



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

**September 13, 2024**

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

### **SENATORS:**

A. Agyapong	C. Hall	M. Modeski
C. Alcantara	L. Henderson	I. Namukasa
S. Bahadoor	K. Henricus	D. Neufeld
M. Bassnett	J. Herrera	A. Nocilla
S.H. Beatty	J. Ijam	K. Olson
J. Beecroft	J. Jin	V. Parsa
B. Begg	I. Johnsrude	I. Paul
K. Bertrand	A. Jokhu	P. Pexman
N. Borradaile	E. Kamimura	G. Philip
A. Botterell	M. Kim	S. Powell
S. Buhrow	H. Kirk	A. Puvirajah
A. Bryson	D. Kotsopoulos	D. Robinson
J. Campbell	D. Laird	M. Sanita Lima
K. Choi	J. Lamarche	S. Schmid
A. Christie	L. Logan	A. Shepard
B. Chronik	L. Lingard	K. Siddiqui
M. Cleveland	G. Little	A. Simon
N. Coates	A. Liu	Z. Sinel
K. Coley	A. Lukawski	D. Smith
A. Cooke	T. Mantler	F. Strzelczyk
E. Da Costa	O. Matthews	S. Whitehead
L. Davis	M. McGrath	N. Zabian
M. Davison	D. Meister	A. Zecevic
M. El-Sakka	A. Meyer	
J. Garland	M. Mills	

**Observers:** C. Bressette, L. Cho, C. Chung, J. Doerksen, E. Kalaydjian, N. Keyghobadi, S. Lewis, E. Marshall, M. Medapati, O. Oloya, S. Roland, V. Sarkany, J. Scott, J. Weststar

### **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

A. Bryson offered a Land Acknowledgement.

### **MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING**

#### **ITEM 2.0 – Minutes of the Meeting of June 7, 2024**

It was moved by D. Laird, seconded by J. Garland,

That the minutes of the meeting of June 7, 2024, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

### **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

A. Shepard, President and Vice-Chancellor, referred to the written report distributed in advance of the meeting and welcomed new and returning Senators to the first meeting of the 2024-25 academic year.

A. Shepard began his report with an overview of the summer activities that had been successfully completed, including the organization of summer camps, hosting the Ontario Summer Games and hosting the International Education Conference for Counsellors and Admission Officers. Additionally, the President reported on the successes during OWeek.

As part of his report, A. Shepard commented on a variety of ongoing matters, including the issues with enrollment of international students, the establishment of the new Western Launch program, and the opening of the Ronald D. Schmeichel Building for Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

A. Shepard concluded his report by describing activities planned for the upcoming Homecoming.

### **REPORT OF THE PROVOST**

F. Strzelczyk, Provost & Vice-President (Academic) began her report with an overview to the provincial context for the budget considerations for the 2025-26 year.

The Provost continued her report with a Leadership update, including senior leader hires, renewals and new searches. Additionally, F. Strzelczyk announced J. Oliver, the new Chief Technology Officer, will join Western as of December 1, 2024.

#### **ITEM 4.1 – Report of the Convocation Task Force**

F. Strzelczyk, Provost & Vice-President (Academic), referred to the materials in the agenda and presented the final report of the Convocation Task Force (Appendix A).

In response to a question regarding prospective changes to the ceremonies, F. Strzelczyk noted that various strategies were already implemented to address the increased number of students.

Additionally, F. Strzelczyk responded to questions of clarification concerning future updates on the proposed capital project, a shuttle service for students and their families traveling to and from campus, and parking availability downtown.

The Provost concluded her presentation by inviting all faculty members to volunteer to participate in an academic procession during Convocation.

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

P. Pexman, Vice-President (Research), provided a verbal update on the research activities conducted over the summer. She began her report by acknowledging the outstanding contributions of Western researchers who have been recognized for their exceptional work and have been honored with prestigious awards.

P. Pexman continued her report by outlining Western's high-level priorities, including interdisciplinarity, internationalization and research funding. Additionally, she announced an ongoing search for the next Director of the Western Academy for Advanced Research and the appointment of Alison Allan as the new Associate Vice-President (Research), effective October 1, 2024.

