



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

May 16, 2025

The meeting was held at 1:30 via Zoom.

SENATORS:

A. Agyapong	M. Green-Barteet	E. Miller
C. Alcantara	N. Harney	M. Mills
G. Beckett	S. Hayne Beatty	M. Modeski
J. Beecroft	A. Hearn	I. Namukasa
K. Bertrand	L. Henderson	D. Neufeld
J. Birkinshaw	K. Henricus	A. Nocilla
S. Boe	J. Herrera	V. Parsa
N. Borradaile	A. Hodgson	I. Paul
A. Botterell	J. Ijam	P. Pexman
A. Bryson	J. Jin	S. Powell
S. Buhrow	M. Joannis	A. Puvirajah
J. Byrd Clark	I. Johnsrude	L. Rehmann
B. Cheadle	E. Kamimura	S. M. Saleh
K. Choi	M. Kim	S. Schmid
A. Christie	H. Kirk	L. Shaw
B. Chronik	D. Kotsopoulos	A. Shepard
M. Cleveland	D. Laird	K. Siddiqui
N. Coates	J. Lamarche	A. Simon
K. Coley	L. Lingard	Z. Sinel
A. Cooke	G. R. Little	D. Smith
E. Da Costa	L. Logan	F. Strzelczyk
S. D'Arcy	A. Liu	T. Tomko
L. Davis	A. Lukawski	X. Wang
M. Davison	O. Matthews	S. Whitehead
M. El-Sakka	G. McAuley	J. Yoo
D. Ferri	M. McGrath	N. Zabian
J. Gemson	D. Meister	A. Zecevic
R. Graham	A. Meyer	

Observers:

C. Bressette, R. Chelladurai, C. Chung, J. Doerksen, J. Hutter, R. Isard, E. Kalaydjian, S. Lewis, M. Medapati, S. Roland, V. Sarkany, J. Scott, J. Weststar, M. Yenson

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

M. Joannis offered a Land Acknowledgement.

MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

ITEM 2.0 – Minutes of the Meeting of April 25, 2025

It was moved by C. Alcantara, seconded by R. Graham,

That the minutes of the meeting of April 25, 2025, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

In addition to the written report provided in advance of the meeting, A. Shepard, President & Vice-Chancellor, expressed appreciation to the members of the Western community who, among others, have recently been honored with special awards in recognition of their achievements.

A. Shepard continued his report with remarks on provincial budget matters, including an announcement concerning STEM funding, and stated that further details on funding allocations will be provided at the next Senate meeting in June.

A. Shepard concluded his report with an update on the arson that took place in the Social Science building, advising that a suspected individual was arrested.

REPORT OF THE PROVOST

F. Strzelczyk, Provost & Vice-President (Academic) began her report with a brief leadership update and announced that Christy Bressette was reappointed for a second five-year term as Vice-Provost & Associate Vice-President (Indigenous Initiatives). Also, the Provost shared that Susan Knabe has been appointed as Acting Dean of the Faculty of Information & Media Studies (FIMS) for a one-year term, effective July 1, 2025, following the completion of Dean Lisa Henderson's term, and expressed gratitude to L. Henderson for her leadership.

F. Strzelczyk continued her report with an update on the projects and initiatives that support strategic priorities of the University, including the recently announced launch of the Western Academic Leadership Accelerated Program (Western Academic LAP) under the leadership of Laretta Frederking.

F. Strzelczyk concluded her report by commenting on the advocacy efforts within the Ontario Council of Academic Vice-Presidents, including discussions on the regulatory proposal permitting colleges to offer master's degrees in applied fields of study, as well as the ongoing work on the new Quality Assurance Framework.

REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT (RESEARCH)

In addition to the materials provided in advance of the meeting, P. Pexman, Vice-President (Research) provided a brief update on recent initiatives led by Western Research aimed at reducing barriers and streamlining processes to enhance research success. She also announced upcoming proposed revisions to various MAPP policies to ensure they are relevant, accessible, and supportive of the research community.

Additionally, P. Pexman briefly commented on key projects to streamline the grant application process, including the Grants Repository project and the automated grant feedback tool.

In response to a question regarding the ongoing external review of Western's Research Ethics Board (REB), P. Pexman stated that a high-level update on the recommendations from the external reviews will be provided at the June Senate meeting.

REPORT OF THE OPERATIONS / AGENDA COMMITTEE (OAC)

On behalf of the Operations/Agenda Committee (OAC), M. Cleveland presented the report of the Committee.

