



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

May 15, 2026

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

SENATORS:

Y. Al-Ani	L. Graham	L. Melnyk Gribble
C. Alcantara	M. Green-Barteet	M. Modeski
A. Ali	N. Haggerty	I. Namukasa
A. Awawdeh	N. Harney	A. Nocilla
K. Backtash	D. Heap	V. Parsa
P. Barmby	J. Herrera	A. Pero
C. Barteet	A. Hearn	R. Ramachandran
B. Begg	B. Hill	W. Ritchie
K. Big-Canoe	M. Joannis	J. Redden
S. Boe	D. Kotsopoulos	S. Roland
A. Bryson	M. Kim	A. Shchepetkina
N. Campbell	M. S. Kim	N. Silvester
K. Choi	H. Kirk	F. Strzelczyk
C. Chung	M. Khimji	L. Waller
S. Clarke	S. Knabe	J. H. Wright
K. Coley	T. Layton	J. Yoo
S. D'Arcy	G. Little	N. Zabian
L. Davis	L. Lingard	
M. Davison	M. Lebo	
M. El-Sakka	B. Lovie	
G. Fanchini	A. Lukawski	
D. Ferri	J. Makaran	
R. Gillis	T. Mantler	
C. Giannacopoulos	G. McAuley	

Observers: S. Hayne Beatty, S. Hendrikx, J. Hutter, S. Lewis, E. Marshall, M. McGlynn, M. Sanita Lima, V. Sarkany, J. Scott, S. Xia

In the absence of the Chair of Senate, Sophie Roland, Vice-Chair of Senate, presided over the meeting.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

J. Makaran offered a Land Acknowledgement.

MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

ITEM 2.0 – Minutes of the Meeting of April 17, 2026

It was moved by B. Hill, seconded by B. Lovie,

That the minutes of the meeting of April 17, 2026, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

It was moved by G. Little, seconded by Y. Al-Ani,

That M. Joannis, Vice Chair of the Operations/Agenda Committee be appointed as Chair of Senate for item 6.3.

CARRIED

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The written report was provided as part of the agenda package and distributed prior to the Senate meeting.

REPORT OF THE PROVOST

In addition to the written report provided in advance of the meeting, F. Strzelczyk, Provost & Vice-President (Academic), offered a verbal update on several matters, opening with the announcement of the appointment of the incoming Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Brett Buchanan, effective August 15, 2026. The Provost also expressed gratitude to I. Paul for her leadership as Acting Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Humanities.

F. Strzelczyk continued her report with an update on the ongoing work toward launching Western International College, including admissions, site preparation and progress made to date. The Provost informed Senate that a small cohort is anticipated for the upcoming intake and reported on the current volume of applications and offers. Further updates on admissions outcomes and related planning will be brought forward at the next Senate meeting in June.

In response to a question received in advance of the Senate meeting, the Provost stated that Western International has no role in student recruitment, which falls under the purview of the Office of the Registrar. Additionally, she clarified that Western International College will not replace the direct admissions pathway to the University.

In response to a request to revisit Western International College enrollment projections in comparison with current numbers, and to a request for available international enrollment

data from peer institutions engaged in similar partnerships with Navitas, the Provost advised that available information will be shared with Senate at the next meeting.

Additionally, the Provost addressed questions concerning the launch and first-year operations of Western International College, including the recruitment process for instructors, minimum class sizes for the inaugural cohort, details on ancillary fees and student orientation.

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

S. Lewis, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs), provided an update on the Future of Teaching and Learning Strategic Action Areas, outlining the project's primary goals and objectives. She commented on the work conducted by the Steering Committee and outlined the main recommendations and strategic action areas.

S. Lewis addressed a question of clarification regarding the piloting of a new digital assessment platform and emphasized the importance of having a wide range of assessment tools, while allowing faculty members the flexibility to choose preferred methods.

A question was submitted in advance concerning transparency in the use of generative AI. S. Lewis clarified that this recommendation was made in response to a request from students for greater transparency regarding whether generative AI was used in the development of courses, assessments, or other academic activities.

S. Lewis responded to a question regarding potential resources and supports available for faculty members in implementing the recommendations and stated that the recommendations and proposed actions outlined in the report will serve as the foundation for an operational plan aimed at advancing teaching and learning.

In response to questions of clarification, S. Lewis commented on the responsible and sustainable use of generative AI and reported on consultations with Indigenous faculty members as part of the review and implementation process, noting the importance of incorporating Indigenous perspectives and pedagogical approaches. Additionally, she clarified that a first-year student success toolkit is intended for use by faculty members and commented on the exploration of new assessment platforms and the associated risk assessment process related to their implementation and use.

