



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

**September 15, 2023**

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The meeting was held at 1:30 p.m. in Room 1R40, Arts & Humanities Building

### **SENATORS:**

L. Abdelellah	J. Herrera	A. Puvirajah
M. Adler	R. Heydon	L. Rehmann
E. Ansari	J. Hutter	D. Robinson B.
S. Bahadoor	J. Ijam	Rubin
P. Barmby	J. Jin	M. Sanita Lima
M. Bassnett	M. Joannis	G. Santos
F. Beier	A. Jokhu	J. Schermer
G. Beckett	E. Kalaydjian	L. Shaw
I. Berry	M. Kim	A. Shepard
J. Binoy	H. Kirk	D. Smith
N. Borradaile	K. Kirkwood	F. Strzelczyk
K. Bressette	D. Kotsopoulos	J. Sutton
A. Bryson	Y. Laforet-Fliesser	J. Toswell
G. Campbell	D. Laird	C. Vanderlugt
E. Chamberlain	J. Lamarche	R. Ventresca
B. Cheadle	K. Lawless	J. Welch
K. Choi	C. Lengyell	J. Yoo
S. Clarke	J. Li	A. Zecevic
K. Coley	D. Malloy	
R. DeKoter	C. A. Marshall	
S. Feagan	M. McGrath	
D. Ferri	M. H. McMurrin	
L. Frederking	K. Meyer	
A. Fremeth	L. Miller	
T. Frost	J. Minac	
J. Garland	M. Modeski	
B. Gillies	K. Olson	
M. Green-Barteet	T. Orchard	
N. Harney	S. Pitel	
L. Henderson	J. Plug	
K. Henricus	S. Powell	

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

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

E. Chamberlain offered a Land Acknowledgement.

**MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING**

S.23-157 **ITEM 2.0 – Minutes of the Meeting of June 9, 2023**

It was moved by B. Rubin, seconded by L. Miller,

That the minutes of the meeting of June 9, 2023, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

S.23-158 **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

The President's Report, distributed with the agenda, contained information on the following topics: the incoming class, the spring Convocation, the eighth Building Reconciliation Forum, the QS World University Rankings, the new Global Engagement Plan, Western's new Chancellor and new initiatives on campus.

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

- Observation of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- Gratitude was extended to staff, faculty, and the student leadership at USC for the positive start to the year during OWeek
- Western's rise on the QS World University Rankings
- The Blue-Ribbon panel and consideration of funding for students
- The Homecoming weekend.
- Introduction of Penny Pexman, Western's new Vice-President (Research)

S.23-159 **REPORT OF THE PROVOST**

F. Strzelczyk, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) provided a verbal report on the updates and initiatives under her portfolio.

F. Strzelczyk began with welcoming remarks and expressed her appreciation for the new members of Senate. She continued her report with leadership updates and welcomed Penny Pexman as the newly appointed Vice-President (Research) and Lily Cho, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (International). It was noted that the searches for the Vice-Provost (Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies), Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, and the Director for the McIntosh Gallery are underway.

F. Strzelczyk additionally commented on the budget timelines and factors affecting the budget. Implementation of the Global Engagement Plan has been identified as a priority, along with the

next steps in this process.

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

S.23-160 **ITEM 5.1 Announcement of a Vice-Chair of OAC**

E. Chamberlain announced the Vice-Chair of OAC (Mark Cleveland) for a term from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

S.23-161 **ITEM 5.2 – Revisions to the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry Faculty Council Constitution**

It was moved by E. Chamberlain\*,

That on the recommendation of OAC, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2023, that the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry Faculty Constitution be amended as shown in Item 5.2.

CARRIED

*\*[Secretariat Note: In accordance with the current edition of the American Institute of Parliamentarians Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedures for motions brought forward from Senate Committees, no seconder is required]*

S.23-162 **ITEM 5.3 – Removal of God Save the King**

A Senator commented on the proposal and stated that the changes should be aligned with the Government's directions.

It was moved by E. Chamberlain,

That Senate approve the removal from Convocation ceremonies of the singing and instrumental playing of God Save the King.