ITEM 6.1 – Membership – Nominating Committee

Brooklin Begg was nominated by Operations/Agenda Committee (OAC) and Ayesha Hassan was nominated from the floor of Senate. An election was held following the Senate meeting and Brooklin Begg was elected to the Nominating Committee as an undergraduate student Senator for a term from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

Cherin Chung was acclaimed to the Nominating Committee as a graduate student Senator for a term from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

In addition to the student nominees, Blaine Chronik, Alison Hearn, Immaculate Namukasa and Geoffrey Robert Little were nominated from the floor of Senate. An election was held following the Senate meeting and Alison Hearn and Immaculate Namukasa were elected to the Nominating Committee as faculty members of Senate and Geoffrey Little was elected as a member of Senate, all for terms from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027.

ITEM 6.2 – 2025-2026 Governance Review

M. Cleveland provided a brief update on the Committee's work related to the upcoming Senate governance review, announcing that a call for nominations for membership on the *ad hoc* Working Group for the 2025-2026 Governance Review would be shared with current and past Senators following the Senate meeting.

ITEM 6.3 – Notice of Motion regarding the University's use of X/Twitter

On behalf of OAC, S. Schmid provided an updated on the notice of motion regarding the University's use of X/Twitter introduced by Senator M. Cleveland at the April 25, 2025

Senate meeting and advised Senate that OAC considered the proposed motion and determined that this is an operational matter falling under the authority assigned to the President & Vice-Chancellor in the Powers and Duties of Senior Officers. The committee determined that the presented notice of motion does not fall within Senate's authority as set out in sections 29 and 30 of *The University of Western Ontario Act* (1982, as amended 1988).

REPORT OF THE SENATE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Senate Nominating Committee, S. Schmid provided the Nominating Committee report.

ITEM 7.1 – Membership – Senate Committee on Academic Policy (Policy)

No nominations were received for the faculty position on the Senate Committee on Academic Policy for a term from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027.

ITEM 7.2 – Membership – Senate Committee on Academic Curriculum and Awards (ACA)

Yutong Gao was acclaimed to the Senate Committee on Academic Curriculum and Awards (ACA) as a graduate student for a term from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

Greg Beckett was acclaimed to ACA as a faculty Senator for a term from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027.

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

Manoj Reddy Medapati was acclaimed to the Senate Committee on University Planning (SCUP) as a postdoctoral scholar for a term vacant due to a resignation until June 30, 2026.

ITEM 7.4 – Membership – University Research Board (URB)

Mitchell Sammut was nominated by the Nominating Committee and Nouran Al-Banaa, Kashif Ali, Mohamed Essa, Colleen Van Loon and Jack Webb were nominated from the floor of Senate to the University Research Board (URB). An election was held following the Senate meeting and Colleen Van Loon and Jack Webb were elected to URB as graduate students for terms from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

Shannon Sibbald was acclaimed to URB as a representative from the Faculty of Health Sciences for a term from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027.

Klaus Meyer was acclaimed to URB as a representative from the Ivey Business School for a term from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027.

Luke Stark was acclaimed to URB as a representative from the Faculty of Information and Media Studies (FIMS) for a term from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027.

Mario Longtin and Kim Solga were were nominated from the floor of Senate to URB. An election was held following the Senate meeting and Kim Solga was elected to URB as a representative from the Faculty of Arts & Humanities for a term from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027.

ITEM 7.5 – Membership – Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA)

Basma Nasman was acclaimed to the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA) as a graduate student for a term from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

Nikki Rotas was acclaimed to SRBA as a faculty member for a term from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027.

ITEM 7.6 – Membership – Honorary Degrees Committee

Jasmine Antonelli was nominated by the Nominating Committee and Logy Shahin was nominated from the floor of Senate to the Honorary Degrees Committee. Both were acclaimed for terms from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

ITEM 7.7 – Membership – Selection Committee for the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Donna Kotsopoulos, Lorelei Lingard and Andrew Nelson were nominated by the Nominating Committee and Zoë Sinel was nominated from the floor of Senate to the Selection Committee for the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities. An election was held following the Senate meeting and Donna Kotsopoulos, Andrew Nelson and Zoë Sinel were elected to the Selection Committee for the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities.

ITEM 7.8 – Selection/Review Committee for the Dean of the Faculty of Social Science

Shauna Burke, Matt Davison and Sarah Gallagher were nominated by the Nominating Committee and Kelly Olson was nominated from the floor of Senate to the Selection/Review Committee for the Dean of the Faculty of Social Science. An election was held following the Senate meeting and Shauna Burke, Matt Davison and Sarah Gallagher were elected to the Selection/Review Committee for the Dean of the Faculty of Social Science.

