



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

November 14, 2025

The meeting was held at 1:33 at the Great Hall, Somerville House

SENATORS:

A. Agyapong	L. M. Gribble	A. Nocilla
Y. Al-Ani	M. Green-Barteet	V. Parsa
C. Alcantara	A. Hassan	I. Paul
A. Ali	N. Harney	P. Pexman
J. Antonelli	J. Herrera	T. Rajan
A. Awawdeh	A. Hearn	R. Ramachandran
K. Backtash	B. Hill	L. Rehmann
C. Barteet	L. M. Ibarra	S. Roland
G. Beckett	M. Joannis	J. Redden
B. Begg	A. Jokhu	B. Rubin
K. Big-Canoe	M. Khimji	S. Schmid
S. Boe	H. Kirk	L. Shahin
A. Bryson	D. Kotsopoulos	A. Shchepetkina
J. Byrd Clark	T. Layton	K. Siddiqui
N. Campbell	H. Li	N. Silvester
K. Choi	G. Little	D. Sirek
C. Chung	M. Lebo	D. Smith
S. Clarke	L. Logan	M. Stahl
N. Coates	B. Lovie	F. Strzelczyk
B. Craig	J. Makaran	J. Walsh
S. D'Arcy	M. Mills	L. Waller
M. Davison	M. Modeski	J. H. Wright
M. El-Sakka	Z. Nadeem	K. Yeung
D. Ferri	I. Namukasa	J. Yoo
J. Gemson	A. Narayan	N. Zabian

Observers:

S. Hayne Beatty, S. Hendriks, J. Hutter, S. Lewis, E. Marshall, O. Oloya, V. Sarkany, M. Yenson

In the absence of the Chair of Senate, Sophie Roland, Vice-Chair of Senate, presided over the meeting. She informed Senators that the President was attending the Royal Society of Canada's (RSC) annual Celebration of Excellence and Engagement.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

N. Campbell offered a Land Acknowledgement.

MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

ITEM 2.0 – Minutes of the Meeting of October 17, 2025

It was moved by P. Pexman, seconded by G. Little,

That the minutes of the meeting of October 17, 2025, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The written report was provided as part of the agenda package and distributed prior to the Senate meeting.

REPORT OF THE PROVOST

F. Strzelczyk, Provost & Vice-President (Academic), in addition to the written report provided in advance of the meeting, highlighted several important matters including an overview of the budget planning process. She reminded Senators that, given the unstable financial context, the budget will now follow a two-year cycle. Additionally, the Provost advised that two upcoming budget information sessions will be held and encouraged Senators to participate.

F. Strzelczyk continued her report with an update on the Western International College and confirmed that students attending will be treated as Western students from day one, with full access to all services, supports, and campus life. Also, she advised that the Western International College serves as an additional pathway to Western and will not replace or reduce direct recruitment efforts and confirmed that efforts to strengthen direct recruitment are ongoing.

F. Strzelczyk concluded her report by commenting on the upcoming Fall Preview Day, advising of the extraordinary level of interest from prospective students and extending appreciation to the Registrar's team and all volunteers.

In responding to a question of clarification, the Provost advised that the cost of education for domestic students is not fully covered by grants and tuition, emphasizing that the financial sustainability of the University must be diligently considered. She noted that any growth in student enrolment should be strategic, balancing Western's infrastructure, resources, and program quality to ensure that the highest standard of education is maintained.

A Senator requested information on whether students above the funding corridor represent a net loss to the University, considering marginal cost and marginal benefit.

The Provost addressed a question of clarification about how the recent shift in the cap on international students may apply to Western and its partnership with Navitas, noting that the federal system for implementing the cap has not yet been finalized.

F. Strzelczyk confirmed that the commitment to maintaining Clare Hall as a women-only residence hall remains in place. Students from the Western International College who wish to have a women-only accommodation will have access to it.

