



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

**December 6, 2024**

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The meeting was held at 1:33 via Zoom.

### **SENATORS:**

A. Agyapong	M. Green-Barteet	M. Modeski
S. Bahadoor	C. Hall	I. Namukasa
M. Bassnett	A. Hearn	A. Nocilla
S. H. Beatty	L. Henderson	K. Olson
J. Beecroft	K. Henricus	V. Parsa
B. Begg	J. Herrera	P. Pexman
N. Borradaile	A. Hodgson	G. Philip
A. Botterell	L. M. Ibarra	S. Powell
A. Bryson	J. Ijam	A. Puvirajah
S. Buhrow	J. Jin	D. Robinson
J. Byrd Clark	M. Joannis	B. Rubin
B. Cheadle	I. Johnsrude	M. Sanita Lima
A. Christie	E. Kamimura	S. Schmid
M. Cleveland	M. Kim	L. Shaw
K. Coley	H. Kirk	A. Shepard
A. Cooke	D. Kotsopoulos	K. Siddiqui
E. Da Costa	D. Laird	A. Simon
S. D'Arcy	J. Lamarche	Z. Sinel
L. Davis	L. Lingard	D. Smith
M. Davison	G. Little	F. Strzelczyk
M. El-Sakka	A. Liu	S. Whitehead
D. Ferri	A. Lukawski	J. Yoo
J. Garland	T. Mantler	N. Zabian
J. Gemson	O. Matthews	A. Zecevic
L. Graham	M. McGrath	
R. Graham	M. Mills	

### **Observers:**

C. Bressette, C. Chung, J. Doerksen, E. Kalaydjian,  
N. Keyghobadi, S. Lewis, E. Marshall, V. Sarkany, J. Scott, J. Weststar,

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

A. Nocilla offered a Land Acknowledgement.

**MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING**

**ITEM 2.0 – Minutes of the Meeting of November 8, 2024**

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

That the minutes of the meeting of November 8, 2024, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

**REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

A. Shepard, President and Vice-Chancellor, referred members to the written report provided with the agenda and highlighted several items including the start of the exam period, and offered his best wishes to all students for the successful completion of their exams.

The President provided remarks on the University's operations during inclement winter weather, and the recent closures due to severe weather conditions. He expressed gratitude to all service teams for their efforts in ensuring the safe operation of the campus.

The President concluded his report with an update on the advocacy efforts in the ongoing discussion with the Federal Government, regarding further changes to international student caps and the inclusion of graduate students within the cap.

**REPORT OF THE PROVOST**

F. Strzelczyk, Provost & Vice-President (Academic), informed Senators that J. Hutter has been appointed as Acting Deputy Provost, effective January 1, 2025. The new Deputy Provost position was created in response to the expanding scope and complexity of the Provost portfolio over the past 15 years. The Provost also commented on several leadership updates, including appointment of Shaun Boe as the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, effective April 1, 2025.

F. Strzelczyk continued her report with updates on the budget and planning process, noting that budget townhalls were held both in person and virtually and acknowledged broad representation and good attendance. Budget planning meetings for both Faculties and non-academic units are underway.

The Provost concluded her report providing gratitude to the entire campus community for their efforts and commitment in advancing the academic mission of the University for another successful year.

### **REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT (RESEARCH)**

P. Pexman, Vice-President (Research) provided her report and outlined key areas of focus, accomplishments, and ongoing projects under her portfolio. She began with insights from the recent meeting of the Ontario Council on University Research, commenting on the ongoing discussions related to the implementation of the federal budget.

P. Pexman also provided updates on Tri-Agency initiatives, including the implementation of the requirement that all agency-funded research be published in compliance with the Open Access Policy on Publications, and the transition to a narrative CV style for Tri-Agency funding programs.

P. Pexman continued her report with an update on the research security portfolio and advised that the revised list of named research organizations connected to sensitive technology research areas that may pose a risk to Canada's national security will be available in early 2025.

P. Pexman concluded her report with information on the recent training session focused on Indigenous research hosted by Western Research.

### **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 – Membership – Nominating Committee**

Mahmoud El-Sakka, Melanie Mills and Vijay Parsa were nominated from the floor of Senate to serve on the Senate Nominating Committee. An election was held following the Senate meeting and Melanie Mills was elected to serve on the Senate Nominating Committee for a term ending June 30, 2025.