ITEM 7.9 – Selection/Review Committee for the Dean of Don Wright Faculty of Music

Ken Coley, Jessica Grahn and Michael Fox were acclaimed to the Selection/Review Committee for the Dean of Don Wright Faculty of Music.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY

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

ITEM 8.1 – Report of the ad hoc Working Group to the Senate Committee on Academic Policy

The Report of the *ad hoc* Working Group to review the policy on the “Structure of the Academic Year” was received by Senate for information.

ITEM 8.2 – Approval of Recommendations: Revisions to the Policy on the “Structure of the Academic Year”

K. Yeung, Chair of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy, presented for approval the revisions to the Policy on the “Structure of the Academic Year” and outlined the rationale behind the changes, the options that were considered, the consultations undertaken and the amendments made to the policy. Refer to Appendix A of the minutes for the presentation.

It was moved by J. Byrd Clark, seconded by C. Alcantara,

That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2025, the policy on the “Structure of the Academic Year” be revised as shown in Item 8.2.

CARRIED

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

On behalf of ACA, S. Roland presented the report of the Committee.

ITEM 9.1 – Faculty of Health Sciences, Arthur Labatt Family School of Nursing: Withdrawal of the Western-Fanshawe Collaborative Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN), Introduction of a Stand-Alone Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN), and Revisions to the Policies on “Nursing Applicants” and “Progression Requirements – Nursing”

It was moved by B. Cheadle, seconded by N. Zabian,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2025, admission to the Western-Fanshawe Collaborative Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN) program be discontinued; and

That students currently enrolled in the Western-Fanshawe Collaborative BScN be permitted to graduate upon fulfillment of the program requirements by August 31, 2031; and

That the Western-Fanshawe Collaborative BScN be withdrawn effective September 1, 2031; and

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2025, a stand-alone Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN) be introduced by the Arthur

Labatt Family School of Nursing in the Faculty of Health Sciences as shown in Item 9.1; and

That effective September 1, 2025, the policies on “Nursing – Applicants” and “Progression Requirements – Nursing” be revised as shown in Item 9.1.

CARRIED

ITEM 9.2 – King’s University College: Introduction of a Major in Analytics and Decision Sciences

It was moved by H. Kirk, seconded by J. Gemson,

That on the recommendation of ACA, and conditional on approval by the Quality Council, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2025, a Major in Analytics and Decision Sciences be introduced by King’s University College as shown in Item 9.2.

CARRIED

REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH BOARD (URB)

On behalf of the University Research Board (URB), P. Pexman presented the URB report.

ITEM 11.1 – Revisions to MAPP Policy 7.14 – Research Involving Human Participants

It was moved by P. Pexman, seconded by C. Alcantara,

That on the recommendation of the University Research Board, Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors, that effective July 1, 2025, MAPP Policy 7.14 – Research Involving Human Participants be revised as shown in Item 11.1.

CARRIED

REPORT OF THE SENATE *ad hoc* COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE NAVITAS PROPOSAL

ITEM 12.1 – Preliminary Report of the Senate *ad hoc* Committee to Review the Navitas Proposal

On behalf of the Senate *ad hoc* Committee to Review the Navitas Proposal, F. Strzelczyk presented the Committee’s report.

ITEM 12.1 – Preliminary Report of the Senate *ad hoc* Committee to Review the Navitas Proposal

The Preliminary Report of the Senate *ad hoc* Committee to Review the Navitas Proposal was received for information in accordance with the *ad hoc* Committee’s terms of reference.

ITEM 12.2 – Draft Proposal for Internationalization at Western: A Multi-Pronged Approach

F. Strzelczyk presented the draft proposal outlining the potential partnership between Western and Navitas (Appendix B) for information and discussion. During her presentation, F. Strzelczyk described potential models of international education, outlined the rationale for exploring a partnership between Western and Navitas, described the experience of Navitas in providing international student recruitment and education, and shared information on the consultation process and proposed timeline. Additionally, the Provost addressed the differences between the current proposal and the proposal that was considered in 2020. The presentation was followed by a lengthy and detailed discussion.

In response to a question concerning the recent report circulated by faculty members in the Ivey Business Sustainability area, which raised concerns regarding Navitas' financial stability, L. Logan, Vice-President (Operations & Finance), addressed the financial data presented in the report, specifically the information related to the company's financial health. She referred Senate members to the Risk Assessment Report appended to the draft proposal for further information on potential risk to Western. Additionally, the Provost advised that Navitas recently successfully completed an accreditation process as a private college in British Columbia, and, as part of this process, confirmed their financial viability.

