

Special Meeting of Senate

AGENDA

1:30 p.m., Friday, April 17, 2015

**NOTE: →→→→ NEW IVEY BUILDING, ROOM 1100
1255 Western Road**

1. Motion regarding the President – [Exhibit I](#)
2. Report of the Operations Agenda Committee – Notice of Motion regarding the Chair of Western's Board of Governors – [Exhibit II](#)
3. Adjournment

Senate meetings are scheduled to begin at 1:30 p.m. and normally will end by 4:30 p.m. unless extended by a majority vote of those present.

Motion of Non-Confidence in President Amit Chakma

Recommended: That the Senate of the University of Western Ontario has lost confidence in President Amit Chakma.

Background:

The motion is before Senate in accordance with paragraph IV(2) of the Senate By-Laws which requires the Secretary of Senate to call a special meeting of Senate at the written request of at least seven members of Senate, within 15 days of receipt of the request. Such a request was received on April 7 and is attached as [Appendix 1](#).

Irene Birrell, University Secretary
4101A Stevenson Hall,
University of Western Ontario
London, Ontario
Canada

April 7, 2015

Dear Irene Birrell,

Pursuant to Article 4 section 2 of the University of Western Ontario Senate by-laws, we, the undersigned senators, are writing to request “a special meeting of the Senate” to be convened at the earliest possible date.

The purpose of this meeting shall be to debate and vote on a motion framed within the parameters of the University of Western Ontario Act, “Powers of Senate”, Clause 30 (e), which states that the Senate may “inquire into and publish reports upon any matter that affects the academic reputation or effectiveness of the University;” and (f) “pass resolutions and make recommendations to the Board with respect to any matter connected with the administration of the University and the promotion of its affairs.”

The Senate is empowered under the University of Western Ontario Act to pass resolutions and make recommendations to the Board with respect to any matter connected with the administration of the University and the promotion of its affairs. The Senate wishes to advise the Board that President Chakma’s acceptance of pay in lieu of leave of \$440,000 at the same time as this Senate has repeatedly been told that there is no money to address faculty budgetary issues shows a gross error in judgment and a deep lack of understanding of the priorities of this institution. The text of the motion is: “The Senate of the University of Western Ontario has lost confidence in President Amit Chakma.”

We are also aware of other notices of motion related to this motion that will be given on April 10. It is our belief that a special meeting of the Senate will enable fulsome, focused and timely deliberation of these important issues. A delay in the consideration of these motions until the next scheduled Senate meeting on May 8th will only postpone the healing process for our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully signed

Mary-Anne Andrusyszyn
Chris Brown
Carole Farber
Beverly D. Leipert
Jean-François Millaire
Andrew Nelson
Bernd Steinbock
Paul Woodford

Neil Banerjee
Jacquie Burkell
John Hatch
Robert Mercer
Diana Mok
Volker Nolte
Paul G. St-Pierre

Dan Belliveau
Joel Faflak
Jacques Lamarche
Shannon K. Mischler
Katrina Moser
Paul-Philippe Pare
Nadine Wathen

REPORT OF THE OPERATIONS/AGENDA COMMITTEE

1. **Notice of Motion of a Vote of Non-Confidence in the Chair of the Board of Governors**

Recommended: That the Senate of the University of Western Ontario has lost confidence in the Chair of the Board of Governors, Mr. Chirag Shah.

Background:

At its meeting of April 10, 2015, Senate received a notice of motion with respect to a vote of non-confidence in the Chair of the Board of Governors, attached as **Appendix 1**.

The Operations/Agenda Committee has determined that the motion is in order to be placed on the agenda of Senate. Consideration was given to whether the motion should be on the agenda of the special meeting of Senate called for April 17, or whether it should come forward to the next regular meeting of Senate on May 8. Senate Bylaws are in conflict on this matter. Paragraph IV(2) which governs the calling of special meetings by a subset of members of Senate, indicates that discussion at a special meeting should be limited to the matter or matters set out in the notice from members. The Rules of Order, which form part of the Bylaws, state that the Operations Agenda Committee will consider the Notice of Motion and report to the next meeting of Senate, not the next regular meeting of Senate.

In determining that the motion with respect to the Chair of the Board should be on the agenda of the special meeting of Senate, the Committee took into consideration that the motion with respect to the Board Chair is closely related to the motion with respect to the President and arises out of the same set of circumstances and stated concerns from members of the community. It was also noted by a member of OAC who was a signatory to the letter calling for a special meeting, that one of the reasons for seeking the special meeting was to deal with the vote of non-confidence in the President as expeditiously as possible, rather than carrying it forward for another month. It is the view of the Operations Agenda Committee that the same logic should apply to the motion with respect to the Board Chair.

Notice of Motion as presented April 10, 2015

Given that the Chair of the Board of Governors, Mr. Chirag Shah, has made public statements that demonstrate a profound lack of understanding of the core mission of the university, the work undertaken by its faculty, students and staff and the realities of administrative leaves; and given that Mr. Shah condoned and defended a contract that was penned in 2009, when the economic downturn led to profound belt tightening elsewhere across campus, and resulted in a payment in 2014 of over 1 million dollars while several faculties across campus were facing budget cuts and staff were losing their jobs, the Senate of the University of Western Ontario has lost confidence in the Chair of the Board of Governors, Mr. Chirag Shah.