P. Pexman concluded her report by highlighting the ongoing support provided to researchers in achieving their research objectives and funding goals.

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

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

### **ITEM 6.1 – Announcement of a Vice-Chair of the Operations/Agenda Committee**

D. Kotsopoulos announced the Vice-Chair of OAC (Mark Cleveland) for a term from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

### **ITEM 6.2 – Faculty of Education: Revisions to the Faculty Council Constitution**

It was moved by D. Kotsopoulos,

That on the recommendation of the Operations/Agenda Committee, Senate approve that effective September 13, 2024, the Faculty of Education Faculty Council Constitution be revised as shown in Item 6.2.

CARRIED

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

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

#### **ITEM 7.1 – Announcement of a Chair and Vice-Chair of the Senate Nominating Committee**

D. Kotsopoulos announced the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Nominating Committee (Donna Kotsopoulos, Susanne Schmid) for the terms from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

#### **ITEM 7.2 – Membership – Faculty Scholar Selection Committee**

Miriam Capretz was acclaimed to the Faculty Scholar Selection Committee for a term from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

#### **ITEM 7.3 – Membership – Senate Committee on University Planning (SCUP)**

Xianbin Wang was acclaimed to SCUP as a faculty member who is a member of Senate at the time their term on the Committee begins, for a term from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

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

On behalf of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy, K. Yeung presented the report of the Policy Committee.

#### **ITEM 8.1 – Announcement of a Chair and Vice-Chair of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy**

K. Yeung announced the Chair and Vice-Chair (Ken Yeung, Mark Cleveland) of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy for the terms from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

#### **ITEM 8.2 – Request for a Temporary Exemption from the Definition of Full-Time Student and Part-Time Student in the Policies on “Course Load” and “Registration and Progression in Three-Year, Four-Year and Honours Programs” Regarding the Admission of International Students**

M. Modeski, University Registrar, provided a brief overview of the proposal, explaining the rationale behind the requested exemptions. She emphasized the need for these adjustments to address current challenges related to delays in obtaining study permits for international students who have already been admitted.

It was moved by I. Paul, seconded by S. Schmid,

That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2026, an exemption from the definition of full-time student and part-time student in the policies on “Course Load” and

“Registration and Progression in Three-Year, Four-Year and Honours Programs” be granted to solely accommodate the admission of international students with delayed study permits, enabling them to begin as full-time students in the Winter term.

CARRIED

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

On behalf of the Senate Committee on Academic Curriculum and Awards, S. Roland presented the ACA report.

**ITEM 9.1 – Announcement of a Chair and Vice-Chair of the Senate Committee on Academic Curriculum and Awards**

S. Roland announced the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Senate Committee on ACA (Sophie Roland, Jose Herrera) for the terms from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

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

**ITEM 10.1 – Announcement of a Chair of the Senate Committee on University Planning**

D. Laird announced that he was elected as the Chair of SCUP for a term from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. F. Strzelczyk, the Provost & Vice-President (Academic) is ex-officio Vice-Chair of the committee.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

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

**ITEM 13.1(a) – Senate Committee Terms of Reference Review: Revisions to the Terms of Reference of the Senate Committee on University Teaching Awards**

It was moved by J. Ijam, seconded by G. Little,

That on the recommendation of the Operations/Agenda Committee, Senate approve that effective September 13, 2024, the terms of reference of the Senate Committee on University Teaching Awards be revised as shown in Item 13.1(a).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

**ITEM 13.1(b) – Senate Committee Terms of Reference Review: Revisions to the Terms of Reference of the Operations/Agenda Committee**

It was moved by J. Ijam, seconded by G. Little,

That on the recommendation of the Operations/Agenda Committee, Senate approve that effective July 1, 2024, the terms of reference of the Nominating Committee be revised as shown in Item 13.1(a)(ii).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

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

- ITEM 13.1(c) – Speaking Rights at Senate – Chair of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy (Policy).
- ITEM 13.1(d) – Senate Membership – Vacancies Filled by Appointment.

