

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE**

**October 13, 2023**

---

The meeting was held at 1:40 p.m. via Zoom

**SENATORS:**

L. Abdelellah	J. Herrera	S. Powell
M. Adler	A. Hodgson	A. Puvirajah
E. Ansari	S. Hodgson	L. Rehmann
G. Arku	R. Heydon	D. Robinson
S. Bahadoor	J. Hutter	B. Rubin
P. Barmby	J. Ijam	M. Sanita Lima
M. Bassnett	J. Jin	J. Schermer
G. Beckett	M. Joannis	L. Shaw
J. Beecroft	A. Jokhu	A. Shepard
I. Berry	E. Kalaydjian	Z. Sinel
N. Borradaile	M. Kim	F. Strzelczyk
M. Bordignon	H. Kirk	J. Sutton
A. Bryson	K. Kirkwood	D. Tempesta
G. Campbell	D. Kotsopoulos	J. Toswell
E. Chamberlain	D. Laird	C. Vanderlugt
B. Cheadle	J. Lamarche	J. Welch
K. Choi	J. Langille	S. Whitehead
M. Cleveland	K. Lawless	G. Wild
S. Clarke	C. Lengyell	
R. DeKoter	A. Liu	
S. Feagan	L. Logan	
D. Ferri	C. A. Marshall	
L. Frederking	M. H. McMurrin	
A. Fremeth	K. Meyer	
J. Garland	L. Miller	
B. Gillies	J. Minac	
M. Green-Barteet	M. Modeski	
N. Harney	T. Orchard	
L. Henderson	S. Pitel	
K. Henricus	J. Plug	

**Observers:** S. Ajak, C. Bressette, R. Chelladurai, R. Isard, S. Lewis, M. Machado, M. McGlynn, L. Cho, O. Oloya, V. Sarkany, R. A. Strickland, J. Weststar

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

J. Plug offered a Land Acknowledgement.

**MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING**

S.23-159 **ITEM 2.0 – Minutes of the Meeting of September 15, 2023**

It was moved by J. Toswell, seconded by L. Henderson,

That the minutes of the meeting of September 15, 2023, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

S.23-160 **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

The President's Report, distributed with the agenda, contained information on the following topics: Brescia integration, Western's first-ever Chief AI officer, the fall Convocation, and accolades.

In his remarks, A. Shepard, President & Vice-Chancellor additionally commented on the following items:

- The Hamas terrorist assault in Israel. The President commented on the increased security measures on campus and the support provided to students and staff.
- The announcement of the Brescia and Western integration and non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The President welcomed the leaders of Brescia University College and noted that the consultation process is underway. In addition, he stated that all academic-related matters will be discussed at the Senate, while other matters will be handled by the Provost Advisory Committee, the Steering Committee, and the Board of Governors.
- Noted the University of Western Ontario Faculty Association (UWOFA) application for judicial review.
- Canada-wide protests organized by a group known as the "1 Million March for Children".
- The labor disruption caused by the strike of the operating engineers.

During his final remarks, the President acknowledged Western's efforts to assist students and faculty to leave Israel safely.

S.23-161 **REPORT OF THE PROVOST**

F. Strzelczyk, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) provided a verbal report on the updates and initiatives under her portfolio. She began her report with a brief overview of the current leadership search efforts and budget season.

The Provost shared details of the timeline and events leading to the decision to explore the Brescia-Western integration and signing of the legal non-binding MoU. She provided a detailed presentation (Appendix A) on the various activities and plans aimed at ensuring the successful Brescia-Western integration. This entails collaborative efforts involving students, staff and faculty through town halls and forums. The mandate of the Provost Advisory Committee is to provide support and to elaborate shared strategies for preserving the Brescia legacy while addressing students' needs. Additionally, the Transition Steering Committee will play a pivotal role in guiding the integration process and ensuring regular updates are provided to Senate.

S. Lewis, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs) (VP-AP), provided a brief overview of the Brescia programs offered currently and the numbers of students, faculty, and staff. She emphasized the Western's commitment to ensuring that all Brescia students will graduate from their chosen programs and clarified that all Brescia academic programs are already approved by Western's Senate. She also made it clear that all programs are anticipated to transfer to Western in their entirety with no changes to program requirements.

Additionally, the Provost provided comments on the integration process for academic programs, including the renowned Food and Nutritional Sciences Program, which will be renamed the "Brescia Food and Nutrition Program". The Provost also highlighted the value of the Brescia Preliminary Year Program and emphasized the future opportunities for Western in this regard.

The VP-AP mentioned that discussions have been ongoing and would take place at various levels to determine the best way forward. She also noted that the initial outcomes of these discussions would be presented to the Senate at its November meeting.