In response to a question regarding how the financial risk will be distributed, L. Logan advised that from the financial risk perspective, a partnership with Navitas offers a lower-risk model for Western, as the investment for first-year recruitment is by Navitas. In contrast, with a direct recruitment model, the University would have the full financial risk along with the need for significant upfront investments.

A Senator raised a question of clarification on the rationale for seeking a partnership with a for-profit organization. The Provost clarified that despite substantial investments in direct international student recruitment, Western has not been able to achieve the intended outcomes, and the University remains well behind its peer institutions in this area. She noted that Navitas has well-developed infrastructure allowing it to effectively recruit students worldwide. S. Lewis, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs) commented on the work of the Western English Language Centre (WELC) and noted a decline in interest in the English Academic Program (EAP), emphasizing that this reflects a cross-country trend.

An Official Observer raised concerns with respect to the *ad hoc* Committee's mandate and noted that insufficient efforts have been made to explore alternative solutions. In addressing these concerns, the Provost highlighted the extensive range of activities undertaken by the *ad hoc* Committee and commented on the comparable models provided in the UWOFA task force report, noting that the proposed alternative models require significant investments that are not feasible for Western.

A Senator, speaking from their experience as a member of the *ad hoc* Committee, addressed the concerns raised and reassured Senate that the *ad hoc* Committee had undertaken comprehensive work and careful review.

To address a question from a Senator, the Provost emphasized that with the proposed partnership, Western will maintain full academic oversight. The partnership would not replace direct recruitment efforts, and if recruitment targets are not reached, it will not put the University at financial risk.

In response to a question of clarification, the Provost confirmed that Navitas has a private college registered in Ontario and that the provincial government had been consulted. L. Logan provided additional information regarding Navitas ownership matters and commented on some Canadian investors, including the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB), the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan (OTPP), and the British Columbia Investment Management Corporation (BCI).

R. Chelladurai addressed questions related to the data provided in the draft proposal, including potential international undergraduate enrolment, projections for progression and graduation rates, and simulations of enrolment outcomes. He noted that these projections were modeled based on available resources and the extensive experience of Navitas in international recruitment processes. Additionally, in response to a question, R. Chelladurai said that Western's royalty is yet to be negotiated but is expected to be at the level of 15%. J. Hutter, Acting Deputy Provost, provided insights from consultations with institutions that have been involved in similar partnerships and the data shared by these institutions regarding outcomes related to student performance.

A Senator commented on the current financial context and highlighted the importance of identifying alternative revenue sources, emphasizing the need for proactive planning and strategic actions.

The Provost discussed the student experience and mitigation strategies in place should students be unsuccessful in progressing to Year two.

An Official Observer addressed concerns with the risks in a public-private partnership as part of the ethical debates on the privatization of education, emphasizing that Western already engages with many for-profit companies and provided several examples of public-private partnerships at the University, including the use of the Learning Management System, cooperation for commercial aviation courses, transitioning courses to an online format due to COVID, and work conducted through the Western Research Parks.

The Provost addressed concerns with respect to the Collective Agreement and the proposed hiring process for the Navitas instructors and advised that this matter was also discussed with the institutions that are involved in similar partnerships.

Referring to the data provided by consulted institutions, the Provost commented on the distribution of international students among the different Faculties in response to a question.

A Senator commented on the differences between the 2020 and 2025 proposals and stated that the proposed partnership could help to enhance institutional outcomes beyond existing levels.

A Senator expressed concern that the emphasis on small class sizes in the proposal seems inconsistent with the broader institutional strategy currently being implemented. Additionally, this may result in a more supportive learning environment for international students compared to domestic students, raising issues of equity. The Provost explained that this approach is addressing issues of equity as it is intended to provide additional support to students who may require it in order to succeed in the future.

ITEM 13.0 – Report of the Academic Colleague

The Report of the Academic Colleague was received by Senate for information.

A Senator raised a question regarding whether actions in response to the changing landscape for international undergraduate students, in light of current U.S. policy trends, had been discussed at the Council of Ontario Universities (COU). S. Roland, Academic Colleague, advised that no proactive measures have been discussed, instead, the focus has been on raising awareness of this issue. The President confirmed that no formal action has been taken, although discussions on the matter have occurred.

It was moved by A. Nocilla, seconded by C. Alcantara,

That the Senate meeting be extended by 15 minutes.