Lauretta Frederking, Associate Vice-Provost (Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies), addressed a question regarding the strategic action area focused on advancing graduate student success and commented on planned initiatives to enhance student support, including expanded orientation activities and additional resources aimed at improving the graduate student experience. S. Lewis addressed a question on student-supervisor relationships for graduate students, referencing an environmental scan of best practices from peer institutions to identify effective approaches.

In closing her presentation, S. Lewis commented on accessibility and the role of universal design for learning (UDL) and addressed the use of metrics to evaluate the effectiveness of

accessibility and UDL practices, including engagement data, students' feedback and use of flexible assessments and completion rates.

REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT (RESEARCH)

A. Allan, Associate Vice-President (Research) provided a report on behalf of the Vice-President (Research) and informed Senate of the appointment of Valerie Oosterveld and the reappointment of Bryan Neff as Associate Vice-Presidents (Research). Additionally, she provided an overview of the main areas within their portfolios, outlining key responsibilities and new priorities, and expressed gratitude to Jacquie Burkell for her service as Associate Vice-President (Research) since 2019.

A. Allan concluded her report by providing an update on the Animal Ethics and Care Program Review, including progress to date and key areas under consideration. In response to a question regarding the reviews and surveys that are planned, A. Allan commented on recent power outages and efforts to minimize their implications for animal care facilities.

REPORT OF THE OPERATIONS / AGENDA COMMITTEE

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

ITEM 6.1 – Membership – Nominating Committee

Bruce Morton was nominated by OAC and Michael Fox, Rory Gillis, Jose Herrera and Jan Minac were nominated from the floor. An election was held following the Senate meeting and Michael Fox and Rory Gillis were elected to the Nominating Committee as faculty members of Senate for terms from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2028, and Jose Herrera and Jan Minac were elected to the Nominating Committee as faculty members of Senate for terms from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.

ITEM 6.2 – Faculty of Social Science: Revisions to the Faculty Council Constitution

It was moved by M. Joannis,

That on the recommendation of the Operations/Agenda Committee, Senate approve that effective May 15, 2026, the Council Constitution of the Faculty of Social Science be revised as shown in Item 6.2.

CARRIED

ITEM 6.3 – Final Report and Recommendations of the *ad hoc* Working Group for the 2025-2026 Governance Review

S. Roland, Chair of the *ad hoc* Working Group for the 2025-2026 Governance Review presented the final report and recommendations of the *ad hoc* Working Group to Senate for its consideration.

In her presentation, S. Roland focused on the goals and objectives of the review, role and engagement of the external governance experts, and extensive consultation processes undertaken. She presented areas considered by the *ad hoc* Working Group and its findings and recommendations. The subsequent discussion highlighted the following points:

- A Senator commented on the recommendation related to student representation on committees and stated that student Senators have support of their constituency and are more engaged and experienced in governance. A. Bryson provided additional context, explaining representation on Senate committees is addressed in their Terms of Reference, where some committees require Senator participation while others do not. She further noted that this approach is intended to distribute workload and ensure broader representation across committees.
- A Senator commented on the recommendation concerning Senators' role and responsibilities, noting that Senators are elected by their constituents and expressing concerns with acting solely in the best interest of the University. A. Bryson clarified that the responsibility of a Senator is to bring forward the perspective of their constituents but when making decisions, they must do so with the best interest of the whole University in mind.
- A Senator raised concerns with respect to the scope of the review and why broader community consultation was not conducted. S. Roland stated that the mandate of the *ad hoc* Working Group and the scope of the review was approved by Senate and commented on the diversity of the groups engaged in consultation, particularly on their experience and knowledge of Senate governance.
- Discussion around concerns regarding the framing of the term “effective” and the absence of explicit reference to “collegial governance,” observing that the 2017 review had focused primarily on collegial governance. In a follow-up, a Senator raised concerns that opportunities for improvement had not been addressed. A. Bryson stated that the *ad hoc* Working Group was tasked to assess whether the Senate has the optimal governance structure in place to fulfill its mandate and the term “effective” reflects overall assessment that Senate is functioning well in fulfilling its mandate, while still acknowledging that opportunities for improvement exist.
- In response to a question received in advance, S. Roland explained that the Working Group recommended deferring the review of the new Question Period rules for one year because they were only recently implemented in Spring 2025.
- In response to a question regarding the confidentiality of committees, S. Roland noted that this issue had already been reviewed in 2017, when Senate decided that committee meetings would remain closed, and therefore it was not revisited in the current review.
- In response to a question received in advance, S. Roland clarified that “disengagement” was referenced only in relation to a potential risk based on observed behaviors during the Senate meetings and confirmed that no data were

collected on individual Senator participation or speaking frequency by the Secretariat.