J. Garland, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences expressed her support and dedication to preserving and enhancing Brescia's legacy at Western University, specifically in relation to the Food and Nutrition, Family Studies and Human Development programs that could potentially be hosted at the Faculty of Health Sciences.

J. Plug, Acting Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Humanities recognized the percentage of programs overlapping between both institutions and acknowledged prospective benefits for Western from Brescia's unique programs. Additionally, he welcomed the incoming students and mentioned the small-class environment is available in this Faculty.

J. Hutter, Dean of the Faculty of Science acknowledged the significance of Brescia's Preliminary Year Program from a different perspective.

In a lengthy discussion Senators expressed concerns with respect to the bicameral University governance system and the fact that the decision to enter into the MoU took place with little to no Senate or UWOFA consultation. The Provost highlighted that no legal binding agreement is in place at this point and that discussion is underway. A Senator echoed the concerns regarding violation of collegial governance and the fact that UWOFA was not respected and expressed a procedural concern. Additionally, they informed Senate regarding UWOFA's initiation of a Judicial Review. The Chair cautioned against debating legal arguments on the

Senate Minutes  
October 13, 2023

Senate floor. The Senator expressed their view regarding prospective implications for members of both institutions and urged Senators to reflect on the basic principles of collegial governance.

L. Henderson, Dean of the Faculty of Information and Media Studies expressed support and interest in the Brescia Preliminary year program.

A Student Senator advocated for preserving Clare Hall, Brescia's residence, as a women-only space, along with the preservation of programs exclusive to Brescia. They also inquired about providing welcome packages to help students transition to Western. The Brescia University College Students' Council president echoed the proposal to preserve Clare Hall for gender minorities. The Provost recognized the need to define a path forward, acknowledging ongoing questions about housing, programs and concerns related to student support.

S. Hodgson, Dean of Ivey Business School recognized the remarkable work that had already been accomplished as well as the opportunities that are currently available.

In response to questions regarding potential implications of integration for different groups of employees, it was noted that these are ongoing questions that will be addressed through discussion with UWOFA and Brescia Faculty Association to identify the ways in which work could occur cooperatively and collaboratively.

In responding to a point of order regarding the discussion with UWOFA raised by an Official Observer, the Chair clarified that he has said: "We are trying to discuss the employment issues with UWOFA".

An Official Observer drew Senate's attention to the significant work in partnership with Brescia University College that was accomplished to create the Indigenous Students STEM Access Program (ISSAP). This preliminary year program provides students with the opportunity to transition successfully from high school to post-secondary studies.

In response to concerns expressed regarding the involvement of the Policy Committee, L. Miller, Vice-Provost (School of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies), commented on the Brescia-Western integration in the light of the Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP), which clarifies what should be approved by Senate committees. She also mentioned that SGPS has a strong connection with Brescia graduate programs.

A Student Senator shared a concern about the potential difficulties that might face Brescia's students in the transitional period and noted a lack of awareness around the consultation process with Brescia faculty, staff and students.

A Senator suggested that it would be beneficial for the community to receive clearer information about the reasons behind this decision and for acknowledgment of the financial challenges. They requested that Senate be given access to the MoU and suggested adding a graduate student representative to the composition of the Provost Advisory Committee, ensuring their interests are considered and represented.

A Senator commented on the legal aspects of the matter, particularly concerning the MoU and

the commitments that had been made.

An Official Observer commented on the recent meeting of the administration of Western University with the Brescia community and stated that no consultations were conducted with UWOFA. Additionally, they inquired whether the composition of the Provost Advisory Committee could be expanded to include a seat for a librarian or archivist.

M. McGlynn, Vice-Provost (Academic Planning, Policy & Faculty) commented on the conversation with the Brescia community and current discussion with UWOFA.

In response to a concern regarding the composition of the Provost Advisory Committee, the Provost noted that additional consultation will occur in future to ensure broad representation.

In response to a question of clarification raised regarding the MoU, P. Eluchok, University Legal Counsel, indicated that MoU allows for eliciting feedback on the proposals within it.

There was concern expressed by a Senator regarding the rapid pace of the integration.

It was moved by A. Shepard seconded by F. Strzelczyk,

That Senate approve that a student representative of the Brescia Preservation Alliance be granted speaking rights at the October 13, 2023 Senate meeting as a resource to Senate in respect of the Brescia - Western Integration.

CARRIED

A representative of the Brescia Preservation Alliance expressed their concerns regarding the preservation of Brescia's legacy and ongoing student supports.

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

#### **S.23-162 ITEM 5.1 Revisions to the Senate Election Procedures**

It was moved by E. Chamberlain,

That on the recommendation of the Operations/Agenda Committee, Senate approve that the Senate Election Procedures be revised as shown in Item 5.1, effective October 13, 2023.