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

**ITEM 13.2(a) – Revisions to the Policy on “Administration of Examinations”**

It was moved by J. Ijam, seconded by G. Little,

That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2024, the policy on “Administration of Examinations” be revised as shown in Item 13.2(a).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

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

**ITEM 13.3(a) – Faculty of Information and Media Studies: Renaming of the “Media, Information, and Technoculture” Subject Area as the “Media and Communication Studies” Subject Area**

It was moved by J. Ijam, seconded by G. Little,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2024, the “Media, Information, and Technoculture” Subject Area be renamed as the “Media and Communication Studies” Subject Area as shown in Item 13.3(a).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

**ITEM 13.3(b) – Faculty of Science, Western Integrated Science Program: Withdrawal of the Honours Specialization in Integrated Science with Computer Science**

It was moved by J. Ijam, seconded by G. Little,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2025, admission to the Honours Specialization in Integrated Science with Computer Science, offered by the Western Integrated Science Program in the Faculty of Science, be discontinued, and

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

That the module be withdrawn effective September 1, 2029.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

**ITEM 13.3(c)(i) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Major Modification to the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Music (Fields of Musicology and Music Theory)**

It was moved by J. Ijam, seconded by G. Little,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2024, the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Music (fields of Musicology and Music Theory) be revised as shown in Item 13.3(c)(i).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

**ITEM 13.3(c)(ii) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Withdrawal of the Global Health Systems in Africa Collaborative Specialization**

It was moved by J. Ijam, seconded by G. Little,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2024, admission to the Global Health Systems in Africa Collaborative Specialization be discontinued, and

That students currently enrolled in the Collaborative Specialization be permitted to graduate upon fulfillment of the program requirements by August 31, 2027, and

That the Collaborative Specialization be withdrawn September 1, 2027.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

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

- ITEM 13.3(d) – Report of the Subcommittee on Program Review – Undergraduate (SUPR-U): Cyclical Reviews of the Undergraduate Programs in Integrated Science, Jewish Studies (Huron University College and King's University College), and Social Work (King's University College).
- ITEM 13.3(e) – Report of the Subcommittee on Program Review – Graduate (SUPR-G): Cyclical Reviews of the Graduate Programs in Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies, History, and Social Work (King's University College).
- ITEM 13.3(f) – Revised 2024-25 Sessional Dates – Ivey Business School, HBA Program.
- ITEM 13.3(g) – Report of the Subcommittee on Undergraduate Academic Courses (SOC) (January 2024 – June 2024).
- ITEM 13.3(h)(i) – New Donor-Funded Scholarships, Awards and Prizes.

- ITEM 13.3(h)(ii) – New Western-Funded Scholarships, Awards and Prizes.

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

### **ITEM 13.4(a) – Revisions to the Supply Chain Canada Chair**

It was moved by J. Ijam, seconded by G. Little,

That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on University Planning, Senate approve and recommend to the Property and Finance Committee of the Board of Governors, that effective September 17, 2024, the criteria for the selection of the Supply Chain Canada Chair in the Ivey Business School be revised as shown in item 13.4(a).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

### **ITEM 13.4(b) – Revisions to the First and Second Wolfe-Western Fellowships At-Large for Outstanding Newly Recruited Research Scholars**

It was moved by J. Ijam, seconded by G. Little,

That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on University Planning, Senate approve and recommend to the Property and Finance Committee of the Board of Governors that effective September 30, 2024, the first and second Wolfe-Western Fellowships At-Large for Outstanding Newly Recruited Research, be revised as shown in Item 13.4(b).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**The following items reported through Announcements and Communications were received for information by unanimous consent:**

- ITEM 13.5(c) – Convocation Academic Procession Invitation.

### **Information Items reported by the Honorary Degree Committee on Unanimous Consent:**

- ITEM 13.6(a) – Honorary Degree Recipient - Autumn 2024.