It was moved by D. Ferri, seconded by D. Kotsopoulos,

That Senate receive the Final Report and Recommendations of the *ad hoc* Working Group for the 2025-2026 Governance Review as presented in Item 6.3 and direct the Operations/Agenda Committee to proceed with implementing the recommendations therein.

CARRIED

ITEM 6.4 – Questions for Senate

No questions were submitted in advance of the Operations/Agenda Committee meeting for consideration at the May 15, 2026 Senate meeting.

REPORT OF THE SENATE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

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

ITEM 7.1 – Membership – Senate Committee on Academic Curriculum and Awards (ACA)

Elizabeth Finneron-Burns was acclaimed to the Senate Committee on Academic Curriculum and Awards (ACA) as a faculty member for a term from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.

ITEM 7.2 – Membership – Subcommittee on Undergraduate Academic Courses (SOC)

No nominations were received for a faculty position on the Subcommittee on Undergraduate Academic Courses (SOC).

ITEM 7.3 – Membership – Senate Committee on University Planning (SCUP)

No nominations were received for a faculty position on the Senate Committee on University Planning (SCUP).

ITEM 7.4 – Membership – University Research Board (URB)

No nominations were received for the faculty positions on the University Research Board (URB).

ITEM 7.5 – Membership – Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA)

No nominations were received for the faculty positions on the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA).

ITEM 7.6 – Membership – Distinguished University Professor Selection Committee

No nominations were received for the faculty positions on the Distinguished University Professor Selection Committee.

ITEM 7.7 – Selection/Review Committee for the Vice-Provost (Academic Programs)

Jasmine Antonelli was nominated by the Nominating Committee and Asad Awawdeh was nominated from the floor of Senate to the Selection/Review Committee for the Vice-Provost (Academic Programs). An election was held following the Senate meeting and Jasmine Antonelli was elected on the Selection/Review Committee for the Vice-Provost (Academic Programs).

Shaun Boe, Kate H. Choi, Alfonso Nocilla and Jan Plug were acclaimed to the Selection/Review Committee for the Vice-Provost (Academic Programs).

REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY

On behalf of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy, N. Campbell presented the Policy report.

ITEM 8.1 – Revisions to the Policies on “Requests for Relief from Academic Decisions” (and its Associated Procedures), “Scholastic Offences”, and “Senate Review Board Academic Appeals” (and its Associated Procedure)

It was moved by N. Campbell,

That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2026, the following policies be revised as shown in Item 8.1.

Requests for Relief from Academic Decisions
Scholastic Offences
Senate Review Board Academic Appeals

CARRIED

ITEM 8.2 – Policy Amendments Relating to Western International College

It was moved by N. Campbell,

That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2026, the following policies be revised as shown in Item 8.2.

Structure of the Academic Year
Registration and Progression in Three-Year, Four-Year and Honours Programs

Academic Advising for Undergraduate Students
Course Load

CARRIED

REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH BOARD

On behalf of the University Research Board (URB), A. Allan presented the URB report and commented on the work conducted at the last URB meeting, including the updates on the Western Postdoctoral Fellowship Program and the Western Research Scholars Academy.

ITEM 12.0 – Academic Colleague Report

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

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

REPORT FROM THE OPERATIONS/AGENDA COMMITTEE

Information Items Reported by OAC on Unanimous Consent:

- Item 13.1(b) – Senate Membership – Vacancies Filled by Appointment

REPORT FROM THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY

ITEM 13.2(a) – Faculty of Law: Revisions to the Policy on “Admission – Law”

It was moved by S. Boe, seconded by Y. Al-Ani,

That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2026, the policy on “Admission – Law” be revised as shown in Item 13.2(a).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

ITEM 13.2(b)(i) – Faculty of Health Sciences, Arthur Labatt Family School of Nursing: Revisions to the Policy on “Nursing Applicants”

It was moved by S. Boe, seconded by Y. Al-Ani,

That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy, Senate approve that effective May 1, 2026, the policy on “Nursing Applicants” be revised as shown in Item 13.2(b)(i).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

ITEM 13.2(b)(ii) – Faculty of Health Sciences, Arthur Labatt Family School of Nursing: Revisions to the Policy on “Progression Requirements – Nursing”

It was moved by S. Boe, seconded by Y. Al-Ani,

That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2026, the policy on “Progression Requirements – Nursing” be revised as shown in Item 13.2(b)(ii).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

