)**

Joanne He was acclaimed to the Senate Committee on University Planning (SCUP) as an undergraduate student Senator for a term from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.

Maxwell Campbell and Fuhad Ogunsanya were nominated by the Nominating Committee and Antonia Yip was nominated from the floor of Senate. An election was held following the Senate meeting and Maxwell Campbell and Antonia Yip were elected to SCUP as graduate students for terms from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.

Rithwik Ramachandran and Min Xia were acclaimed to SCUP as members of faculty, who are members of Senate at the time their term on the Committee begins, for terms from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2028.

Rachel Halaney was nominated by the Nominating Committee and Kristin Hoffmann and Mariam Hayward were nominated from the floor of Senate. An election was held following the Senate meeting and Kristin Hoffmann was elected to SCUP as an administrative staff representative for a term from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2028.

Julianne Burgess was acclaimed to SCUP as a postdoctoral scholar for a term from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2028.

#### **ITEM 7.8 – Membership – University Research Board (URB)**

Rainy Lu was nominated by the Nominating Committee and Zahra Nadeem was nominated from the floor of Senate to the University Research Board (URB). An election was held following the Senate meeting and Zahra Nadeem was elected to URB as an undergraduate student for a term from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.

Fuhad Ogunsanya and Colleen Van Loon were acclaimed to URB as graduate students for terms from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.

Julianne Burgess was acclaimed to URB as a postdoctoral representative for a term from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2028.

Wade Wright was acclaimed to URB as a member of the Faculty of Law for a term from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2028.

Shawn Whitehead was acclaimed to URB as a representative from the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry for a term from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2028.

Alina Shchepetkina was acclaimed to URB as a member of the Faculty of Science for a term from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2028.

### **ITEM 7.9 – Membership – Honorary Degrees Committee**

Grace Malheiro was nominated by the Nominating Committee and Nadith Ranasinghe was nominated from the floor of Senate to the Honorary Degrees Committee. An election was held following the Senate meeting and Grace Malheiro was elected to the Honorary Degrees Committee as a student Senator for a term from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.

Katie Big-Canoe, Cody Groat, Jennifer Robinson and Chris Smith were nominated by the Nominating Committee and Xianbin Wang was nominated from the floor of Senate to the Honorary Degrees Committee. An election was held following the Senate meeting and Katie Big-Canoe, Cody Groat, Jennifer Robinson and Chris Smith were elected to the Honorary Degrees Committee for terms from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2028.

### **ITEM 7.10 – Membership – Senate Committee on University Teaching Awards (SUTA)**

Haiyi Yan was acclaimed to the Senate Committee on University Teaching Awards (SUTA) as a graduate student for a term from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.

Egide Kalisa Yan was acclaimed to the Senate Committee on University Teaching Awards (SUTA) as a faculty member for a term from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2029.

### **ITEM 7.11 – Membership – Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA)**

Lina Dagnino was acclaimed as Chair of the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA) for a term from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.

Jasmine Antonelli, Asad Awawdeh, Jeff Binoy, Kiranvir Gill, Sameer Hafeez, Jack Harris, Amrithaa Logeswaran, Nadith Ranasinghe, Sara Sharma and Youssef Seleem were acclaimed to SRBA as undergraduate students for terms from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.

Maxwell Campbell, Aoife Hawthorne, Rayyan Kamal, Alexandra Lukawski, Yuen Ki Ng, Fuhad Ogunsanya and Era Rana were acclaimed to SRBA as graduate students for terms from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.

Torin Chiles, Caroline Dick, Heather Kirk, Ken Kirkwood, Ruth Ann Strickland and Yi Zou were acclaimed to SRBA as faculty members for terms from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2028.

**ITEM 7.12 – Membership – Distinguished University Professor Selection Committee**

Kate Choi was acclaimed to the Distinguished University Professor Selection Committee as a senior scholar at Western for a term from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2028.

**ITEM 7.13 – Membership – Faculty Scholar Selection Committee**

Fred Dick and Amanda Gryzb were acclaimed to the Faculty Scholar Selection Committee as senior scholars at Western for terms from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2028.

**ITEM 7.14 – Membership – Board of Governors**

Alfonso Nocilla was nominated by the Nominating Committee and Nicole Campbell, Alison Hearn and Ken Yeung were nominated from the floor of Senate to serve on the Board of Governors. An election was held following the Senate meeting and Alison Hearn 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, 2026 to June 30, 2030.

**REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY**

On behalf of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy, K. Yeung presented the Policy report.

**ITEM 8.1 – Revisions to the Policy on “Definitions of Types of Examinations”**

S. Lewis provided a brief overview of the anticipated changes to the Policy on “Definitions of Types of Examinations” to Senate for information. The proposed revisions would introduce a handling fee in cases where a student fails to attend a scheduled Special Examination for a deferred final examination within the designated Special Examination period. In such cases, the handling fee would apply to the administration of an additional Special Examination.

S. Lewis advised Senate that the proposed fee is subject to approval by the Board of Governors and will be considered as part of the budget approval process in April. Additionally, she stated that the proposal to revise the policy on “Definitions of Types of Examinations” will come forward to the Senate Committee on Academic Policy for approval and recommendation to Senate in May 2026.

**REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY PLANNING**

On behalf of SCUP, S. Schmid presented the report of the Committee.

**ITEM 10.1(a) – 2026-27 University Operating and Capital Budgets**

F. Strzelczyk, Provost & Vice President (Academic) and L. Logan, Vice-President (Operations & Finance), presented for approval the 2026-2027 operating and capital budgets.

F. Strzelczyk began her presentation by outlining the external and internal contexts that shape the University's financial environment and then detailed the major investments in 2026-2027 that will support Western's strategic priorities and growth, uphold its academic mission, and advance research across the institution.

F. Strzelczyk continued her presentation by commenting on key funding changes announced by the provincial government in February 2026. The Provost advised that, as the details on the provincial grant funding have yet to be received, the budget does not reflect any potential new or increased allocations, other than a 2% tuition increase. Once further information becomes available, the budget will be updated accordingly.

The Provost concluded her presentation with data on domestic and international student FTE enrolment over the past 20 years, student-to-faculty ratios across the U6, the revenue impact of declining international enrolment, and the operating revenue and expenditure forecast for 2026–27.

L. Logan, Vice-President (Operations & Finance), provided an overview of the 2026-27 capital budget in support of Western's Long-Range Space Plan. L. Logan described the funding approach for major capital projects and outlined the 2026-27 capital budget for new construction and major renovations.

L. Logan addressed a question regarding plans for parking space expansion and advised that, through the consultation process for the Campus Development Strategy and Open Space Strategy, key priority areas will be identified, including potential parking needs. Additionally, she commented on upcoming major road construction works in the area, conducted by both the University and the City of London.

In response to a question regarding the provision for cost fluctuations, F. Strzelczyk advised that this money is used to fund negotiated salary increases.

In response to questions submitted in advance of the Senate meeting, Ruban Chelladurai, Associate Vice-President (Institutional Planning & Budgeting), commented on the Ivey Business School funding model, including fees applied for services delivered to Ivey. Additionally, R. Chelladurai responded to a question on whether a similar funding model could be applied across all Faculties and F. Strzelczyk commented on the impact of the new revenue share model on Faculties.

In response to a question submitted in advance of the Senate meeting, F. Strzelczyk stated that a detailed faculty-by-faculty breakdown could be provided to Senate in future.

In response to a request for enrolment projections by faculty along with Weighted Teaching Unit projections for 2024–25 through 2027–28, F. Strzelczyk presented a table (Appendix B)

and stated that projections for 2027-28 are not available.

L. Logan provided comments on major sources of funding, including one-time funds from internally restricted net assets.

Ruban Chelladurai and F. Strzelczyk responded to questions of clarification regarding data provided in the budget presentation, including student-to-faculty ratios, possible changes to OSAP funding, and one-time allocations identified in the budget document.

The President expressed his appreciation to the teams across campus for their work in developing the University's budget.

It was moved by S. Schmid,

That on recommendation of the Senate Committee on University Planning, Senate provide advice to the Board of Governors, through the President & Vice-Chancellor, recommending the approval of the 2026-27 University Operating and Capital Budgets as shown in Item 10.1(a).

CARRIED

### **ITEM 10.1(b) – 2026-27 Program Specific Fees and Other Supplemental Fees**

As Supplementary information for Senate, the Program Specific Tuition and Other Supplemental Fees were provided for information.

### **REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH BOARD (URB)**

On behalf of the University Research Board (URB), P. Pexman presented the URB report and commented on the work conducted at the last URB meeting, including the Western Research Institute and Centre Report that was provided to the Committee in accordance with MAPP 7.9 and the URB Terms of Reference.