### **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 Committee on Academic Policy**

Chris Kapulkin was nominated by the Nominating Committee and Andrew Johnson was nominated from the floor of Senate to serve on the Senate Committee on Academic Policy as a faculty member. An election was held following the Senate meeting and Andrew Johnson was elected to serve on the Senate Committee on Academic Policy for a term ending June 30, 2026.

Jessica Etou was nominated by the Nominating Committee and Jenna Ijam and Aliya Jokhu were nominated from the floor of Senate to serve on the Senate Committee on Academic Policy as an undergraduate student. An election was held following the Senate meeting and Jenna Ijam was elected to serve on the Senate Committee on Academic Policy for a term ending June

**ITEM 7.2 – Membership – Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA)**

Blaine Chronik, Mike Domaratzki, Alison Hearn, Jose Herrera, Heather Kirk and Lynn Shaw were acclaimed to serve on the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA) as faculty members for terms ending June 30, 2026.

Jasmine Nitsotolis, Jady Smith and Jenna Ijam were acclaimed to serve on SRBA as undergraduate students for terms ending June 30, 2025.

Jana Bataineh and Eduard Sviridenko were acclaimed to serve on SRBA as graduate students for terms ending June 30, 2025.

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

On behalf of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy, M. Cleveland presented the report of the Committee.

**ITEM 8.1 – Revisions to the Policy on “Adding and Dropping Courses”**

S. Lewis, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs), introduced the proposed revisions to the Policy on “Adding and Dropping Courses” and outlined the rationale for the changes.

S. Lewis addressed a question of clarification and stated that, should the extended withdrawal deadline have any impact on other policies, the required changes will be brought forward for approval subsequently.

It was moved by J. Garland, 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 “Adding and Dropping Courses” be revised as shown in Item 8.1.

CARRIED

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

**ITEM 10.1 – Budget Planning Guidelines for Faculties**

As a follow up to the previous meeting, the guidelines to support Faculties in the development of their budgets was provided for information.

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

On behalf of the University Research Board, P. Pexman presented a summary of the work conducted by the URB at their November meeting, including the presentation on the activities of the Western Bone and Joint Institute and an update on the innovation and strategic partnerships

portfolio. Additionally, P. Pexman advised Senate that after careful consideration it was decided that WORLDdiscoveries will become the Western Technology Transfer Office, which reflects their work more directly.

### **ITEM 11.1 – Tri-Agency Scholarships and Fellowships Update**

K. Siddiqui, Vice-Provost (Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies), and N. Borradaile, Associate Vice-Provost (Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies), provided a presentation on the evaluation of Western's key performance indicators for Tri-Agency scholarships and fellowships, including number of applications, success rates and quotas (Appendix A).

N. Borradaile explained that quotas are determined based on grant success over a rolling 3-year period, and the current lower quotas reflect a performance in the previous 3 years. Additionally, she noted that the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships and Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships are planned to be replaced by a new, streamlined program.

The Chair expressed gratitude to the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies team for all their dedicated work. In response to a question regarding the outlook for the awards going forward, N. Borradaile noted that both programs could be integrated into a new program for both domestic and international students.

### **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

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

##### **Information Items Reported by OAC on Unanimous Consent:**

- ITEM 13.1(a) – Schedule of Senate and Senate Committee Meetings (2025-26).
- ITEM 13.1(b) – Senate Election Schedule for 2025.

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

##### **ITEM 13.2(a) – Revisions to the “Academic Calendar” Policy**

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

That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy, Senate approve that effective December 6, 2024, the “Academic Calendar” policy be revised as shown in Item 13.2(a).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

##### **Information Items Reported by Policy on Unanimous Consent:**

- ITEM 13.2(b) – Revisions to the Policy on the “Structure of the Academic Year”.

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

**ITEM 13.3(a) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Withdrawal of the Graduate Diploma (GDip) in Mining Law, Finance, and Sustainability**

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

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2024, admission to the Graduate Diploma (GDip) in Mining Law, Finance, and Sustainability be discontinued and that the GDip be withdrawn.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

**Information Items Reported by ACA on Unanimous Consent:**

- ITEM 13.3(b) – 2023-2024 Annual Report of the Office of Academic Quality and Enhancement.
- ITEM 13.3(c)(i) – Summer Undergraduate Sessional Dates (2026).
- ITEM 13.3(c)(ii) – Faculty-Specific Sessional Dates: Revised Sessional Dates – Ivey Business School, HBA Program (2024-2025).
- ITEM 13.3(c)(iii) – Faculty-Specific Sessional Dates (2025-2026).
- ITEM 13.3(d) – New Donor-Funded Scholarships, Awards and Prizes.