CARRIED

**REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

S.23-163 **ITEM 6.1 – Announcement of a Chair and Vice-Chair of the Senate Nominating Committee**

J. Toswell announced the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Nominating Committee (Jane Toswell, Pauline Barmby) for the terms from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

S.23-164 **ITEM 6.2 – Membership – Subcommittee on Undergraduate Academic Courses (SOC)**

Amy Horton was acclaimed to SOC as a faculty member for a term from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

S.23-165 **ITEM 6.3 – Membership – Subcommittee on Program Review – Undergraduate (SUPR-U)**

Alexandra Agyapong was acclaimed to SUPR-U as an undergraduate student representative for a term from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

S.23-166 **ITEM 6.4 – Membership – Subcommittee on Western Approved Micro-credentials (SWAM)**

Nigel Blamey was nominated from the floor of Senate and was acclaimed to SWAM as a faculty member for a term from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

Forough Hazrati was acclaimed to SWAM as a graduate student representative for a term from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

S.23-167 **ITEM 6.5 – Membership – Senate Committee on Academic Curriculum and Awards (ACA)**

Rachel Heydon was acclaimed to ACA as a faculty member Senator for a term from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

S.23-168 **ITEM 6.6 – Selection Committee for the Vice-President (University Advancement)**

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. Ken Coley, Lisa Saksida and Zach Armstrong were elected to the Selection Committee for the Vice-President (University Advancement).

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

S.23-169 **ITEM 7.1 – Announcement of a Chair and Vice-Chair of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy**

WG Pearson announced the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy (WG Pearson, Melissa Adler) for the terms from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

S.23-170 **ITEM 7.2 – Policy Review Framework and Timeline**

M. Modeski, University Registrar, presented a policy review framework and timeline for the 2023-24 academic year (Appendix A). This included a description of the goals and objectives for this process, the current membership of the Academic Policy Working Group, and the main challenges that will be addressed.

S. Lewis, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs), additionally provided an update on the ongoing review of the academic policies, which involved insights from other institutions within the sector, engagement of different groups in the process, and alignment of the policies with Western's key values and strategic priorities. She concluded the report by providing an update on the Provost's Task Force on Academic Integrity and expressed the commitment to consult with Senate to ensure a proper and effective communication process.

S. Lewis addressed a question of clarification regarding the expected timeline for finalizing the Artificial Intelligence (AI) usage policy and emphasized that the existing policies already cover a wide range of AI-related issues. However, she also noted the possibility of considering a separate policy in the future.

A Senator asked a question of clarification as to whether the composition of the Working Group could be expanded to include current students, particularly international students. M. Modeski recognized the valuable insights provided by students during policy reviews and highlighted ongoing discussions with the University Student Council (USC) to ensure continuous student input.

A Senator commented on the membership of the Working Group and raised concerns regarding the retention of students. M. Modeski stated that Western keeps strong enrollment, but international enrollment strategy is to be enhanced.

An Official Observer commented on the appropriate representation within the advisory body and its potential implications.

Addressing the question of clarification regarding group composition, M. Modeski elaborated on the extensive engagement with various groups across the institution.

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

#### **S.23-171 ITEM 8.1 – Announcement of a Chair and Vice-Chair of ACA**

S. Roland announced the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Senate Committee on ACA (Sophie Roland, Ken Kirkwood) for the terms from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

#### **S.23-172 ITEM 8.2 – Huron University College: Introduction of a Major in China Studies**

G. Read, the Provost and Dean of Arts and Social Science, Huron University College, addressed the questions submitted in advance to the Senate meeting and pointed out that to ensure suitable language proficiency, Huron University College offers two sets of cultural courses with different requirements. In response to the question regarding the field trip, G. Read stated that the proposed module does not include the capstone course. Additionally, it was noted that Huron's Chinese program offered various introductory courses on contemporary China and that additional hiring was undertaken to support the program.

G. Read acknowledged that the admission requirement for the new Major of a 0.5 course in a subject area is aligned with some other requirements in Modules offered by Huron University College and in other programs across Western and its Affiliated University Colleges.

It was moved by K. Kirkwood,

That on the recommendation of ACA, and conditional on approval by the Quality Council, Senate approve that effective January 1, 2024 a Major in China Studies be introduced by Huron University College as shown in Item 8.2.

CARRIED

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

S.23-173 **ITEM 9.1 – Announcement of a Chair of SCUP**

D. Laird announced that he was elected as the Chair of SCUP for a term from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. F. Strzelczyk, the Provost & Vice-President (Academic) is ex-officio Vice-Chair of the committee.

S.23-174 **ITEM 9.2 – Proposed Undergraduate Program Name Change at Faculty of Information and Media Studies (FIMS)**

A Senator raised a question regarding the timeline for the consultation process, as they had concerns regarding communication between FIMS and the Faculty of Arts and Humanities. L. Henderson, Dean of FIMS, addressed the question and spoke to consultations the Faculty undertook.

In response to a question of clarification regarding the collaboration between the Faculties, L. Henderson stated that the Faculties will collaborate to clarify discrepancies among courses bearing the term “communication” in their titles, which aims to avoid any confusion among students. Other opportunities for collaboration will also be explored.