P. Pexman continued her report with a status update on the research data management strategy and commented on the work of the Research Data Strategy Working Group.

P. Pexman concluded her report with remarks on the presentation provided to URB regarding the work of the Western Institute of Neuroscience.

### **ITEM 12.0 – Academic Colleague Report**

The written report was provided as part of the agenda for the meeting.

### **REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY TEACHING AWARDS (SUTA)**

### **ITEM 13.1 – Recipients of Western's Excellence in Teaching Awards for 2025-26**

M. McGlynn, Vice-Provost (Academic Planning, Policy & Faculty), announced the recipients of Western's Excellence in Teaching Awards for 2025-26.

## **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

### **REPORT FROM THE OPERATIONS/AGENDA COMMITTEE (OAC)**

#### **ITEM 14.1(a) – Faculty of Arts and Humanities: Revisions to the Faculty Council Constitution**

It was moved by K. Yeung, seconded by P. Pexman,

That on the recommendation of the Operations/Agenda Committee, Senate approve that effective April 17, 2026, the Council Constitution of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities be revised as shown in Item 14.1(a).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

#### **Information Items Reported by OAC on Unanimous Consent:**

- Item 14.1(b) – Senate Membership – Vacancies Filled by Appointment
- Item 14.1(c) – Appointment of Officers of Convocation
- Item 14.1(d) – Order of Ceremony – Autumn Convocation 2026

### **REPORT FROM THE SENATE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

#### **Information Items Reported by the Senate Nominating Committee on Unanimous Consent:**

- Item 14.2(a) – Senate Membership – General Community Member
- Item 14.2(b) – Temporary Replacement for the Committee Member: Senate Committee on Academic Curriculum and Awards (ACA)

### **REPORT FROM THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY**

#### **ITEM 14.3(a) – Revisions to the Policy on “Course Numbering, Essay Courses, and Hours of Instruction”**

It was moved by K. Yeung, seconded by P. Pexman,

That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2026, the policy on “Course Numbering, Essay Courses, and Hours of Instruction” be revised as shown in Item 14.3(a).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

#### **Information Items Reported by Policy Committee on Unanimous Consent:**

- Item 14.3(b) – Faculty-Specific Undergraduate Sessional Dates: Revised 2026-2027 Sessional Dates – Dentistry, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry

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

**ITEM 14.4(a) – Faculty of Social Science, Department of Geography and Environment: Renaming of the “Geography” Subject Area as the “Geography and Environment” Subject Area**

It was moved by K. Yeung, seconded by P. Pexman,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2026, the “Geography” Subject Area be renamed as the “Geography and Environment” Subject Area as shown in Item 14.4(a).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

**ITEM 14.4(b) – Faculty of Social Science, Department of History: Withdrawal of the Honours Specialization in American Cultural Studies and the Major and Minor in American Studies**

It was moved by K. Yeung, seconded by P. Pexman,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2026, admission to the Honours Specialization in American Cultural Studies, the Major in American Studies, and the Minor in American Studies be discontinued; and

That students currently enrolled in the modules be permitted to graduate upon fulfillment of the module requirements by August 31, 2029; and

That the modules be withdrawn effective September 1, 2029.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

**ITEM 14.4(c) – Huron University College: Renaming of the “Centre for Global Studies” Subject Area as the “Global Social Innovation” Subject Area**

It was moved by K. Yeung, seconded by P. Pexman,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2026, the “Centre for Global Studies” Subject Area be renamed as the “Global Social Innovation” Subject Area as shown in Item 14.4(c).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

**ITEM 14.4(d) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Major Modification to the Doctor of Philosophy in Library and Information Science**

It was moved by K. Yeung, seconded by P. Pexman,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2026, the Doctor of Philosophy in Library and Information Science be revised as shown in Item 14.4(d).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

**ITEM 14.4(e) – Revisions to the Articulation Agreement for Admission of Graduates from the Nutrition and Food Service Management Diploma Program at Fanshawe College into the Bachelor of Science (Foods and Nutrition) Program at Western**

It was moved by K. Yeung, seconded by P. Pexman,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective April 1, 2026, the articulation agreement for admission of graduates from the Nutrition and Food Service Management Diploma Program at Fanshawe College into the Bachelor of Science (Foods and Nutrition): Honours Specialization in Nutrition and Dietetics, Honours Specialization in Foods and Nutrition, and Specialization in Foods and Nutrition at Western be revised as shown in Item 14.4(e).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