CARRIED

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

#### **S.23-163 ITEM 6.1 – Membership – Senate Committee on University Planning (SCUP)**

Scheila Schmidt was acclaimed to SCUP as a Postdoctoral representative for a term from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

S.23-164 **ITEM 6.2 – Provost Advisory Committee**

Tracey Adams, Rita A. Gardiner, Andrew Johnson, and Ken Yeung were acclaimed to the Provost Advisory Committee as faculty members.

In addition to the slate of nominees contained in the Agenda from the Nominating Committee, a number of nominations were received from the floor. An election was held following the Senate meeting. Karin Schwerdtner was elected to the Provost Advisory Committee as a representative from the Faculty of Arts & Humanities.

S.23-165 **ITEM 6.3 – Form for Committee Nominations**

J. Toswell informed Senate that the Nominating Committee has approved the implementation of a [form](#) for committee nominations on a pilot basis. She noted that the University Secretariat will continue to accept nominations by email but encourages nominees to utilize the form wherever possible.

**REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY – No Report**

**REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC CURRICULUM AND AWARDS (ACA) – Consent Agenda**

**REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY PLANNING (SCUP) – No Report**

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

S.23-166 **ITEM 10.1 – Announcement of a Vice-Chair of URB**

P. Pexman announced that K. Coley was elected as the Vice-Chair of the University Research Board for the term from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

She expressed gratitude for the commitments of URB members and briefly touched upon the topics discussed during the first URB meeting, which included research parks, research security, and collaboration with China.

S.23-167 **REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC COLLEAGUE**

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

S.23-168 **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

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

S.23-169 **Information Items Reported by OAC on Unanimous Consent:**

- ITEM 12.1(a) – Report of the *ad hoc* Nominating Subcommittee to replace undergraduate student Senator
- ITEM 12.1(b) – Senate Membership – Vacancies Filled by Appointment
- ITEM 12.1(c) – Report of the *ad hoc* Nominating Subcommittee to replace graduate student Senator

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

#### S.23-170 **Information Items Reported by the Nominating Committee**

- ITEM 12.2(a) – Temporary Replacements for Senate Committee Members

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

#### S.23-171 **ITEM 12.3(a)(i) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Major Modification to the Master of Management of Applied Science (MMASc)**

It was moved by J. Toswell, seconded by L. Henderson,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that, effective September 1, 2023, the Master of Management of Applied Science (MMASc) be revised to withdraw the Global Health Systems spoke as described in Item 12.3(a)(i).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

#### S.23-172 **ITEM 12.3(a)(ii) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Major Modification to the Master of Media in Journalism and Communication (MMJC)**

It was moved by J. Toswell, seconded by L. Henderson,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that, effective September 1, 2024, the Master of Media in Journalism and Communication (MMJC) be revised as shown in Item 12.3(a)(ii).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

S.23-173 The following items reported through Announcements and Communications were received for information by unanimous consent:

- ITEM 12.4(a) – Election Results – Selection Committee for the Vice-President (University Advancement)

#### S.23-174 **ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

**12.3(b) - Annual Report of the Subcommittee for Western Approved Microcredentials**

**(SWAM).**

A Senator requested clarification regarding how microcredentials from the Faculty of Education relate to Additional Qualifications (AQ) courses and whether some microcredentials have been renamed as AQ courses. In addition, a Senator asked for clarification regarding the process for consulting on microcredentials.

D. Kotsopoulos, Dean of the Faculty of Education, commented on the additional qualification process in Ontario, specifically for teachers and noted that the renaming was aligned with the University's practices.

S. Lewis, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs), commented on the consultation process that is currently in place through SWAM and provided examples for different microcredentials.

**12.3(c) SUPR-G Report: Cyclical Reviews of the Graduate Programs in Management, Public Administration, and Sociology.**

A Senator raised concerns with respect to the cyclical review of the Graduate Programs in Management, particularly with the rejected reviewers' recommendation.

L. Miller, Vice-Provost (School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies), provided an overview of the process of preparing the final assessment report, the role of the external reviewers and the main stages of the review. Additionally, she provided explicit explanations regarding the specific recommendations made to the Graduate Programs in Management.

**12.3(d) – New Scholarships, Awards and Prizes Rename the scholarship.**

A Senator requested this item be removed from the Consent Agenda as they wanted the Senate record to include that the Equity and Diversity Graduate Student Recruitment Award in History was set up from a gift from the estate of Kenneth W. Hilborn to reward student excellence. To acknowledge and respond to the harmful impact of his published work, this award supports a diverse and inclusive graduate student community.

