



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

**January 16, 2026**

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The meeting was held at 1:35 at the Great Hall, Somerville House

### **SENATORS:**

|                    |                  |                 |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| A. Agyapong        | L. Graham        | I. Namukasa     |
| C. Alcantara       | M. Green-Barteet | V. Parsa        |
| A. Ali             | L. M. Gribble    | I. Paul         |
| J. Antonelli       | R. Gros          | A. Pero         |
| A. Awawdeh         | A. Hassan        | P. Pexman       |
| K. Backtash        | D. Heap          | R. Ramachandran |
| C. Barteet         | A. Hearn         | S. Roland       |
| B. Begg            | B. Hill          | J. Redden       |
| K. Big-Canoe       | L. M. Ibarra     | B. Rubin        |
| S. Boe             | M. Joanisse      | S. Schmid       |
| A. Bryson          | I. Johnsrude     | L. Shahin       |
| J. Byrd Clark      | A. Jokhu         | A. Shepard      |
| N. Campbell        | M. Khimji        | S. Sibbald      |
| B. Chronik         | D. Kotsopoulos   | K. Siddiqui     |
| C. Chung           | T. Layton        | N. Silvester    |
| S. Clarke          | M. Lebo          | D. Sirek        |
| N. Coates          | H. Li            | D. Smith        |
| K. Coley           | L. Lingard       | F. Strzelczyk   |
| S. D’Arcy          | G. R. Little     | R. Ventresca    |
| L. Davis           | L. Logan         | L. Waller       |
| M. El-Sakka        | B. Lovie         | J. Walsh        |
| D. Ferri           | A. Lukawski      | X. Wang         |
| R. Forrester-Jones | J. Makaran       | J.H. Wright     |
| R. Gillis          | T. Mantler       | K. Yeung        |
| J. Gemson          | M. Mills         | J. Yoo          |
| C. Giannacopoulos  | M. Modeski       | N. Zabian       |

Observers: C. Bressette, S. Hayne Beatty, K. Henricus, J. Hutter, S. Lewis, E. Marshall, M. McGlynn, V. Sarkany, J. Scott, K. Verwaayen, M. Yenson

## **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

L. Waller offered a Land Acknowledgement.

## **MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING**

### **ITEM 2.0 – Minutes of the Meeting of December 5, 2025**

A Senator expressed concerns that the Minutes from the Senate meeting of December 5, 2025, did not reflect a response to a Senator's question regarding the budget presentation.

A. Bryson stated that the approval of the Minutes of the Senate meeting of December 5, 2025 would be deferred for review.

DEFERRED

## **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

The accessible version of the Policy on "Course Outlines" was provided to Senate for information.

## **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

In addition to the written report provided in advance of the meeting, A. Shepard, President & Vice-Chancellor, highlighted several recent visits to campus by government officials, including S. Lecce, Ontario's Minister of Energy and Mines, and P. Fragiskatos, Member of Parliament for London Centre.

A. Shepard continued his report by announcing that Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry has received \$2.9M in federal funding to expand oral health access and advance innovations in dentistry education.

A. Shepard acknowledged Senate's recent approval of the advice to the Board of Governors regarding the responsible investing policy and stated that he will convey this recommendation to the Board at its upcoming meeting.

A. Shepard concluded his report by extending gratitude to those continuing their work during the holiday season.

### **ITEM 3.1 – Report of the Board Chair**

S. Shortreed, Chair of the Board of Governors, provided a report to Senate and opened her remarks by outlining several key highlights from the previous year, emphasizing achievements and developments across the University. S. Shortreed commented on Western's *All in* campaign launched in September, provided a status update on the recommendations forwarded by Senate to the Board of Governors within the reporting period and expressed her gratitude to the members of Senate for their continued engagement.

## **REPORT OF THE PROVOST**

In addition to the written report provided in advance of the meeting, F. Strzelczyk, Provost & Vice-President (Academic), provided an update on matters under her portfolio, and began by extending gratitude to the Office of Institutional Planning & Budgeting for their dedicated work on the University Budget during the holiday season.

F. Strzelczyk commented on the ongoing efforts toward launching Western International College in alignment with the strategy to advance Western's internationalization goals and noted that the first pilot cohort in the Professional Masters (MEng) Programs is expected to start in May 2026.

F. Strzelczyk continued her report by commenting on the new federal initiatives under Canada Impact+ Programs aimed at attracting top international research talent to Canada.