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

**ITEM 13.2(c) – Annual Report on Scholastic Offences (2023-2024)**

A Senator requested that this item be removed from the Consent Agenda to seek further clarification concerning the surge in number of scholastic offences during the reported period and feasible measures to address the issue.

S. Lewis addressed the factors that might be causing the high number of these offences and outlined strategies for enhancing academic integrity. Additionally, she commented on the ongoing work on the revision to the policies, which is near completion.

**ITEM 13.4(a) – Western Libraries Annual Report**

G. Little, Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian, presented the Western Libraries Annual Report (Appendix B), describing Western's collection and the current landscape and the opportunities for Western Libraries in the areas of research data management. Additionally, he commented on information services, open infrastructure, and the archives/special collections. He concluded his report by providing a summary of the space revitalization that has been completed and next steps for the D.B. Weldon Library. G. Little responded to comments and questions of clarification regarding his report.

### **DISCUSSION AND QUESTION PERIOD**

A Senator raised concerns with respect to the current practice of taking questions on reports after the committees agenda items and on the intended purpose of the Discussion and Question Period.

A. Bryson, University Secretary, indicated that the Discussion and Question Period would be referred to the Operations/Agenda Committee for their consideration. She advised that it is the Chair's prerogative to determine when the questions will be addressed and explained that the current process ensures the items requiring approval on the Senate Agenda are addressed first.

The President responded to a question regarding the business outlined in his report, particularly related to the Blue-Ribbon Panel report.

In response to a question regarding the impact from the inclusion of graduate students within the international student cap, the President noted that with the graduate students the impact tends to be more intellectual than financial, as the University does not generate significant revenue from graduate students.

In response to a question of clarification, the Provost commented on the practice of holding budget planning town halls, emphasizing their significance as a key platform for open dialogue.

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:

#### **Exams Printing:**

In response to a question regarding plans to outline a budgeting model that ensures consistent funding for printing exams, M. Modeski, University Registrar, advised that the concerns raised could be addressed during the current budget planning discussions with the units.

#### **Administrative Budget Concerns:**

A Senator raised concerns regarding the creation of a new Deputy Provost position at a time of budget constraint and when financial resources are being limited. F. Strzelczyk emphasized that the largest portion of operating funds is allocated to the Faculties, rather than to the Administration and reassured Senate that existing resources will be sufficient to support this role. Moreover, this is an interim position, which will provide an opportunity to evaluate the impact that this role may have. A Senator commented on the creation of the Deputy Provost position and spoke in support of J. Hutter's appointment.

Additionally, the Provost addressed a question of clarification regarding the Undergraduate Curriculum Planning Framework, that was discussed at the November Senate meeting. The President commented on the current measures being implemented to ensure the efficient use of financial resources.

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

That the discussion and question period of the Senate meeting be extended by 30 minutes.

CARRIED

University's commitment to Indigenous Education:

F. Strzelczyk addressed a question regarding Western's ongoing efforts to fulfill its commitment to prioritize Indigenous Education, particularly considering the resource shortages in the Indigenous Education Program within the Faculty of Education. The Provost outlined the funding approach for Indigenous scholars and discussed the ongoing efforts to address the vacancies caused by the departure of full-time faculty members. F. Strzelczyk reassured Senate that this question will be brought up for discussion with the Dean of the Faculty as part of budget conversations.

The Chair stated that a question regarding Western's approach to health and safety on campus will be deferred until the next meeting of Senate in January 2025.

Search for the Dean of the Faculty of Law:

In response to the concerns raised with respect to the decision to conduct an entirely closed search for the new Dean of the Faculty of Law, F. Strzelczyk outlined the established practices for filling senior leadership positions and advised that both Senate and the relevant Faculty appointed their trusted representatives to the Search Committee to act on their behalf. Additionally, the Provost noted that the approach of conducting an open recruitment process is no longer best practice, given the public nature of an open search.

Closure of the French Immersion Programme in Trois-Pistoles:

S. Lewis addressed a question regarding the consultation process that preceded the closure of the French Immersion Programme in Trois-Pistoles and noted that the decision was made to facilitate a connection for re-establishing of the Program by another university.