CARRIED

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

REPORT FROM THE OPERATIONS / AGENDA COMMITTEE (OAC)

Information Items Reported by OAC on Unanimous Consent:

- ITEM 14.1(a) – Senate Membership – General Community Member
- ITEM 14.1(b) – Senate Membership – Undergraduate Student Senator At-Large

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

ITEM 14.2(a)(i) – Faculty of Science, Department of Biology: Revisions to the Admission and Program Requirements of the Honours Specialization in Biodiversity and Conservation

It was moved by R. Graham, seconded by L. Shaw,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2025, the admission and program requirements of the Honours Specialization in Biodiversity and Conservation, offered by the Department of Biology in the Faculty of Science, be revised as shown in Item 14.2(a)(i).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

ITEM 14.2(a)(ii) – Faculty of Science, Integrated Science Program: Revisions to the Admission and Program Requirements of Honours Specialization in Integrated Science Modules

It was moved by R. Graham, seconded by L. Shaw,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2025, the admission and program requirements of the following Honours Specialization in Integrated Science modules, offered by the Faculty of Science, be revised as shown in Item 14.2(a)(ii).

Honours Specialization in Integrated Science with Biology
Honours Specialization in Integrated Science with Chemistry
Honours Specialization in Integrated Science with Computer Science
Honours Specialization in Integrated Science with Earth Sciences
Honours Specialization in Integrated Science with Environmental Science
Honours Specialization in Integrated Science with Genetics
Honours Specialization in Integrated Science with Mathematical and Statistical Sciences
Honours Specialization in Integrated Science with Synthetic Biology

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

ITEM 14.2(b) – Faculty of Social Science, Department of Anthropology: Withdrawal of the Major in Sociocultural Anthropology and Major in Linguistic Anthropology

It was moved by R. Graham, seconded by L. Shaw,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2025, admission to the Major in Sociocultural Anthropology and Major in Linguistic Anthropology be discontinued; and

That students currently enrolled in the modules be permitted to graduate upon fulfillment of the module requirements by August 31, 2028; and

That the modules be withdrawn effective September 1, 2028.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

ITEM 14.2(c)(i) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Major Modification to the Master of Clinical Science (MCISc) in Advanced Health Care Practice (Clinical Epidemiology and Research Management Field)

It was moved by R. Graham, seconded by L. Shaw,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2025, the Master of Clinical Science (MCISc) in Advanced Health Care Practice

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(Clinical Epidemiology and Research Management Field) be revised as shown in Item 14.2(c)(i).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

ITEM 14.2(c)(ii) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Major Modification to the Master of Data Analytics (MDA)

It was moved by R. Graham, seconded by L. Shaw,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective May 1, 2025, the Master of Data Analytics be revised as shown in Item 14.2(c)(ii).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

ITEM 14.2(c)(iii)– School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Major Modification to the Master of Management of Applied Science (MMASc)

It was moved by R. Graham, seconded by L. Shaw,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective May 1, 2025, the Master of Management of Applied Science (MMASc) be revised as shown in Item 14.2(c)(iii).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

ITEM 14.2(c)(iv)– School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Withdrawal of the Graduate Diploma (GDip) in Executive Healthcare Leadership

It was moved by R. Graham, seconded by L. Shaw,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective May 1, 2025, admission to the Graduate Diploma (GDip) in Executive Healthcare Leadership be discontinued and that the program be withdrawn.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

ITEM 14.2(c)(v)– School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Withdrawal of the Master of Engineering (MEng) in Design and Manufacturing.

It was moved by R. Graham, seconded by L. Shaw,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective May 1, 2025, admission to the Master of Engineering (MEng) in Design and Manufacturing be discontinued and that the program be withdrawn.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

ITEM 14.2(d) – Revisions to the Articulation Agreement between Western University and Fanshawe College for the Admission of Graduates of the Chemical Laboratory Technology – Science Laboratory and Environmental Technology Programs

It was moved by R. Graham, seconded by L. Shaw,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective May 16, 2025, the articulation agreement for the admission of graduates of the Chemical Laboratory Technology – Science Laboratory and Environmental Technology Programs at Fanshawe College into the Faculty of Science at Western University be revised as shown in Item 14.2(d).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Information Items Reported by ACA on Unanimous Consent:

- ITEM 14.2(e)(i) – Faculty-Specific Sessional Dates: Revised 2024-25 Sessional Dates – Faculty of Education
- ITEM 14.2(e)(ii) – Faculty-Specific Sessional Dates: Revised 2025-26 Sessional Dates – Dentistry, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry
- ITEM 14.2(f)(i) – New Donor-Funded Scholarships, Awards and Prizes
- ITEM 14.2(f)(ii) – New Western-Funded Scholarships, Awards and Prizes

REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY PLANNING (SCUP)

Information Items Reported by SCUP on Unanimous Consent:

- TEM 14.3(a) – Annual Report on Information Security
- ITEM 14.3(b) – Student Mental Health Strategy
- ITEM 14.3(c) – Renaming of Western Continuing Studies as Western School of Professional and Continuing Education (SPACE)

REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH BOARD (URB)

Information Items Reported by URB on Unanimous Consent:

- ITEM 14.4(a) – Revisions to the Procedure for MAPP 7.9 – Establishment, Governance and Review of Research Institutes, Centres and Groups

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

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

- ITEM 14.5(a) – Election Results – Senate Committees

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DISCUSSION AND QUESTION PERIOD

The full text of the questions submitted in advance of the meeting was posted in the Agenda at Item 16.0 prior to the meeting. The questions and responses are summarized below:

F. Strzelczyk addressed a question regarding the adequacy of resources to support international students and advised on how students at the proposed International College could be connected with Student Experience services on campus.

In response to a question regarding the average international undergraduate enrolment among the U6 excluding the University of Toronto, R. Chelladurai clarified that the draft proposal uses 2023–24 data, showing U6 average of 15.7% (excluding University of Toronto and Western), compared to Western's 8.5% and confirmed that the declining trends shown in proposal are statistically significant.

In response to a question regarding the potential implications for intellectual property and the level of academic oversight, F. Strzelczyk confirmed that while Navitas would be responsible for International College operations, Western would have full academic oversight.

A Senator raised a question regarding the Senate meeting format, particularly whether a hybrid option for Senate meetings could be considered to accommodate the participation of spectators. The President referred this inquiry to the Operations/Agenda Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

A. Shepard
Chair

A. Bryson
University Secretary

Report of Policy's *ad hoc* Working Group on the Structure of the Academic Year

May 16, 2025



1

Challenge

The policy on the “Structure of the Academic Year” requires revision as the University will not be able to meet policy requirements in the future, including meeting the required number of instructional hours per course and instructional days in the Fall term.



2

Options identified

- Option 1: Fall Reading Week in October, overlapping with Canadian Thanksgiving
- Option 2: Fall Reading Week later in the term with a designated Monday at the end of the term
- Option 3: Shortened Fall Reading Week break later in the term
- Option 4: Altering the timing of Fall Reading Week in some years between Thanksgiving week and later in the term



3

Consultation

Input was sought from undergraduate students, faculty members / teaching staff, Graduate Teaching Assistants, and staff members.

- Survey
- Townhall – in person and virtual
- Targeted consultation
 - Undergraduate Academic Forum
 - Executives of the University Students' Council (USC)
 - Executives of the Society of Graduate Students (SOGS)
 - Executives of PSAC 610 (Teaching Assistants' and Postdoctoral Associates' Union)
 - USC Academic Roundtable
 - Housing and Ancillary Services
 - Student Experience
 - UWOFA



4

Survey Results

- More than 70% of students identified the primary purpose of reading week as course-related, either to have a break from coursework or to catch up on coursework.
- The survey showed there was little support for a shortened Fall Reading Week.
- There was a slight preference from undergraduate students for a later Reading Week with a designated Monday (50% of students ranked the option as their first choice).
- 41% of undergraduate students ranked the overlap with Thanksgiving as their first choice. Faculty/Teaching Staff/GTAs (62%) and Staff (69%) preferred this option.



5

Years Applicable	Sept 1 day of week	Proposed Class Start		Day of NDTR	Minimum 60 instructional days		Minimum 12 days of each day of the week		Minimum 12 day Dec exam period		Minimum 1 Study Day	
		TG FRW	Later FRW		TG FRW	Later FRW	TG FRW	Later FRW	TG FRW	Later FRW	TG FRW	Later FRW
Fall 2026, 2037, 2043, 2048	Tues	Wed	Tues	Wed	60	60		11 Mon	12	12	1	1
Fall 2027, 2032, 2038, 2049	Wed	Thurs	Wed	Thurs	60	60		11 Mon	12	12	1	1
Fall 2028, 2034, 2045	Friday	Thurs	Thurs	Sat	61	60	IF NDTR obsvd Fri	11 Mon	13	13	1	1
Fall 2029, 2035, 2040, 2046	Sat	Thurs	Thurs	Sun	61	60	IF NDTR obsvd Fri	11 Mon	13	13	2	2
Fall 2030, 2041, 2047	Sun	Thurs	Thurs	Mon	62	61		11 Mon	12	12	1	1
Fall 2025, 2031, 2036, 2042	Mon	Thurs	Thurs	Tues	63	62			12	12	1	1
Fall 2033, 2039, 2044, 2050	Thurs	Thurs	Thurs	Fri	61	60		11 Mon	12	12	1	1



