



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

January 17, 2025

The meeting was held at 1:30 at the Great Hall, Somerville House

SENATORS:

A. Agyapong	M. Green-Barteet	M. Modeski
C. Alcantara	C. Hall	I. Namukasa
S. Bahadoor	S. Hayne Beatty	D. Neufeld
M. Bassnett	N. Harney	A. Nocilla
G. Beckett	L. Henderson	K. Olson
B. Begg	K. Henricus	V. Parsa
K. Bertrand	J. Herrera	I. Paul
J. Birkinshaw	A. Hodgson	P. Pexman
A. Botterell	L. M. Ibarra	G. Philip
A. Bryson	J. Ijam	A. Puvirajah
S. Buhrow	J. Jin	L. Rehmann
J. Byrd Clark	M. Joannis	B. Rubin
J. Campbell	I. Johnsrude	M. S. Saleh
B. Cheadle	E. Kamimura	S. Schmid
K. Choi	M. Kim	L. Shaw
M. Cleveland	H. Kirk	A. Shepard
N. Coates	D. Kotsopoulos	K. Siddiqui
K. Coley	D. Laird	A. Simon
A. Cooke	J. Lamarche	Z. Sinel
E. Da Costa	L. Lingard	D. Smith
L. Davis	G. R. Little	F. Strzelczyk
M. Davison	A. Liu	X. Wang
M. El-Sakka	A. Lukawski	J. Yoo
D. Ferri	O. Matthews	N. Zabian
J. Garland	D. Meister	A. Zecevic
J. Gemson	A. Meyer	
R. Graham	M. Mills	

Observers:

C. Bressette, C. Chung, J. Doerksen, S. Hendriks, N. Keyghobadi, S. Lewis, M. Medapati, O. Oloya, S. Roland, V. Sarkany, J. Scott, M. Yenson

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

S. Hayne Beatty offered a Land Acknowledgement.

MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

ITEM 2.0 – Minutes of the Meeting of December 4, 2024

It was moved by B. Cheadle, seconded by R. Graham,

That the minutes of the meeting of December 4, 2024, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

A. Shepard, President and Vice-Chancellor, referred members to the written report provided in the agenda and highlighted several items, including the Prime Minister's announcement on the establishment of the Council on Canada-U.S. Relations, Western's ranking success reflecting the ongoing commitment to sustainability, and an invitation for Senators to engage in discussion on Western's new climate and sustainability strategy.

A. Shepard continued his report with reference to a number of events planned for the next few months, including the upcoming Black History Month, the Spring Open House and the 2025 Engage Western event, which aim to strengthen connections between the University and the local community.

REPORT OF THE BOARD CHAIR

S. Shortreed, Chair of the Board of Governors, provided a report to Senate and briefly commented on the main accomplishments and challenges of 2024, including the Brescia-Western integration, research funding successes and the international student cap.

Additionally, S. Shortreed commented on the Board's main areas of oversight and several matters considered by the Board since the last report to Senate.

REPORT OF THE PROVOST

F. Strzelczyk, Provost & Vice-President (Academic) provided her report and began with a brief overview of current leadership search efforts, including ongoing recruitments for the new Dean of the Faculty of Law, and Dean of the Faculty of Information and Media Studies. The Provost informed Senate that review committees have been formed for the Vice-Provost (Academic Planning, Policy & Faculty) and the Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Indigenous Initiatives) roles.

F. Strzelczyk continued her report with an update on the ongoing work with the government, focusing on funding allocations within Ontario and the potential restructuring of study permit quotas for graduate and undergraduate students.

The Provost provided information regarding the upcoming Zoom consultation session to share feedback on draft revisions to MAPP 1.1.

F. Strzelczyk concluded her report with an update on the budget planning, highlighting ongoing consultations. Additionally, she outlined the subsequent stages of the budget planning process.

REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT (RESEARCH)

P. Pexman, Vice-President (Research) provided her report and began by introducing the new automated grant feedback pilot project, led by Western Research, which aims to provide an additional opportunity for reviewing funding applications. Additionally, she announced the upcoming workshops aimed at assisting researchers across the campus in utilizing this tool.

P. Pexman continued her report with an update on the nominations for awards and distinctions, emphasizing the importance of recognizing and promoting a culture of academic appreciation.

REPORT OF THE OPERATIONS / AGENDA COMMITTEE (OAC)

On behalf of the Operations/Agenda Committee, D. Kotsopoulos presented the report of the Committee.

ITEM 6.1(a) – Report of the *ad hoc* Working Group to the Operations/Agenda Committee

D. Kotsopoulos provided a brief overview of the report and recommendations of the *ad hoc* Working Group.

ITEM 6.1(b) – Approval of Recommendation 1 from the Report of the *ad hoc* Working Group to the Operations/Agenda Committee

It was moved by D. Kotsopoulos,

That on the recommendation of the Operations/Agenda Committee (OAC), Senate approve that effective July 1, 2025, the Senate Committee on Academic Curriculum and Awards (ACA) and the Senate Committee on Academic Policy (Policy) be established as standing committees of Senate on a permanent basis.