**Information Items Reported by ACA on Unanimous Consent:**

- Item 14.4(f) – Announcement of a Vice-Chair of the Senate Committee on Academic Curriculum and Awards
- Item 14.4(g) – Report of the Subcommittee on Program Review – Graduate:
- Cyclical Review of the Graduate Program in Data Analytics
- Item 14.4(h) – New Donor-Funded Scholarships, Awards, and Prizes

**REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY PLANNING (SCUP)**

**Information Items Reported by SCUP on Unanimous Consent:**

- Item 14.5(a) – Annual Report on Faculty Recruitment and Retention

**REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH BOARD (URB)**

**Information Items Reported by URB on Unanimous Consent:**

- Item 14.6(a) – Western Research Institutes and Centres Report

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

### **The following items reported through Announcements and Communications were received for information by unanimous consent:**

- Item 14.7(a) – Election Results – Senate Committees

## **QUESTION PERIOD**

The full text of the questions submitted in advance of the meeting was posted in the Agenda at Item 16.0 prior to the meeting. The questions and responses are summarized below:

### **Question regarding the shuttle bus**

In response to a question regarding the discontinuation of the shuttle bus service that operated between Affiliated University Colleges, R. Chelladurai outlined the funding model that had supported this service, explaining that after the Brescia integration, Western fulfilled its commitment to share operating costs for one year. He noted that this commitment has now concluded, and the service has transitioned fully to the purview of King's University College. The President addressed a follow-up question concerning accessible transportation and noted that Voyago continues to provide those services.

### **Question regarding AI tools**

In response to a question regarding Western's plans to respond to rapidly advancing AI tools, such as the "Einstein" system that can complete online coursework, S. Lewis commented on the work undertaken to safeguard academic integrity and reviewing emerging AI tools. She emphasized the ongoing efforts to ensure ethical use of generative AI, including collaborative work with peer institutions.

F. Strzelczyk responded to a question regarding the change to teacher training, condensing the two-year program into three consecutive semesters and commented on the potential impact for the University.

In response to a question regarding religious accommodation during exams, the President advised that the practice was changed, following consultation with legal counsel.

### **Item for discussion**

A Senator submitted an item for discussion in advance of the Senate meeting and invited Senators to engage in a broader discussion on the university's investments and partnerships with industries involved in weapons manufacturing. The President commented on the broad consultation process for the Responsible Investing Policy and advised that the policy is outside the scope of Senate's authority.

It was moved by N. Zebian, seconded by D. Heap,

That the meeting of Senate be extended by 15 minutes.

CARRIED

Senators discussed Western's partnerships to advance defense-related research, potential risks, academic freedom and concerns related to constraints on researcher autonomy. Additionally, P. Pexman commented on research security practices and obligations.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

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A. Shepard  
Chair

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A. Bryson  
University Secretary