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, highlighting the results from the final major grants competition, noting strong performance of Western's researchers. She further advised that Western continues to break grant application records, demonstrating significant progress toward achieving the goal of \$400 million in annual research funding.

P. Pexman continued her report with an update on the Canada Research Chairs program and discussed strategies for increasing the number of Chair positions for Western.

P. Pexman concluded her report with the information on Research Information Management System (RIMS), informing Senate that the system was officially launched, with the first phase focusing on building and validating researcher profiles.

In responding to a question on a status update for the external ethics review, P. Pexman noted that the final report on the reviewer's recommendations and the implementation plan will be presented at the next University Research Board (URB) meeting, followed by presentation at the December Senate meeting.

REPORT OF THE OPERATIONS / AGENDA COMMITTEE (OAC)

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

ITEM 6.1 – Revisions to the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and Graduate Education Council Constitution

It was moved by M. Joannis,

That on the recommendation of the Operations/Agenda Committee, Senate approve that effective November 14, 2025, the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and Graduate Education Council Constitution be revised as shown in Item 6.1.

CARRIED

ITEM 6.2 – Notice of Motion

Senators M. Green-Barteet and A. Hearn introduced a Notice of Motion at the October 17, 2025, Senate meeting. This Motion was referred by the Chair of Senate to the Operations/Agenda Committee (OAC) for consideration. OAC considered the Notice of Motion and determined that it is appropriate for it to be considered by Senate. A. Hearn noted that the motion implies only a discussion, not a determination of the outcome.

A Senator raised a question of clarification regarding how the consultation process on the changes to Western's Investment Policy, which were announced previously, aligns with the current discussion.

It was moved by N. Zabian, seconded by M. Green-Barteet,

That the Senate discuss the issue of Responsible Investing & Human Rights at the November 2025 Senate meeting with the intent of referring a recommendation to the Board of Governors on this issue, and, that the President & Vice-Chancellor be charged with the task of presenting the opinion of the Senate to the Board of Governors at the February 2026 Board of Governors meeting.

CARRIED

The Chair opened the floor for discussion regarding the matter outlined in the motion. N. Zabian presented a Notice of Motion.

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

That the Senate recommend to the Board of Governors through the President & Vice-Chancellor, that Western University's Investment and Responsible Investing Policy (within MAPP 2.26) be expanded to include commitments to upholding human rights and international law in all investment practices, including divestment from weapons manufacturers, and companies that are involved in violations of international law or internationally recognized human rights.

Furthermore, that the Senate recommend to the Board of Governors to establish a Special President's Committee on Ethical and Human-Rights–Aligned Responsible Investing, composed in a manner that is representative of the Western community—including students, faculty, staff, and community members—and mandated to develop and oversee the implementation of the aforementioned policy amendments in a sustainable manner.

Senators in favour of the motion spoke to the value of a responsible investment approach, while recognizing the potential financial risks associated with divestment, and asserting that aligning financial decisions with ethical, environmental, and social considerations enhances Western's reputation and reflects its current values.

Additionally, a Senator spoke to the various formal groups on campus that had already passed motions supporting responsible investment and ethically-aligned divestment, recognizing that the long-term benefits of responsible investment, including reduced exposure to reputational risks, might outweigh the immediate financial risks.

Senators spoke to the value of establishing a Special Committee on Ethical and Human-Rights–Aligned Responsible Investing.

In accordance with Senate's Rules of Order, the Chair advised that the notice of motion would be referred to the Operations/Agenda Committee for consideration at its next meeting.

ITEM 6.3 – OAC Chair's Report on Questions for Senate

M. Joannis presented the Chair's report on the questions for Senate received by OAC in advance, in accordance with the process established in the Adopted Policies and Procedures. He advised Senate that questions routed to Senate will be addressed at the Question Period and those questions that were not forwarded to Senate were identified as being addressed by the appropriate unit, as outlined in the report.

REPORT OF THE SENATE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Senate Nominating Committee, G. Little provided the Nominating Committee report.