CARRIED

ITEM 6.1(c) – Approval of Recommendation 2 from the Report of the *ad hoc* Working Group to the Operations/Agenda Committee

It was moved by D. Kotsopoulos,

That on the recommendation of the Operations/Agenda Committee (OAC), Senate approve that effective September 1, 2025, the policy on the “Structure of the Academic Year” be revised to stipulate that the Office of the Registrar recommend the undergraduate sessional dates to the Senate Committee on Academic Policy (Policy) for approval, as shown in Item 6.1(c), and

That effective September 1, 2025, the terms of reference of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy (Policy) be revised to reflect the approval of undergraduate sessional dates within the committee’s mandate, as shown in Item 6.1(c).

CARRIED

ITEM 6.1(d) – Approval of Recommendation 3 from the Report of the *ad hoc* Working Group to the Operations/Agenda Committee

It was moved by D. Kotsopoulos,

That on the recommendation of the Operations/Agenda Committee (OAC), Senate approve that the Senate Committee on Academic Policy (Policy) be charged with determining a process to move curriculum requirements from program-specific admission and progression policies to the Academic Calendar.

CARRIED

REPORT OF THE SENATE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Senate Nominating Committee, D. Kotsopoulos presented the report of the Committee.

ITEM 7.1 – Membership – Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA)

Saad Ahmad was nominated from the floor of Senate and was acclaimed to serve on the Senate Review Board Academic as an undergraduate student for a term ending June 30, 2025.

No nominations were received for the graduate student and faculty members positions.

ITEM 7.2 – Membership – Selection/ Review Committee for the Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Indigenous Initiatives)

Ella Conrod was acclaimed to serve on the Selection/Review Committee for the Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Indigenous Initiatives), as an undergraduate student.

Abeni Flynn was acclaimed to serve on the Selection/Review Committee for the Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Indigenous Initiatives), as a graduate student.

Renée Bédard, Michael Kim and Ruth Martin were acclaimed to serve on the Selection/Review Committee for the Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Indigenous Initiatives), as faculty members.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

REPORT FROM THE OPERATIONS / AGENDA COMMITTEE (OAC)

Information Items Reported by OAC on Unanimous Consent:

- ITEM 13.1(a) – Senate Membership – Vacancies Filled by Appointment.

Information Items Reported by the Nominating Committee on Unanimous Consent:

- ITEM 13.2(a) – Temporary Replacement for a Committee Member: Senate Committee on Academic Policy (Policy).

REPORT FROM THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY

ITEM 13.3(a) – Revisions to the Policy on “Registration and Progression in Three-Year, Four-Year and Honours Programs”

It was moved by J. Ijam, seconded by M. Cleveland,

That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2025, the policy on “Registration and Progression in Three-Year, Four-Year and Honours Programs” be revised as shown in Item 13.3(a).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

ITEM 13.3(b) – Revisions to the Policy on “Scholar’s Electives Program and Western Scholars”

It was moved by J. Ijam, seconded by M. Cleveland,

That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy, Senate approve that effective January 17, 2025, the policy on “Scholar’s Electives Program and Western Scholars” be revised as shown in Item 13.3(b).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

ITEM 13.3(c) – Revisions to the Policy on “Course Numbering, Essay Courses, and Hours of Instruction”

It was moved by J. Ijam, seconded by M. Cleveland,

That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2025, the policy on “Course Numbering Policy, Essay Courses and Hours of Instruction” be revised as shown in Item 13.3(c).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Information Items Reported by Policy on Unanimous Consent:

- ITEM 13.3(d) – Revisions to the “Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs”.
- ITEM 13.3(e) – Faculty of Information and Media Studies: Revisions to the Policy on “Progression Requirements – Information and Media Studies”.
- ITEM 13.3(f) – Revisions to the Procedure for Establishing New Senate Academic Policies or Amending Existing Policies.

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

ITEM 13.4(a) – Faculty of Science, Department of Computer Science: Exemption Request Regarding the Withdrawn Minor in Computer Hardware Design

It was moved by J. Ijam, seconded by M. Cleveland,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that an exemption be granted to permit one student to graduate with the withdrawn Minor in Computer Hardware Design at the Spring 2025 Convocation.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

ITEM 13.4(b) – Faculty of Social Science, Department of Political Science: Withdrawal of the Major in Political Science (Brescia), Major in Power in History and Politics (Brescia), and Minor in Political Science (Brescia)

It was moved by J. Ijam, seconded by M. Cleveland,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2025, admission to the Major in Political Science (Brescia), the Major in Power in History and Politics (Brescia), and the Minor in Political Science (Brescia), offered by the Department of Political Science in the Faculty of Social Science, be discontinued, and

