



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

September 19, 2025

The meeting was held at 1:35 at the Great Hall, Somerville House

SENATORS:

A. Agyapong	L. Graham	D. Neufeld
Y. Al-Ani	M. Green-Barteet	V. Parsa
A. Ali	L. M. Gribble	I. Paul
J. Antonelli	R. Gros	A. Pero
A. Awawdeh	A. Hassan	P. Pexman
K. Backtash	N. Harney	R. Ramachandran
C. Barteet	J. Herrera	W. Ritchie
B. Begg	B. Hill	S. Roland
K. Bertrand	M. Joannis	B. Rubin
K. Big-Canoe	A. Jokhu	L. Shahin
J. Birkinshaw	M. Khimji	A. Shchepetkina
S. Boe	K. Kim	A. Shepard
A. Bryson	H. Kirk	S. Sibbald
N. Campbell	S. Knabe	K. Siddiqui
K. Choi	D. Kotsopoulos	N. Silvester
C. Chung	T. Layton	D. Sirek
S. Clarke	M. Lebo	F. Strzelczyk
N. Coates	L. Lingard	R. Ventresca
K. Coley	G. Little	J. Walsh
S. D'Arcy	B. Lovie	X. Wang
L. Davis	A. Lukawski	J. H. Wright
M. Davison	T. Mantler	K. Yeung
M. El-Sakka	D. Meister	N. Zabian
D. Ferri	M. Mills	
R. Forrester-Jones	M. Modeski	
J. Gemson	Z. Nadeem	
C. Giannacopoulos	I. Namukasa	
R. Gillis	A. Narayan	

Observers:

A. Ali, C. Bressette, S. Hayne Beatty, S. Hendriks, K. Henricus, J. Hutter, S. Lewis, E. Marshall, M. McGlynn, O. Oloya, V. Sarkany, J. Scott, M. Yenson

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

K. Choi offered a Land Acknowledgement.

MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

ITEM 2.0 – Minutes of the Meeting of June 6, 2025

It was moved by P. Pexman, seconded by F. Strzelczyk,

That the minutes of the meeting of June 6, 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 opened his remarks by welcoming new and continuing Senators to the first Senate meeting of the 2025–26 academic year. The President introduced S. Roland as the new Vice-Chair of Senate.

The President reported on the outcomes of Orientation Week, discussed the strategies that were implemented and recognized the faculty and staff volunteers who supported the event.

A. Shepard concluded his report by reminding Senate members of the upcoming Homecoming weekend.

ITEM 3.1 – Western Campaign

K. Bertrand, Vice-President (University Advancement), provided a presentation on the Western Campaign, including its focus on impact, main goals and priorities. Additionally, K. Bertrand extended gratitude to the Western Communications team and the broader Western community for their engagement.

REPORT OF THE PROVOST

F. Strzelczyk, Provost & Vice-President (Academic) opened her report with a brief leadership update, welcomed the Faculty Deans who had recently begun their terms, and reported that three Deans' Selection Committees — Arts and Humanities, Social Science, and Don Wright Faculty of Music — remain underway.

The Provost continued her report with an update on the Canada Excellence Research Chairs (CERC) program and recognized the strong nominations received.

F. Strzelczyk briefly commented on progress in establishing the Western International College in partnership with Navitas and noted that the work remains in the planning and discussion phase, and the agreement is expected to be signed soon. Additionally, she outlined the steps that will follow once the process is finalized.

The Provost continued her report with information on several initiatives and partnerships that were announced during the summer period, including Doctoral Excellence Awards, the Mastercard Foundation investment in advancing Western's Indigenous initiatives and provided an update on a capital project for research infrastructure.

F. Strzelczyk concluded her report by commenting on the student experience portfolio and recognizing the leadership of Stephanie Hayne Beatty in her role as Acting Vice-Provost (Students). Additionally, the Provost highlighted achievements in experiential learning programs conducted in partnership with local organizations.