6

Internationalization at Western: A Multi-Pronged Approach

Proposed Partnership between Western and
Navitas

May 16, 2025



Internationalization at Western: A Multi-Pronged Approach

1

Models of international education

- In-house first year model
- Current state - direct entry only
- International college partnership model



Internationalization at Western: A Multi-Pronged Approach

2

Why consider a third-party international education provider like Navitas?

- Focuses on **recruitment + education**
- 60,000+ students recruited annually from 151 countries
- Partnership with 39 universities worldwide, including five in Canada
- Partnership with globally ranked institutions in the top 200
- Canadian knowledge, experience, ownership and leadership based in Canada



Internationalization at Western: A Multi-Pronged Approach

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Student support services

Academic support examples:

- 4-hour instruction blocks that include interactive learning methods
- Smaller class sizes
- Drop-in workshops (including study skills, writing skills, proofreading)
- Mandatory tutorials & workshops
- Interdisciplinary Learning Skills
- Weekly Academic and Innovation Challenges

Non-academic support examples:

- Tailored pre-arrival course
- Western Orientation and International College Orientation Programs
- Assigned counselor for academic, wellness, cultural, wayfinding and other supports
- Daily lunch-hour programming
- Attendance monitoring and follow-ups
- 24/7 advisor support
- Field Trips



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Benefits to Western

Global Engagement

- Expands Western's global footprint
- Strengthens alumni networks worldwide
- Enhances our profile and reputation

Financial

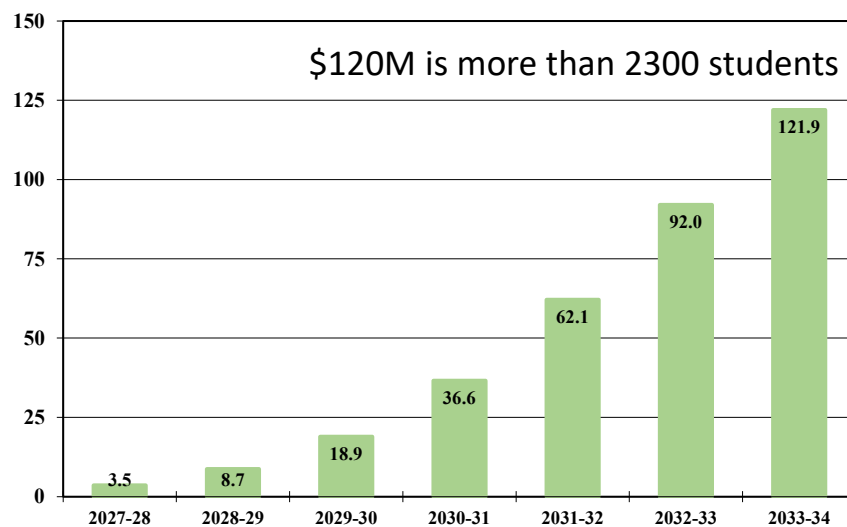
- Royalties paid from Navitas to Western
- Tuition revenue boost
 - *Tuition revenue from Years 2 to 4 at Western—plus royalties from Year 1—will exceed the foregone Year 1 tuition by more than three times.*
- Direct compensation to the units involved in academic and faculty appointment oversight
- Increased funding for educational and research missions