A Senator raised concerns with respect to this proposal and proposed amending the original motion to move the effective date to September 2024. The friendly amendment was declined. L. Henderson provided an overview of the rationale for the proposed change and highlighted the potential implications for the Faculty of the proposed delay.

A Senator questioned why the concerns regarding the consultation period were not brought forward prior to the approval by the Senate Committee on University Planning and proposed to table the Program Name Change for one month for additional consultation.

J. Plug, Acting Dean, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, commented on the consultation process that occurred. He clarified that faculty members expressed apprehension about the potential for confusion by students in the two programs and future enrolment competition. He noted new opportunities are present for programming if done properly.

A student Senator raised a question as to whether the students were consulted and if additional consultation may occur.

A Senator suggested tabling the item for a month for further consultation.

The Senator withdrew the proposal to change the effective date.

It was moved by S. Pitel, seconded by J. Toswell,

That the name change to the undergraduate program at FIMS from Media, Information, and Technoculture (MIT) to Media and Communication Studies (MCS) be tabled for one month.

DEFEATED

It was moved by D. Laird,

That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on University Planning, Senate approve the name change to the undergraduate program at FIMS from Media, Information, and Technoculture (MIT) to Media and Communication Studies (MCS), effective as of September 1, 2023.

CARRIED

S.23-175 **REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH BOARD (URB)**

P. Pexman, Vice-President (Research) introduced the work of Western's Research Office (Appendix B). This included future priorities, overview of the structure, an update on the work of Western Research, the Strategic Plan implementation, and prioritization of research funding.

In conclusion, P. Pexman provided an update regarding research security, engagement of undergraduate students in research and invited Senators to provide feedback with respect to research initiatives.

In response to a question concerning librarian research support for undergraduate students and a lack of resources, P. Pexman commented on the importance of collaboration and different strategies currently underway.

S.23-176 **REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC COLLEAGUE**

P. Barmby provided a brief overview of the work of the Academic Colleague.

S.23-177 **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

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

S.23-178 **Information Items Reported by OAC on Unanimous Consent:**

- ITEM 12.1(a) – Speaking Rights at Senate – Chair of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy and Chair of the Senate Committee on Academic Curriculum and Awards (ACA)
- ITEM 12.1(b) – Virtual Senate Meeting in February 2024
- ITEM 12.1(c) – Senate Membership – Vacancies Filled by Appointment
- ITEM 12.1(d) – Senate Membership - General Community

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

S.23-179 **ITEM 12.2(a) – Revisions to the Dean’s Honour List and Graduation “With Distinction” Policy**

It was moved by J. Toswell, seconded by G. Santos,

That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2023, the “Dean’s Honour List and Graduation “With Distinction”” policy be revised as shown in Item 12.2(a).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

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

S.23-180 **ITEM 12.3(a) – Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Department of French Studies: Revisions to the Admission Requirements of the Honours Specialization, Specialization, Major and Minor in French Studies and the Certificat de français pratique**

It was moved by J. Toswell, seconded by G. Santos,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2023, the admission requirements of the Honours Specialization, Specialization, Major and Minor in French Studies and the Certificat de français pratique, offered by the Department of French Studies in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, be revised as shown in Item 12.3(a).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

S.23-181 **ITEM 12.3(b) – Ivey Business School: Revisions to the Admission Requirements for Business Administration**

It was moved by J. Toswell, seconded by G. Santos,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that, effective September 1, 2023, the policy on “Admission – Business Administration” be revised as shown in Item 12.3(b).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

S.23-182 **ITEM 12.3(c) – Faculty of Science and Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry: Revisions to “Medical Sciences First Entry”**

It was moved by J. Toswell, seconded by G. Santos,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that, effective September 1, 2023, “Medical Sciences First Entry” be revised as shown in Item 12.3(c).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

S.23-183 **ITEM 12.3(d) – Faculty of Science, Department of Physics and Astronomy: Withdrawal of the Minor in the Physics of Materials**

It was moved by J. Toswell, seconded by G. Santos,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that, effective September 1, 2023, admission to the Minor in Physics of Materials be discontinued and that the module be withdrawn.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

S.23-184 **ITEM 12.3(e)(i) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Major Modification to the Master of Arts (MA) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Comparative Literature**

It was moved by J. Toswell, seconded by G. Santos,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that, effective September 1, 2023, the Master of Arts (MA) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Comparative Literature be revised as shown in Item 12.3(e)(i).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