F. Strzelczyk concluded her report by highlighting progress on several initiatives, including Research Information Management System (RIMS) and updates from the Chief AI Officer. Additionally, she provided an update on the Class of 2026 admission applications and confirmed the date for the March Open House.

S. Lewis, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs), in response to a question of clarification regarding the newly announced "AI- and digital-free" student workspace, advised that the project is in the planning phase and was developed from ideas put forward by members of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities.

In responding to a question of clarification regarding the pause in the Social Science Atrium project and whether the allocation of funds should be reconsidered, the Provost noted the continued demand for student space on campus and indicated that the project is currently paused for future consideration.

## **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 federal initiatives focused on recruiting top research talent to Canada, including the Canada Impact+ Research Chairs and Canada Impact+ Research Training Awards. She commented on the eligibility criteria, the strategic priority research areas, and advised on the internal selection process. Additionally, P. Pexman commented on the continued advocacy efforts aimed at increasing domestic research funding.

A Senator submitted a question in advance of the meeting raising concerns that the current Western's ethics review process is inconsistent with the University's stated goal of supporting high-quality research. P. Pexman confirmed the efforts are underway to streamline the ethics review process and emphasized that the Ethics team is available for consultation at any stage in the review process. In a follow-up, the Senator noted that Western research community is expecting changes, as the existing process lacks efficiency.

P. Pexman concluded her report by providing information on the recruitment efforts led by

the VPR Office, including the new Chair of the Non-Medical Research Ethics Board, the recent appointment of the executive Director of the Western Research Parks, and the ongoing search for the Associate Vice-President (Research).

In response to a question of clarification on whether efficiency analysis had been conducted to determine the necessity of filling the Associate Vice-President (Research) vacancy given current budget constraints, P. Pexman advised Senate that each AVPR provides strategic leadership to strengthen performance in major grant competitions and advancing research in different areas. Additionally, P. Pexman expressed gratitude to Jacquelyn Burkell for her dedication and leadership in her role as Associate Vice-President (Research) since 2019.

P. Pexman addressed a question of clarification regarding the Canada Impact+ Research Chairs program and commented on the internal process that was modeled and implemented. In addition, she advised Senate that the process is being conducted under a tight timeline.

### **REPORT OF THE OPERATIONS / AGENDA COMMITTEE**

On behalf of the Operations/Agenda Committee, S. Roland presented the report of the Committee.

#### **ITEM 6.1 – Revisions to the Terms of Reference of Convocation Board**

It was moved by S. Roland,

That on the recommendation of the Operations/Agenda Committee, Senate approve that effective January 16, 2026, the Terms of Reference of Convocation Board be revised as shown in Item 6.1.

CARRIED

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

S. Roland informed Senate that no questions were submitted in advance of the deadline for the Operations/Agenda Committee meeting for consideration at the January 16, 2026 Senate meeting.

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

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

#### **ITEM 10.1 – Climate & Sustainability Strategy**

H. Hyde, Director (Sustainability), provided a presentation to introduce the new Climate & Sustainability Strategy that is currently in development. The presentation included information on sustainability efforts at Western, the vision and guiding principles for the strategy, the key priorities, the community engagement process, the community feedback that was received in response to the draft strategy, and the development of the action plan.

In response to a question of how the strategy supports material circularity through its plans for organics and composting, H. Hyde advised that expanding of the organics and composting infrastructure will be incorporated into the action plan and remains a priority.

A Senator raised a question about how students can be involved in expanding awareness and how they can be engaged. H. Hyde commented on the channels for ongoing student feedback and collaboration.

H. Hyde addressed the GHG emissions for campus operations as well as emissions associated with campus transportation, noting that the transportation-related emissions, across multiple modes, are classified within Scope 3. Additionally, she advised that the focus of the current work is on identifying the main sources of Scope 3 emissions to outline the most significant opportunities for reduction.

A question was submitted in advance of the meeting how Western is reconciling its climate commitments with its use of AI, and whether the environmental impacts of AI are being considered. H. Hyde advised that AI footprint is a complex issue and Western upholds its commitment to using AI responsibly and that integrating AI-related impacts into the strategy is an ongoing process. A Senator requested that an update be provided to Senate once this issue has been addressed.