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

That the modules be withdrawn effective September 1, 2029.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

ITEM 13.4(c) – King’s University College: Revision to the Admission Requirements of the Bachelor of Social Work (Honours) – Honours Specialization in Social Work

It was moved by J. Ijam, seconded by M. Cleveland,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2025, the admission requirements of the Bachelor of Social Work (Honours) – Honours Specialization in Social Work, offered by King’s University College, be revised as shown in Item 13.4(c).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

ITEM 13.4(d) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Major Modification to the Master of Arts (MA) in English

It was moved by J. Ijam, seconded by M. Cleveland,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2025, the Master of Arts (MA) in English be revised as shown in Item 13.4(d).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Information Items Reported by ACA on Unanimous Consent:

- ITEM 13.4(e) – Report of the Subcommittee on Program Review – Undergraduate (SUPR-U): Cyclical Reviews of the Undergraduate Programs in Honours Business Administration (HBA) and Economics.
- ITEM 13.4(f) – New Donor-Funded Scholarships, Awards and Prizes.

REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY PLANNING (SCUP)

ITEM 13.5(a) – Chair in Mining Law and Finance: Name Change

It was moved by J. Ijam, seconded by M. Cleveland,

That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on University Planning (SCUP), Senate approve that effective January 17, 2025, the Cassels Chair in Mining Law and Finance, established in 2012 at the Faculty of Law, be renamed as the Chair in Mining Law and Finance.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

ITEM 13.5(b) – Dancap Private Equity Professorship in Change and Innovation

It was moved by J. Ijam, seconded by M. Cleveland,

That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on University Planning (SCUP), Senate approve that effective February 7, 2025, the Dancap Private Equity Professorship in Change and Innovation in DAN Department of Management and Organizational Studies in the Faculty of Social Science be established as shown in item 13.5(b).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Information Items Reported by SCUP on Unanimous Consent:

- ITEM 13.5(c) – Designated Chairs, Professorships and Faculty Fellowships Approved on Behalf of the Senate in 2024 or prior by the Senate Committee on University Planning.
- ITEM 13.5(d) – Western Office of the Ombudsperson Annual Report 2023/24.

DISCUSSION AND 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 and responses are summarized below:

At the December 6, 2024 Senate meeting, an Official Observer referring to the EDIDA Strategic Plan, raised a question regarding Western’s approach in ensuring health and safety on campus with respect to the recommendations outlined by the Government of Canada regarding COVID-19 and what steps were taken to uphold the commitment to equity and inclusion with regard to health and safety on campus.

A. Bryson, University Secretary, provided a response received from L. Logan, Vice-President (Operations & Finance), and advised that the issue of public health recommendations regarding respiratory illnesses is within the purview of the University’s Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee (JOHSC). She confirmed that this matter was discussed with the JOHSC in December 2024, including an update and recommendations from Dr. Sonya Malone, the University’s Occupational Health Physician.

Question regarding the Research Ethics Board:

P. Pexman addressed a question regarding the last performance review of the Research Ethics Board and advised that the process for planning of an external review for the Non-Medical Research Ethics Board was initiated in 2024, and a further update on the progress will be provided in the future. In regard to the Health Sciences Research Ethics Board, it falls under the purview of Clinical Trials Ontario’s re-qualification process.

Questions related to MAPP 1.14

The President addressed the questions and concerns regarding the challenges in communication of the campus closures due to the severe weather conditions and commented

on the decision-making process.

A. Bryson provided a response received from L. Logan, Vice-President (Operations & Finance), outlining the decision-making process and communication channels utilized to inform the campus community. Additionally, she shared proactive measures that will be implemented to enhance communication and prevent future issues.

Questions related to graduate student funding:

In response to a question regarding a reduction in graduate funding in the Faculty of Social Science, N. Harney, Dean of the Faculty of Social Science, clarified that the graduate funding has not been reduced by 50%, and that funding constraints will apply to the incoming class of 2025, with current students remaining unaffected. The Faculties were asked to think strategically and redefine their allocations based on their needs with respect to undergraduate students funding, F. Strzelczyk explained the differences between allocation models that apply to graduate and undergraduate students.

The President commented on the impact of political decisions on international student enrollment and the strategies that have been developed to mitigate this impact.

In addressing a question regarding the potential need for an additional budget town hall with graduate students, K. Siddiqui, Vice-Provost (School of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies), provided an overview of current graduate funding sources, highlighting the complexity of funding distribution across different Faculties. He emphasized that a town hall would not be an effective approach given the distinct models, priorities, and available resources.

Question regarding the search for the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities:

In response to a question regarding the search for a Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, F. Strzelczyk confirmed that the appointment for the current Acting Dean is a two-year term and outlined the timeline for the next search.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

A. Shepard
Chair

A. Bryson
University Secretary