S.23-185 **ITEM 12.3(e)(ii) – 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 G. Santos,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that, effective September 1, 2023, the Master of Management of Applied Science (MMASc) be revised as shown in Item 12.3(e)(ii).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

S.23-186 **Information Items Reported by ACA on Unanimous Consent**

- ITEM 12.3(f) – Report of the Subcommittee on Program Review – Undergraduate (SUPR-U): Cyclical Reviews of the Undergraduate Programs in Nursing, DAN Management & Organizational Studies, Childhood and Youth Studies (King’s University College), and Psychology (King’s University College)
- ITEM 12.3(g) – Report of the Subcommittee on Program Review – Graduate (SUPR-G): Cyclical Reviews of the Graduate Programs in Chemical and Biochemical Engineering and Media in Journalism and Communication
- ITEM 12.3(h)(i) – New Donor-Funded Scholarships, Awards and Prizes

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

S.23-187 **ITEM 12.4(a) – Renaming: Cassels Chair in Mining Law and Finance**

It was moved by J. Toswell, seconded by G. Santos,

That on the recommendation of SCUP, Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the renaming of the Cassels Brock Chair in Mining Law and Finance to the Cassels Chair in Mining Law and Finance.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

S.23-188 The following items reported through Announcements and Communications were received for information by unanimous consent:

- ITEM 12.5(a) – Academic Administrative Appointments

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

S.23-189 **ITEM 12.3(h)(ii) – New Western-Funded Scholarships, Awards and Prizes**

A Senator made an observation on this proposal and stated that the dollar value associated with such scholarships, awards and prizes should be reconsidered and increased if appropriate.

S.23-190 **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 asked as to whether the plan on supporting the library system and the work of Librarians and Archivists on campus could be provided to Senate.
2. A Senator raised a question of clarification regarding Western's plan to maintain an adequate ratio of Librarians and Archivists to students as enrollment increases, ensuring sufficient support.
3. A Senate Observer Alternate asked about comments on the efforts to sustain and enhance the capacity of Western Libraries and the FIMS Library to support teaching and research excellence, particularly in the context of resource limitation.

The Chair emphasized that questions concerning the negotiation of collective agreements are not the purview of Senate and stated that the budget allocation went through a long process of discussion and is an ongoing process which aims to provide adequate support to faculty and staff. F. Strzelczyk commented on the budget process and planning. She confirmed that the allocations were increased.

4. A Senator raised a question of clarification regarding the provided timeline for complaints in context of the media coverage regarding the Women's Hockey team.

A. Shepard stated that no comment can be provided at the current time on this matter as a legal investigation has been launched. He acknowledged that Western is acting appropriately.

5. A Senator, referring to the TSN article, asked a question as to whether adequate support has been provided to the Western Women's hockey team.

J. Doerksen, Vice-Provost (Students), addressed the question and advised the main areas of support provided to the hockey team and student athletes. As a follow up to the discussion, a Senator commented about the importance of transparency.

6. A Senator asked if the [2022-23 Annual Progress Report from the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion \(EDI\)](#) could be provided to Senate for information.

O. Oloya, Associate Vice-President (Equity, Diversity & Inclusion), advised the Western EDI Strategic planning process is currently in progress and the draft Strategic Plan is expected to be presented to the Senate for feedback.

7. Questions regarding the implementation and requirements for the proposed Introduction of a Major in China Studies were addressed by G. Read during the discussion in item 10.0.

Additionally, A. Shepard addressed a question of clarification regarding the QS World University Rankings and the changes in their methodology. L. Cho, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (International), commented on the international research network's role as an important component within the ranking system.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

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A. Shepard  
Chair

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A. Bryson  
University Secretary

# Policy Review Framework and Timeline: Presentation to Senate

September 15, 2023



1

## Academic Policy Working Group

- Objective and Goals
- Working Group Membership
- Roadmap
- Alignment to Institutional Strategic Priorities
- Communication and Consultation



2

## Working Group Membership

- Susan Lewis (Co-Chair), Vice-Provost Academic Programs
- Marisa Modeski (Co-Chair), University Registrar
- Maria Farooq, VP University Affairs, USC
- Nicole Tate-Hill, Acting Director, WCS
- Jeffrey Hutter, Acting Dean, Science
- Andrew Johnson, Associate Dean, Health Sciences
- Susan Knabe, Associate Dean, FIMS
- Vicki Sweeney, Associate Dean, Huron University College
- Valery Sarkany, Associate Registrar



3

## Admissions, Enrolment and Scholarships

- How are we supporting students that have extenuating circumstances upon admission?
- How are we adapting our policies to be aligned and adaptable with external considerations?
- Do our existing policies accommodate the diverse needs and situations of our students?