## **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

### **REPORT FROM THE OPERATIONS/AGENDA COMMITTEE**

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

- ITEM 13.1(a) – Appointment of Officers of Convocation
- ITEM 13.1(b) – Senate Membership – Vacancies Filled by Appointment

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

#### **ITEM 13.2(a) – Revisions to the Policy on “Certificates, Diplomas and Microcredentials”**

It was moved by D. Ferri, seconded by R. Gros,

That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy, Senate approve that effective January 16, 2026, the policy on “Certificates, Diplomas, and Microcredentials” be revised as shown in Item 13.2(a).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

#### **ITEM 13.2(c)(i) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Withdrawal of the Policy on “Doctoral Flex Time Registration”**

It was moved by D. Ferri, seconded by R. Gros,

That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy, Senate approve that effective January 16, 2026, the policy on “Doctoral Flex Time Registration” be withdrawn.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

**ITEM 13.2(c)(ii) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Withdrawal of the Policy on “External Graduate Scholarships on Transcripts”**

It was moved by D. Ferri, seconded by R. Gros,

That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy, Senate approve and recommend to Senate that effective January 16, 2026, the policy on “External Graduate Scholarships on Transcripts” be withdrawn.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

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

- ITEM 13.2(b) – Introduction of a Procedure for the Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs

**REPORT FROM THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC CURRICULUM AND AWARDS**

**ITEM 13.3(a)(i) – Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Department of Languages and Cultures: Withdrawal of the Minor and Certificate in Intercultural Communication for Arabic**

It was moved by D. Ferri, seconded by R. Gros,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2026, admission to the Minor and Certificate in Intercultural Communication for Arabic, offered by the Department of Languages and Cultures in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, be discontinued; and

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

That the Minor/Certificate be withdrawn effective September 1, 2029.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

**ITEM 13.3(a)(ii) – Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Department of Languages and Cultures: Withdrawal of the Minor and Certificate in Intercultural Communication for Japanese**

It was moved by D. Ferri, seconded by R. Gros,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2026, admission to the Minor and Certificate in Intercultural Communication for Japanese, offered by the Department of Languages and Cultures in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, be discontinued; and

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

That the Minor/Certificate be withdrawn effective September 1, 2029.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

**ITEM 13.3(c) – Faculty of Health Sciences, Brescia School of Food and Nutritional Sciences: Withdrawal of Family Studies Modules (Honours Specialization in Families and Communities – BA (Human Ecology); Honours Specialization and Specialization in Family Studies and Human Development – BSc (Human Ecology); Honours Specialization, Specialization, and Major in Nutrition and Families – BA (Human Ecology))**

It was moved by D. Ferri, seconded by R. Gros,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2026, admission to the following Family Studies modules offered by the Brescia School of Food and Nutritional Sciences in the Faculty of Health Sciences be discontinued;

Honours Specialization in Families and Communities – BA (Human Ecology)  
Honours Specialization in Family Studies and Human Development – BSc (Human Ecology)  
Specialization in Family Studies and Human Development – BSc (Human Ecology)  
Honours Specialization in Nutrition and Families – BA (Human Ecology)  
Specialization in Nutrition and Families – BA (Human Ecology)  
Major in Nutrition and Families – BA (Human Ecology)

And, that students currently enrolled in the modules be permitted to graduate upon fulfillment of the module requirements by August 31, 2032; and

That the modules be withdrawn effective September 1, 2032.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

**ITEM 13.3(d) – Faculty of Science, Department of Computer Science: Withdrawal of the Honours Specialization in Bioinformatics and the Honours Specialization in Information Systems**

It was moved by D. Ferri, seconded by R. Gros,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2027, admission to the Honours Specialization in Bioinformatics and the Honours Specialization in Information Systems, offered by the Department of Computer Science in the Faculty of Science, be discontinued; and

That students currently enrolled in the modules be permitted to graduate upon fulfillment of the module requirements by August 31, 2030; and

That the modules be withdrawn effective September 1, 2030.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

**ITEM 13.3(e)(i) – Huron University College: Renaming of Global Culture Studies Modules**

It was moved by D. Ferri, seconded by R. Gros,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2026, the following "Global Culture Studies" modules offered by Huron University College be renamed as "Cultural Forces of Global Change" modules as shown in Item 13.3(e)(i);

Honours Specialization in Global Culture Studies  
Specialization in Global Culture Studies  
Major in Global Culture Studies  
Minor in Global Culture Studies  
Honours Specialization in Global Culture Studies / HBA (offered with the Ivey School of Business); and

That students currently enrolled in the modules be permitted to graduate with the old name of the module on their diploma until August 31, 2029, upon request to the Office of the Registrar; and

That the module requirements be revised as shown in Item 13.3(e)(i).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

**ITEM 13.3(e)(ii) – Huron University College: Renaming of Global Development Studies Modules**

It was moved by D. Ferri, seconded by R. Gros,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2026, the following "Global Development Studies" modules offered by Huron University College be renamed as "Global Development" modules as shown in Item 13.3(e)(ii);