ITEM 13.2(d) – Revisions to the Policy on “Definitions of Types of Examinations”

It was moved by S. Boe, seconded by Y. Al-Ani,

That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2026, the policy on “Definitions of Types of Examinations” be revised as shown in Item 13.2(d).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

ITEM 13.2(e) – Revisions to the Policy on “Certificates, Diplomas and Micro-credentials”

It was moved by S. Boe, seconded by Y. Al-Ani,

That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy, Senate approve that effective May 15, 2026, the policy on “Certificates, Diplomas and Micro-credentials” be revised as shown in Item 13.2(e).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

ITEM 13.2(f)(i) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Revisions to the Policy on “Graduate Degree Admissions”

It was moved by S. Boe, seconded by Y. Al-Ani,

That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy, Senate approve that effective May 15, 2026, the policy on “Graduate Degree Admissions” be revised as shown in Item 13.2(f)(i).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

ITEM 13.2(f)(ii) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Withdrawal of the Policy on “Interdisciplinary Combined PhD Option” and Revisions to “Registration in Graduate Programs”, “Convocation; Graduation Diplomas and Certificates”, and “Assessing Student Progress in Multi-Year Research-Based Graduate Programs”

It was moved by S. Boe, seconded by Y. Al-Ani,

That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2026, the policy on “Interdisciplinary Combined PhD Option” and its associated Procedure for the Interdisciplinary Combined PhD Option be withdrawn; and

That the policy on “Registration in Graduate Programs” be renamed as the policy on “Registration and Progression in Graduate Programs” and that the policy be revised as shown in Item 13.2(f)(ii); and

That the policies on “Convocation; Graduation Diplomas and Certificates” and “Assessing Student Progress in Multi-Year Research-Based Graduate Programs” be revised as shown in Item 13.2(f)(ii).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Information Items Reported by Policy Committee on Unanimous Consent:

- Item 13.2(c) – Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry: Revisions to the Policy on “Progression Requirements – Dentistry”
- Item 13.2(f)(iii) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Revisions to the SGPS Regulation: Supervision
- Item 13.2(f)(iv) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Revisions to the SGPS Regulation: SGPS Membership

REPORT FROM THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC CURRICULUM AND AWARDS

ITEM 14.3(a) – Faculty of Health Sciences, Brescia School of Food and Nutritional Sciences: Revisions to Family Studies and Human Development Modules

It was moved by S. Boe, seconded by Y. Al-Ani,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2026, the following Family Studies and Human Development modules, offered by the Brescia School of Food and Nutritional Sciences in the Faculty of Health Sciences, be revised as shown in Item 13.3(a).

Honours Specialization in Family Studies and Human Development – BA (Human Ecology)
Specialization in Family Studies and Human Development – BA (Human Ecology)
Major in Family Studies and Human Development – BA (Human Ecology)

Minor in Family Studies and Human Development

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

ITEM 14.3(b) – Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry: Revisions to the Doctor of Dental Surgery Program

It was moved by S. Boe, seconded by Y. Al-Ani,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2026, the Doctor of Dental Surgery program, offered by the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, be revised as shown in Item 13.3(b).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

ITEM 14.3(c) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Major Modification to the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy

It was moved by S. Boe, seconded by Y. Al-Ani,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective May 1, 2027, the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy be revised as shown in Item 13.3(c).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

ITEM 14.3(d) – Introduction of an Articulation Agreement for Admission of Graduates from the Nutrition and Food Service Management Diploma Program at Conestoga College into the Bachelor of Science (Foods and Nutrition) Program at Western

It was moved by S. Boe, seconded by Y. Al-Ani,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective May 1, 2026, an articulation agreement for admission of graduates from the Food Service Management Diploma Program at Conestoga College into the Bachelor of Science (Foods and Nutrition): Honours Specialization in Nutrition and Dietetics, Honours Specialization in Foods and Nutrition, or Specialization in Foods and Nutrition at Western be introduced as shown in Item 13.3(d).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Information Items Reported by ACA on Unanimous Consent:

- Item 13.3(e) – Report of the Subcommittee on Program Review – Undergraduate: Cyclical Review of the Undergraduate Program in Disability Studies (King’s University College)
- Item 13.3(f) – Report of the Subcommittee on Program Review – Graduate: Cyclical Review of the Graduate Program in Biology
- Item 13.3(g) – New Donor-Funded Scholarships, Awards, and Prizes

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

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

- Item 13.4(a) – Election Results – Senate Committees
- Item 13.4(b) – Academic Administrative Appointments

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 were addressed during the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

S. Roland
Chair

A. Bryson
University Secretary