ITEM 7.1 – Membership – Selection/Review Committee for the Provost & Vice-President (Academic)

Cherin Chung was acclaimed to the Selection/Review Committee for the Provost & Vice-President (Academic) as a graduate student representative.

Kim Clark, James Lacefield, Geoff Wild and John Yoo were acclaimed to the Selection/Review Committee for the Provost & Vice-President (Academic).

REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC CURRICULUM AND AWARDS

On behalf of ACA, A. Johnson presented the report of the Committee.

ITEM 9.1 – Faculty of Social Science, Department of Anthropology: Introduction of a Major in Sociocultural and Linguistic Anthropology

It was moved by B. Lovie, seconded by G. Beckett,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2026, a Major in Sociocultural and Linguistic Anthropology be introduced by the Department of Anthropology in the Faculty of Social Science as shown in Item 9.1.

CARRIED

ITEM 9.2 – King’s University College: Introduction of a Certificate in Theory-toAction: Applied Social Research

It was moved by B. Lovie, seconded by L. M. Gribble,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2026, a Certificate in Theory-to-Action: Applied Social Research be introduced by King’s University College as shown in item 9.2.

CARRIED

ITEM 9.3 – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Major Modification to the Master of Engineering (MEng) in Chemical and Biochemical Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Mechanical and Materials Engineering

In response to a question concerning the process for selecting programs for the Western International College, J. Hutter, Acting Deputy Provost, outlined the selection criteria and the consultations with relevant Faculties. Additionally, he provided clarification on the approach to undergraduate programming, noting that targeting an individual program is unnecessary and that undergraduate offerings at Western International College would follow the existing undergraduate curriculum.

L. Rehmann, Associate Dean (Graduate), Engineering, addressed a question of clarification regarding the Faculty’s involvement in the admission process for entry into Western’s Master of Engineering program, emphasizing that the final decision remains within the purview of the respective departments.

It was moved by K. Siddiqui, seconded by L. Rehmann,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective May 1, 2026, the following programs be revised as shown in Item 9.3.

Master of Engineering (MEng) in Chemical and Biochemical Engineering

Master of Engineering (MEng) in Civil and Environmental Engineering

Master of Engineering (MEng) in Electrical and Computer Engineering

Master of Engineering (MEng) in Mechanical and Materials Engineering.

CARRIED

REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH BOARD (URB)

On behalf of the University Research Board (URB), P. Pexman presented the URB report and shared that the October 28th URB meeting was primarily dedicated to discussion of a presentation on the Life Sciences Innovation District at Western Discovery Park.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

REPORT FROM THE OPERATIONS/AGENDA COMMITTEE (OAC)

Information Items Reported by OAC on Unanimous Consent:

- 13.1(a) – Order of Ceremony – Spring Convocation 2026
- 13.1(b) – 2024-2025 Annual Report of the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA)
- 13.1(c) – Senate Membership – Vacancies Filled by Appointment

REPORT FROM THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY

Information Items Reported by Policy on Unanimous Consent:

- ITEM 13.2(b) – Undergraduate Sessional Dates (2026-2027)
- ITEM 13.2(c) – Senate Academic Policies Website Reorganization
- ITEM 13.2(d) – Revisions to the Procedure for Establishing New Senate Academic Policies or Amending Existing Policies
- ITEM 13.2(e) – Renaming of “Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies” Academic Policies

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

ITEM 13.3(a) – Faculty of Social Science, DAN Department of Management & Organizational Studies: Withdrawal of the Honours Specialization, Specialization, and Major in Food Management and Marketing (Brescia)

It was moved by G. Little, seconded by C. Alcantara,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2025, admission to the Honours Specialization, Specialization, and Major in Food Management and Marketing (Brescia), offered by the DAN Department of Management & Organizational Studies 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 13.3(b) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Major Modification to Research Thesis-Based Master of Science (MSc) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Programs within the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry

It was moved by G. Little, seconded by C. Alcantara,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective January 1, 2026, the following programs be revised as shown in Item 13.3(b).