# Strategic Growth

Key capital projects supporting  
our academic mission

Senate | April 17, 2026



# Bioconvergence Centre



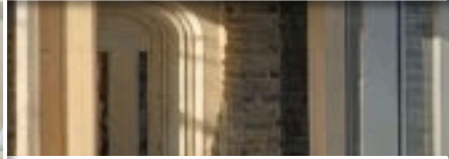
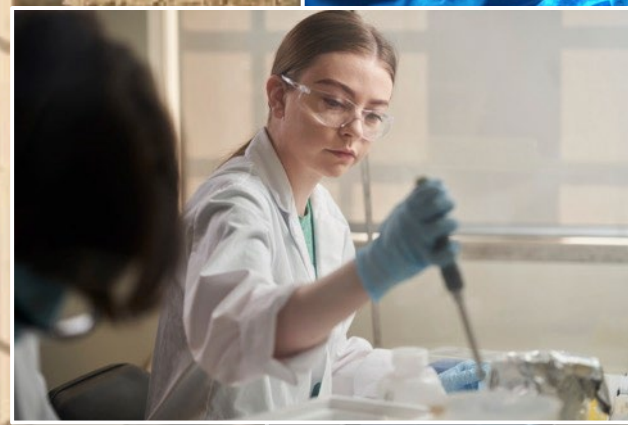
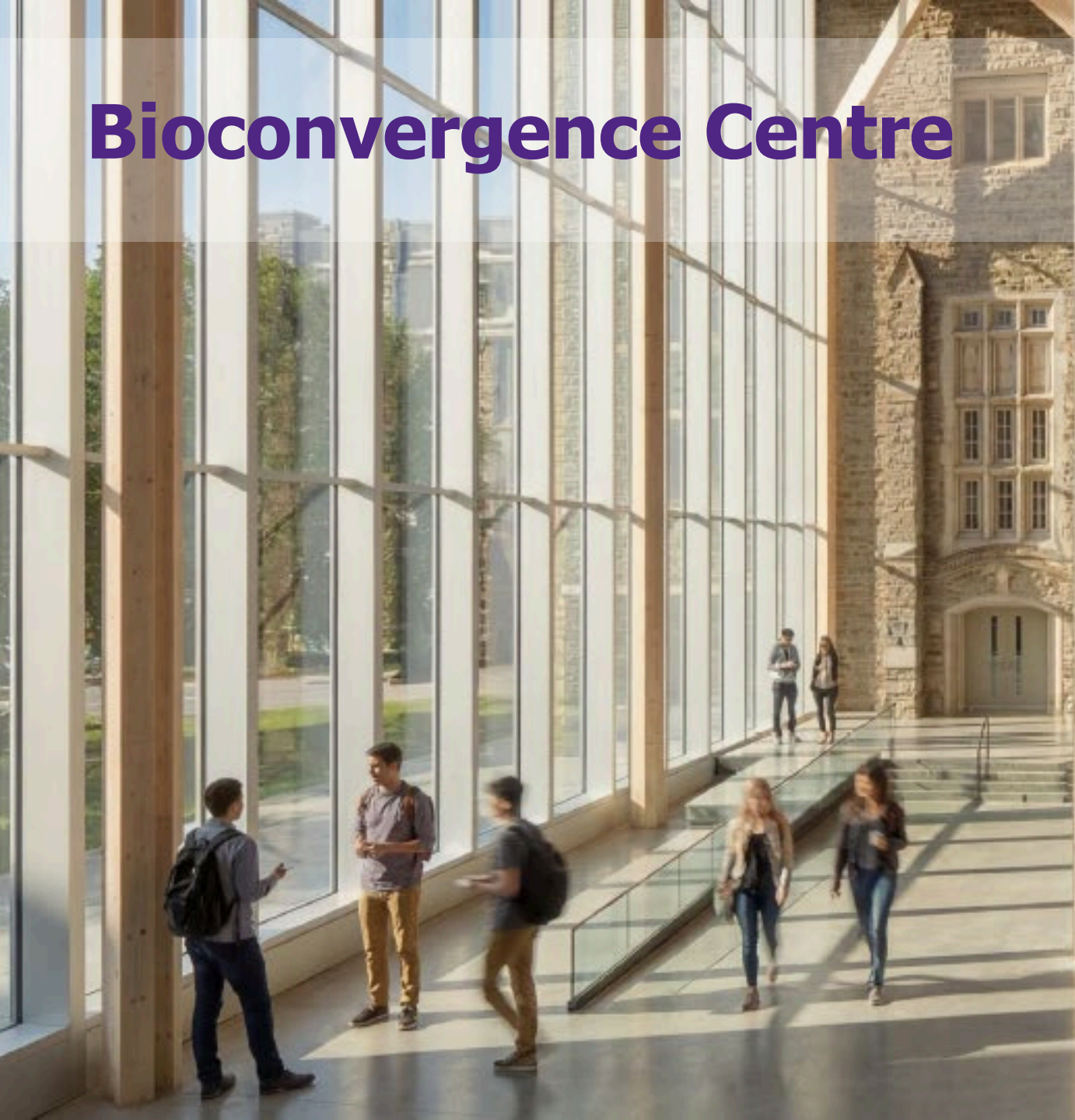
Health  
Sciences  
Addition

Medical Sciences

Bio & Geo Sciences

Physics & Astronomy

# Bioconvergence Centre



# New Engineering Building



# New Health Sciences Building



# Additional Priorities

- Alumni Hall Renovations
- Social Science Atrium & Expansion
- West Campus Upgrades
- Pathogen Research Centre
- University Drive Residence
- Electric Boiler Addition
- Philip Aziz & Sarnia/Western



# Weighted Teaching Units (WTUs)