Honours Specialization in Global Development Studies  
Specialization in Global Development Studies  
Major in Global Development Studies  
Minor in Global Development Studies  
Honours Specialization in Global Development Studies / HBA (offered with the Ivey School of Business); and

That students currently enrolled in the modules be permitted to graduate with the old name of the module on their diploma until August 31, 2029, upon request to the Office of the Registrar; and

That the module requirements be revised as shown in Item 13.3(e)(ii).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

**ITEM 13.3(e)(iii) – Huron University College: Renaming of Global Rights Studies Modules**

It was moved by D. Ferri, seconded by R. Gros,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2026, the following "Global Rights Studies" modules offered by Huron University College be renamed as "Global Rights Actions" modules as shown in Item 13.3(e)(iii);

Honours Specialization in Global Rights Studies  
Specialization in Global Rights Studies; and

That students currently enrolled in the modules be permitted to graduate with the old name of the module on their diploma until August 31, 2029, upon request to the Office of the Registrar; and

That the module requirements be revised as shown in Item 13.3(e)(iii).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

**ITEM 13.3(e)(iv) – Huron University College: Renaming of Globalization Studies Modules**

It was moved by D. Ferri, seconded by R. Gros,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2026, the following "Globalization Studies" modules offered by Huron University College be renamed as "Global Social Innovation" modules as shown in Item 13.3(e)(iv);

Honours Specialization in Globalization Studies  
Specialization in Globalization Studies  
Major in Globalization Studies  
Minor in Globalization Studies  
Honours Specialization in Globalization Studies/HBA (offered with the Ivey Business School); and

That students currently enrolled in the modules be permitted to graduate with the old name of the module on their diploma until August 31, 2029, upon request to the Office of the Registrar; and

That the module requirements be revised as shown in Item 13.3(e)(iv).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

**ITEM 13.3(f) – King’s University College: Revisions to the Honours Specialization in Social Work**

It was moved by D. Ferri, seconded by R. Gros,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2026, the Honours Specialization in Social Work offered by King’s University College be revised as shown in Item 13.3(f).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

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

- ITEM 13.3(g) – Report of the Subcommittee on Program Review – Graduate (SUPR-G): Cyclical Review of the Graduate Program in Media Studies
- ITEM 13.3(h) – Report of the Subcommittee on Undergraduate Academic Courses (SOC) (July 2025 – December 2025)
- ITEM 13.3(i) – New Donor-Funded Scholarships, Awards and Prizes
- ITEM 13.3(j) – Faculty of Education: Introduction of Western Approved Microcredentials

## **REPORT FROM THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY PLANNING**

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

- ITEM 13.4(a) – Western Office of the Ombudsperson Annual Report
- ITEM 13.4(b) – Designated Chairs, Professorships and Faculty Fellowships  
Approved on Behalf of the Senate in 2025 (or prior) by the Senate Committee on University Planning

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

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

- ITEM 13.5(a) – Election Results – Selection Committee for the Deputy Provost

## **ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

### **ITEM 13.3(b) – Ivey Business School: Revisions to the Policy on “Admission – Business Administration”**

A Senator requested this item be removed from the consent agenda for further discussion and raised a question whether the changes in the proposal should be expanded beyond the mode of delivery to also include limits on class size, given the rationale outlined in the document. N. Haggerty, Associate Dean, Faculty from the Ivey Business School, emphasized that the revisions were intended to establish and maintain a full-time, in-person expectation for students.

A Senator raised concerns as these changes could negatively affect the Faculty of Social Science which offers online classes to keep their enrolment high, as students may choose not to take those courses if they will no longer be eligible under the revised policy.

N. Haggerty addressed a question of clarification regarding the implementation and advised that if approved the current Year 2 AEO students will not be impacted by the proposed changes.

A Senator spoke against the proposed changes and encouraged members of Senate to vote accordingly.

It was moved by K. Yeung, seconded by J. Byrd Clark,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2026, the policy on Admission – Business Administration” be revised as shown in Item 13.3(b).

CARRIED

## **QUESTION PERIOD**

The questions submitted in advance of the meeting were addressed during the agenda.

L. Logan addressed a question of clarification when the draft revisions to the responsible investing policy would be released to the campus community.

A Senator commented on the ongoing governance review and shared observations about the consultation process that was conducted recently.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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A. Shepard  
Chair

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A. Bryson  
University Secretary