Master of Science (MSc) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Anatomy and Cell Biology

Master of Science (MSc) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Biochemistry

Master of Science (MSc) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Master of Science (MSc) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Medical Biophysics

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Clinical Medical Biophysics PhD (CAMPEP)

Master of Science (MSc) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Microbiology and Immunology

Master of Science (MSc) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Neuroscience

Master of Science (MSc) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

Master of Science (MSc) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Physiology and Pharmacology

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Information Items Reported by ACA on Unanimous Consent:

- ITEM 13.3(c) – Report of the Subcommittee on Program Review – Undergraduate: Cyclical Reviews of the Undergraduate Programs in Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies; Global Studies (University College); and Thanatology (King's University College)
- ITEM 13.3(d) – Report of the Subcommittee on Program Review – Graduate: Cyclical Review of the Graduate Program in Chemistry
- ITEM 13.3(e) – New Donor-Funded Scholarships, Awards and Prizes

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

ITEM 13.2(a) – Revisions to the Policy on “Course Outlines”

The proposal for the revisions to the Policy on “Course Outlines” was removed from the consent agenda at a Senator’s request due to the concerns that the Policy is not in an accessible format, as it contains hyperlinks that screen-reader users are unable to interpret or navigate effectively. The Chair noted that the appropriate unit will follow up on this suggestion.

It was moved by S. Boe, seconded by N. Zabian,

That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2026, the policy on “Course Outlines” be revised as shown in Item 13.2(a).

CARRIED

QUESTION PERIOD

The full text of the questions submitted for the Question Period in advance of the meeting was posted in the Agenda at Item 6.3. The questions and responses are summarized below:

Question regarding Western’s approach to sustaining EDIDA commitments

F. Strzelczyk addressed a question regarding Western’s plans to sustain its commitment to EDIDA in teaching, learning, and research with the current national debate about the role of EDIDA in post-secondary education and confirmed that Western continues to advance EDIDA principles as a core part of its academic mission. Additionally, the Provost commented on the level of institutional autonomy, emphasizing that currently there is no external pressure related to this important matter.

Status Update on the Plan for Convocation’s Return to Campus

In response to a question regarding the steps taken during this first year toward fulfilling the commitment to return Convocation ceremonies to campus, F. Strzelczyk advised that the decision to temporarily relocate Convocation to Canada Life Place was made to address accessibility issues while an on-campus solution is being developed. As recommended in the Convocation Task Force report, potential long-term solutions are being considered through Western’s existing capital planning process.

Update on Western’s Campaign

A. Bryson provided a response received from K. Bertrand, Vice-President (Western Advancement), explaining that the majority of philanthropic contributions are restricted to specific goals or initiatives, rather than going toward general operating costs. In follow up to the response provided, a Senator asked whether a representative from the

Advancement team could be invited to speak at Senate and noted their own experience with engaging donors to support general operating costs.

Question regarding generative AI and the rise of academic offenses

S. Lewis, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs), commented on the use of a generative AI and Western's approach to misuse of this tool by students. She outlined Western's efforts that are being made to increase awareness and establish clear guidelines, through consultation with the Associate Deans and instructors, aiming to uphold academic integrity.

Question regarding graduate courses minimum class size

F. Strzelczyk clarified that the minimum class size requirement applies only to undergraduate courses and addressed a question concerning whether similar requirements would apply to graduate level offerings. She emphasized that given the complexity of graduate course planning, there is a plan to provide recommendations for best practices that will be developed through a fulsome consultation process.

A Senator raised a question of clarification as to whether the matter of minimum class size should be subject to Senate oversight. A. Bryson advised that this matter will be reviewed, and Senate will be updated accordingly.

In response to a question regarding the budget constraints and funding for graduate enrollment, F. Strzelczyk advised that work is currently underway to balance undergraduate enrollment while preserving opportunities for graduate students.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

S. Roland
Vice-Chair

A. Bryson
University Secretary