4

## Academic Considerations

- Sustainable for staff, faculty, students, health care profession
- Create a more equitable and inclusive Western
- How are peer institutions addressing this challenge?
- How can we develop a process that's easier for everyone?

## Scholastic Offences

- Integrate recommendations of the Provost's Task Force on Academic Integrity
  - Culture, education and training
  - Technology and ChatGPT
  - Enhanced reporting
  - Policy development

## Undergraduate Courses

- Promote teaching and learning of the future
- Enrich the student experience
- Increase, diversify and support international students as outlined in the Global Engagement Plan (GEP)
- Support enrolment, retention and success
  - Teaching modalities
  - Essay courses
  - Course outlines
  - Gender-Based and Sexualized Violence statement
  - Course credit, course load, adding/dropping

## Communications and Consultation

- Academic Policy Working Group
- Senate Committee on Academic Policy
- Key partners, may vary by policy
- Senate (multiple opportunities)

## Senate Welcome :: 2023



Penny Pexman :: Vice-President (Research)

1

## Introduction to Western Research



### Office of Research Services

Helps scholars gain a competitive edge by providing strategic & administrative support at all stages of research, scholarship & creative activity.



### Innovation & Strategic Partnerships

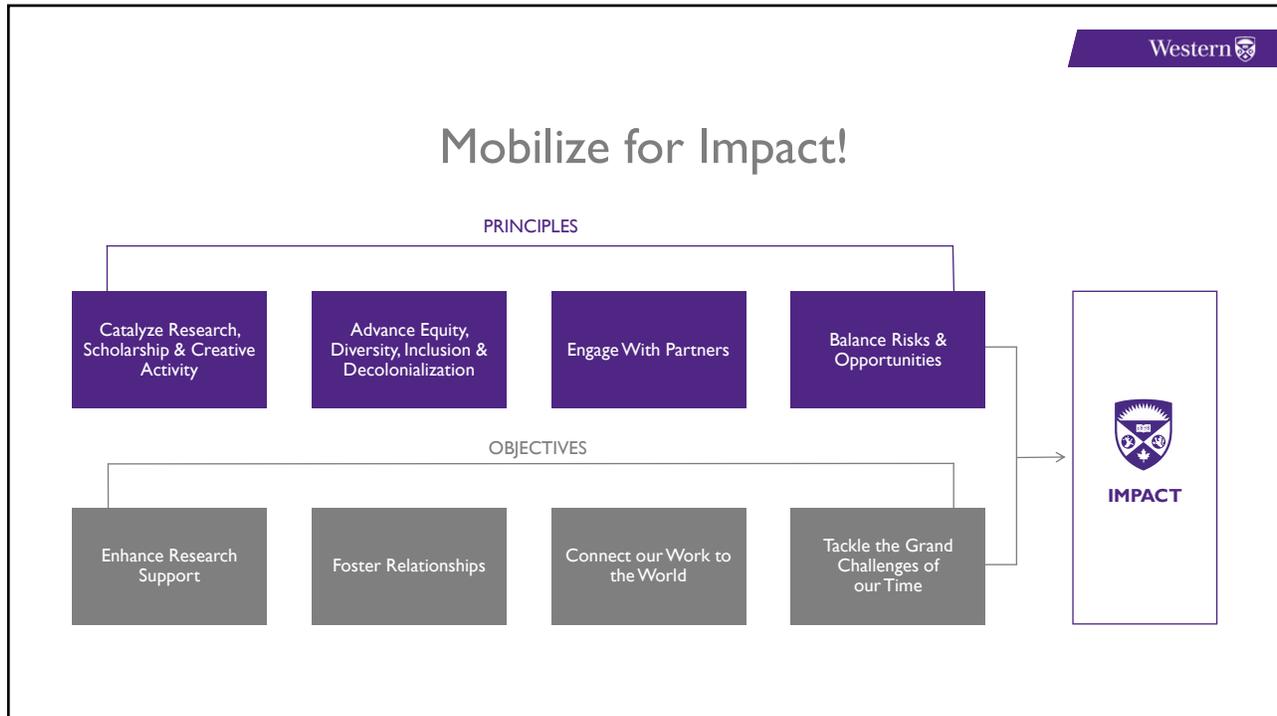
Advances innovation & impact of research through partnerships, intellectual property licensing, knowledge mobilization & commercial opportunities.



### Animal Care & Veterinary Services

Offers facilities, equipment & staff who provide ethical care & clinical, diagnostic & surgical support for research involving animal models.

2



3



4