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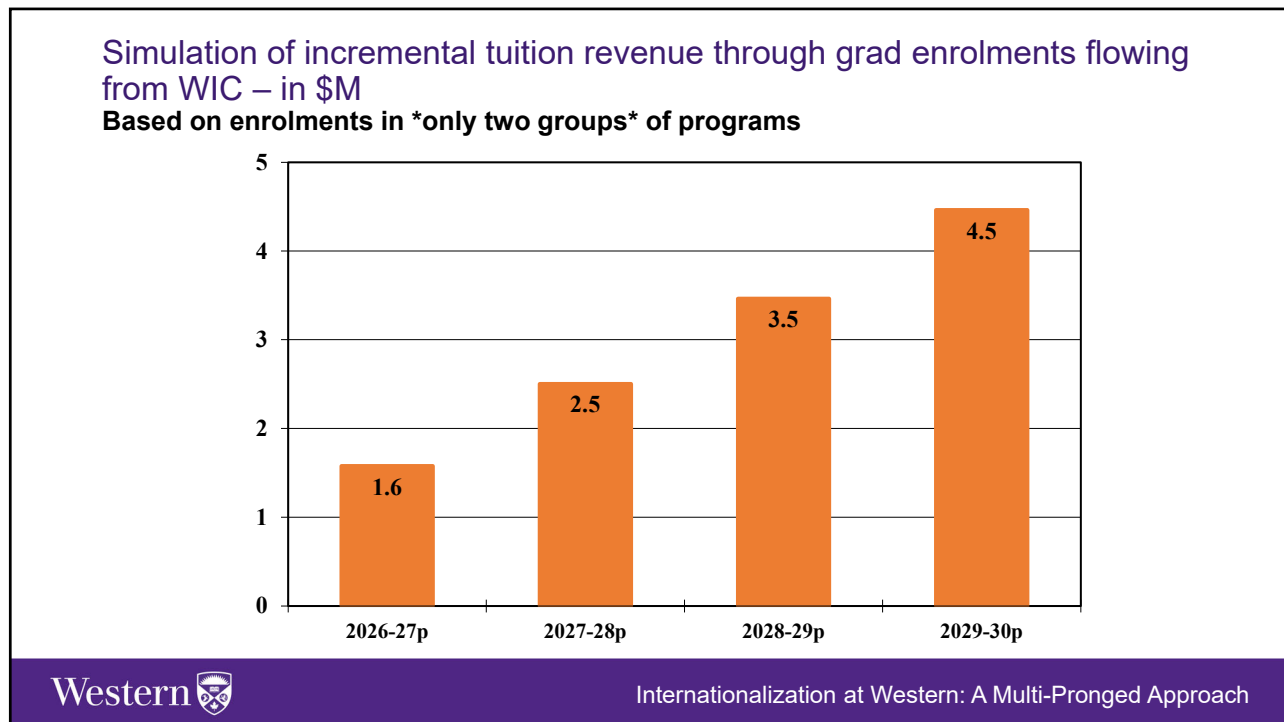
5

Simulation of incremental tuition revenue through UG enrolments flowing from WIC (i.e., years 2 to 4 at Western) – in \$M



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Proposal: 2020 vs. 2025

- ✓ Oversight over academic program offerings
- ✓ Control over academic course content and quality
- ✓ Monitoring of student success and outcomes
- ✓ Hiring of International College instructors under the CA
- ✓ Integrated and tailored academic and non-academic supports
- ✓ Early integration of international students

Western 

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Public – Private Partnership

- Accessing a public education
- Delivering our public institution's approved curriculum
- Improving learning outcomes
- Tapping into specialized expertise
- Utilizing resources that are limited at our institution
- Learning from a tried and proven model of success

= the proposed partnership augments and amplifies our signature public education



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Timeline

Dates	Consultation
Feb – Apr 2025	Initial community consultations to inform a draft proposal
March 2025	Website launched with updates and FAQs (includes consultation info) Senate convened Ad Hoc Committee to Review the Navitas Proposal
May 2025	Community consultations on a draft proposal, engaging over 20 groups across campus, including the Office of the Registrar, faculty councils & departments, Student Experience, Western International, Residence Life, Senate Committees (SCUP, ACA, POLICY), employee group leaders, student councils and international student focus groups. ← We are here
May – June 2025	Revise draft proposal and seek approvals (Senate & Board)
September 2026	Subject to Senate & Board approval - possible first student intake



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We've listened to you

Draft proposal available online:

https://www.provost.uwo.ca/password_protected/navitas.html

Consultations since February 2025

- Campus community consultation: in-person and virtual
- Senate and Senate Committees: SCUP, ACA, POLICY,
- Academic Leaders Round Table
- Provost's Leadership Team & Vice Provosts
- Dean's Council
- Employee Group leaders
- Academic Advisors
- University Students Council, Society of Graduate Students
- Faculty of Health Sciences Town Hall
- Western International – International students focus group
- Western Continuing Studies
- Ivey Business School faculty council
- Office of the Registrar
- Faculty of Education council
- Faculty of Arts & Humanities council
- Faculty of Music council
- Faculty of Social Science council
- Department of Anthropology (Social Sciences)
- Student Experience, Residence Life
- Western International
- Campus Council
- Western English Language Centre
- Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry Council
- **More coming up in May...**



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Questions & Discussion



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