S.23-175 **DISCUSSION AND QUESTION PERIOD**

The full text of questions submitted in advance of the meeting was posted in the Agenda at Item 14.0 prior to the meeting. The questions and responses are summarized below.

1. A Senator raised concerns regarding the Brescia-Western integration without consultation at SCUP.

F. Strzelczyk, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), outlined the preliminary stages of the integration process under her report and added that the Brescia-Western integration will remain a standing item on the agenda at SCUP until the merger is finalized.

2. A Senator asked as to whether Western planned to respond to the next rally of the organization Hands off our Kids.

The Chair emphasized the significance of this matter and noted there is no existing policy regarding University statements, leading to a case-by-case management approach.

3. A Senator raised a question of clarification regarding increases in tuition for both undergraduate Computer Science and undergraduate MOS programs that was approved by the Board of Governors at its June meeting.

R. Chelladurai, Associate Vice-President (Institutional Planning and Budgeting), provided background on the increased tuition fees and mentioned that both proposals were approved by the Ministry after budget approval. He clarified that the tuition rate increases only apply to new/incoming students. Additionally, he noted that undergraduate tuition fees at the Affiliated University Colleges are set at the same level as at main campus in accordance with the Affiliation Agreement.

J. Hutter, Acting Dean of the Faculty of Science, commented on the concerns regarding the possible implications for the admission of equity and diversity candidates and stated that there is no change in the admission standards.

4. A Senator expressed concerns about the inconsistency in Western's responses to international crises.

The Chair mentioned that Western, like other Canadian universities, does not have a specific policy in place regarding statements. In response to concerns about inconsistencies between the two statements, the Chair clarified that each case is treated individually and emphasized that the recent statement in respect of the Israel-Hamas conflict was neutral. A lengthy discussion followed, during which the Chair detailed Western's proactive efforts to address the noted concerns. This included increasing the presence of special constables and providing ongoing mental health support for students, faculty, and staff affected by the conflict in Israel and Gaza, along with future consideration of the adoption of policy on this matter.

The Senator recommended that the university adopt a position of institutional neutrality in respect of making statements.

In response to a question of clarification on the decision to convert the Senate meeting to a virtual format, the Chair stated that the decision was made in accordance with the recommendation from Western's Special Constables Service due to safety concerns related to labour disruption on campus.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

---

A. Shepard  
Chair

---

A. Bryson  
University Secretary

# Brescia and Western: Integration of Academic Programs

University Senate presentation  
October 13, 2023

Florentine Strzelczyk, Provost & Vice-President (Academic)



# Brescia-Western integration

*Opportunities for transformation, innovation and access through integration*

## Engagement

- Town halls and forums with Brescia students, staff and faculty
- Provost Advisory Committee
- Transition Steering Committee to guide integration
- Regular updates to Senate

## Process timeline

- September 19 + 21: MOU between Brescia and Western signed by Western's BoG and Brescia's BoT
- November 10: Senate consultations, recommendations, approvals
- November 16: Brescia Trustees Approval
- November 16: Western Board Approval
- November to April: consultations, recommendations, approvals
- April 30: Brescia-Western Integration occurs.

# Brescia University College at a glance

<b>Enrolment/Students</b>	2022-23 FTE Count – 1,200
<b>Faculty &amp; Staff</b>	<b>Faculty:</b> 37 Full-time; ~100 Contract Faculty <b>Staff:</b> 65 Full-time; 17 Part-time; 34 Contract staff
<b>Programs</b>	Art & Humanities: English, French, Philosophy, Social Sciences: Political Science, Psychology, MOS, Sociology, Health Sciences: Kinesiology, Food & Nutrition, Family Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• One graduate program</li><li>• Undergraduate programs in 36 areas</li><li>• Five diplomas and two certificates</li><li>• Pre-university Preliminary Year</li></ul>

# Academic program integration

- Integration guided by Western's Institutional Quality Assurance Procedures (IQAP) and Senate policies
- All Brescia academic programs already approved by Western University Senate
- Brescia academic programs and courses have undergone review under Western's IQAP
  - SUPR-U, SUPR-G, Senate Committee on Academic Curriculum and Awards (previously SCAPA), Senate

# Academic program integration: Program categories

- 1) Modules with parallels at Western: e.g. French, English, History, Psychology, Sociology
- 2) Modules distinct to Brescia: Family Studies, Foods & Nutrition Sciences
- 3) Pathway Programs: Preliminary Year

# Academic integration process – next steps

- Finalize host units for Brescia programs (November update)
- Determine which Brescia courses need to be offered in 2024/25
  - Support Brescia student program needs
  - Facilitate program integration into units

# Questions and Discussion