Bill 166:

An Official Observer raised concerns related to the need to include the costs of textbooks and other course materials on the course outlines in alignment with directives in the new Bill 166 'Strengthening Accountability and Students Supports Act', which has faced criticism for administrative burden, financial impacts, and overreach into university autonomy. The Chair commented on the potential implications of Bill 166 on academic freedom and institutional autonomy. Additionally, he noted that some of the Bill's provisions are not viable to achieve and universities have provided this feedback to the Government.

A student Senator informed Senate that the University Student Council (USC) recently passed a motion to advocate for the incorporation of human rights considerations into the University's investment policies and asked when Western will respond to this motion. The President advised



that Western has not yet received this information from the USC and that an official response will be considered once received.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

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A. Shepard  
Chair

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A. Bryson  
University Secretary

# Tri-agency scholarships quotas and submissions

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## Vanier CGS-D\*:

- In previous years, Western typically submitted around 30% of its total quota
- Change in process for current year to enable Western to meet its submission quota

**2025-2026 Quotas:** CIHR 6, NSERC 7, SSHRC 5

**2025-2026 Submissions:** CIHR 6, NSERC 4, SSHRC 5; **83% of total quota**

*\*Vanier will likely be discontinued moving forward*

## CGS-D:

- Adjudicated internally to meet agency quotas, then adjudicated externally by agency committees

**2024-2025 Quotas:** CIHR 36, NSERC 82, SSHRC 54

**2024-2025 Success Rates at External Competition:** CIHR 25%, NSERC 42%, SSHRC 41%

**2025-2026 Quotas:** CIHR 30, NSERC 79, SSHRC 51

## CGS-M:

- Adjudicated internally based on agency quotas provided directly to Western

**2024-2025 Quotas:** CIHR 29, NSERC 29, SSHRC 41

**2024-2025 Success Rates at Internal Competition:** CIHR 22%, NSERC 19%, SSHRC 23%

**2025-2026 Quotas:** CIHR 25, NSERC 26, SSHRC 41

# Tri-agency fellowships submissions

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## **Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship\*:**

**2024-2025 Submitted:** CIHR 3, NSERC 1, SSHRC 1

**2024-2025 Successes:** NSERC 1, SSHRC 1

**2025-2026 Submitted:** CIHR 2, NSERC 1, SSHRC 4

*\*Banting will likely be discontinued moving forward*

## **Postdoctoral Fellowship:**

**2024-2025 Submitted:** CIHR 21; unknown for NSERC and SSHRC because applicants submit directly to the agencies

**2024-2025 Successes:** CIHR 5, NSERC 4, SSHRC 5

**2025-2026 Submitted:** CIHR 21; unknown for NSERC and SSHRC

# Western Libraries Impact Report 2023–24



Western Libraries

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## 2023–24 Highlights

- Western Libraries' Undergraduate Research Awards (WLURAs)
- Halina and James Russell Robinson Bequest
- Commitment to Experiential Learning
- Sharing Western's Collection
- Impactful Spaces



Presentation Title Here

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## Other Elements

- Stewarding Collections
- Research Data & GIS
- Open Infrastructure
- Archives & Special Collections
- Spaces

## Western's Collection

- Just under 6 million items (all formats)
- Eighth largest academic collection in Canada, top 50 in North America
- Collections budget of approx. \$16 million
- Sixth largest collections budget in Canada, top 50 in North America

## Print book circulation at Western

<b>2023-24: 51,429</b>	<b>2012-13: 248,871</b>
2022-23: 49,899	2011-12: 263,921
2021-22: 40,767	2010-11: 324,062
2020-21: 22,305	2009-10: 358,636
2019-20: 79,917	2008-09: 381,275
2018-19: Not collected	2007-08: 412,645
2017-18: 193,506	2006-07: 451,900
2016-17: 144,067	2005-06: 474,136
2015-16: 171,316	2004-05: 561,299
2014-15: 185,330	2003-04: 549,051
2013-14: 211,695	90% decrease between 2003-04 & 2023-24

## But.....

- 4,322,608 e-journal views
- 2,180,382 database searches
- 1,119,150 catalogue searches
- 632,999 e-book views
- 65,330 multimedia streams

## Other Elements, con't

- Research Data & GIS
- Open Infrastructure
- Archives & Special Collections
- Spaces