## **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:

In response to the questions regarding Policy 1.1.1 (Prohibition of Camping on University Property), A. Shepard advised that the new policy and procedure were paused for further consultation. The President highlighted the main objectives of the policy and emphasized the



level of resources required in order to maintain safety for all involved.

In response to a question regarding the investment report, L. Logan, Vice-President (Operations & Finance), stated that the Western University Responsible Investing Annual Report will be presented later this year, and there has been a delay due to competing priorities, such as the Brescia-Western integration.

In response to a question regarding Western's support and resources necessary for exams for online courses, M. Modeski advised that the Office of the Registrar is responsible for scheduling the exams and providing the necessary resources. She also noted that the deadline for requesting an in-person exam for an online course for 2024 has passed. Additionally, she mentioned that some students registered for online courses, especially during the summer, as they are not physically present in London and therefore prefer to have exams online.

L. Logan addressed questions regarding the campus road closures, emphasizing that closures occur annually during OWeek. However, this year they were extended due to the ongoing labour dispute. The extended measures were implemented to enhance the safety of picketers, students and employees, as the safety of all community members is the key priority for the University. Additionally, she addressed concerns regarding public transportation and clarified that the issues with city buses are unrelated to the road closures, as London Transit buses will not enter the campus during labour disruption.

Questions of clarification were added regarding the future consultation for policy 1.1.1, accessibility issues related to traffic congestion, and the provincial mandate to ensure greater efficiencies for universities.

In response to a question regarding the strike, A. Shepard highlighted the commitment to support the right of individuals to strike in compliance with the law.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

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A. Shepard  
Chair

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A. Bryson  
University Secretary

# The Future of Convocation at Western

## Report of the Convocation Task Force

Presentation to Senate  
September 13, 2024



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## Convocation Task Force

- **Amy Bryson** – University Secretary (Chair)
- **Temi Akin-Aina** – Associate Vice-President, Alumni Relations
- **Waliu Alaka** – Graduate Student
- **Chris Alleyne** – Associate Vice-President, Housing & Ancillary Services
- **Pauline Barmby** – Professor, Faculty of Science
- **Kelly Burke** – Executive Director, Office of the Provost (Provost's designate)
- **Sherif Elmagrabhy** – Undergraduate Student
- **Joan Finegan** – Director of Convocation
- **Kibret Mequanint** – Marshal of Convocation
- **Valerie Sarkany** – Deputy Registrar
- **Caroline Whippey** – Associate University Secretary/  
Associate Director of Convocation

## Alumni Hall: challenges and considerations

**Accessibility**

**Parking**

**Venue space  
constraints**

**Timing and  
resource  
investment**

## Identified priorities from community consultations

- ✓ Accessibility for all Convocation venues and activities.
- ✓ The on-campus experience is an important element of Convocation celebrations for graduates, guests, and volunteers.
- ✓ Western traditions are valued by our community – we are “purple and proud.”
- ✓ Parking and transportation must be considered regardless of venue location

## Identified priorities for alternate venues

- ✓ Ceremony stage and seating for graduates and guests
- ✓ Student line-up
- ✓ Academic procession gathering and line-up
- ✓ Distribution of regalia and diplomas
- ✓ Guest waiting area if they are not able to be seated upon arrival

## Proposed alternate venues

### Alumni Hall

- Current challenges will soon be insurmountable
- Facility upgrades required



### Thompson Arena/Rec Centre

- Currently not viable given seating and HVAC issues
- With upgrades, could meet future needs



### Budweiser Gardens

- Addresses all current challenges
- Fanshawe using this venue since 2022



## Accepted recommendations and next steps

### Short-Term

- Temporarily re-locate Convocation off-campus for a period of at least 5 years
- Budweiser Gardens recommended
- Beginning June 2025

### Long-Term

- Convocation to return to an on-campus event
- Commence capital-planning process for construction/renovation of multi-purpose facility that meets current and future Convocation needs

### Ceremony size and timing

- Increase number of graduates from roughly 400 to 850
- Maintain current timing of ceremonies