In addressing a question of clarification regarding the number of programs to be represented at the International College initially, F. Strzelczyk advised that work is currently being conducted on the undergraduate side, as the first-year course offerings are broad before a specialization in the second year. For the Professional Master's programs, there is a plan to start with two programs and expand from there.

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 over the summer and highlighted several grant and award achievements to Senate.

As part of her report, P. Pexman emphasized to Senate the importance of maintaining application pressure in research funding activities and acknowledged the strong start of the fall granting season. She reported that the submission phase of the CIHR Project Grant competition had successfully closed and highlighted the surge in submissions from Western.

As a follow up to the June Senate meeting, P. Pexman provided an update on the external ethics review and commented on the implementation of the external reviewer's recommendations.

In conclusion of her report, P. Pexman advised that Western Research, in collaboration with the Office of Indigenous Initiatives, has launched two new guides to support reconciliation and Indigenous allyship at Western.

REPORT OF THE OPERATIONS / AGENDA COMMITTEE (OAC)

On behalf of the Operations/Agenda Committee (OAC), S. Roland presented the report and outlined the Committee's mandate, summarizing its primary areas of responsibility.

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

S. Roland announced the Vice-Chair of OAC (Marc Joanisse) for a term from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

ITEM 6.2 – Revisions to the Senate Election Procedures

It was moved by S. Roland,

That on the recommendation of the Operations/Agenda Committee, Senate approve that effective September 19, 2025, the Senate Election Procedures be revised as shown in Item 6.2.

CARRIED

ITEM 6.3 – Revisions to the Appointment Procedures for Senior Academic and Administrative Officers of the University – Addition of the Deputy Provost

It was moved by S. Roland,

That on the recommendation of the Operations/Agenda Committee, Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors, that the Appointment Procedures for Senior Academic and Administrative Officers of the University be revised to include the Deputy Provost as shown in Item 6.3.

CARRIED

REPORT OF THE SENATE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Senate Nominating Committee, G. Little provided a report and outlined the Nominating Committee's mandate, highlighting its responsibility and the nominating process.

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

G. Little announced the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Nominating Committee (G. Little, Alfonso Nocilla) for the terms from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

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

Apurva Narayan was nominated from the floor of Senate and acclaimed to the Senate Committee on Academic Curriculum and Awards for a term ending June 30, 2026.

ITEM 7.3 – Membership – Senate Committee on Academic Policy

Mahmoud El-Sakka was nominated by the Nominating Committee and acclaimed to the Senate Committee on Academic Policy for a term ending June 30, 2026.

ITEM 7.4 – Membership – Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA)

Laura Melnyk Gribble was nominated by the Nominating Committee and acclaimed to the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA) for a term ending June 30, 2027.

No nominations were put forward for the graduate student vacancies.

ITEM 7.5 – Membership – University Research Board (URB)

Sananda Sahoo was nominated by the Nominating Committee and acclaimed to the University Research Board (URB) for a term ending June 30, 2026.

REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY

On behalf of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy, K. Yeung presented the report, offering a brief summary of the Committee's mandate, including its role in policy development, and described its main areas of responsibility.

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, Nicole Campbell) of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy for the terms from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC CURRICULUM AND AWARDS

On behalf of ACA, A. Johnson presented the report and outlined the Committee's mandate, summarizing its key areas of focus.

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

A. Johnson announced the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Senate Committee on ACA (Andrew Johnson, Rob Gros) for the terms from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY PLANNING

On behalf of SCUP, F. Strzelczyk presented the report and described the Committee's role and responsibilities.

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

F. Strzelczyk announced the Chair of the Senate Committee on University Planning (Susanne Schmid) for a term from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. F. Strzelczyk, the Provost & Vice-President (Academic), is ex-officio Vice-Chair of the Committee.

REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH BOARD (URB)

On behalf of the University Research Board (URB), P. Pexman presented the URB report and detailed the Committee's mandate, highlighting its core responsibilities.

ITEM 11.1 – Announcement of a Vice-Chair of the University Research Board

P. Pexman announced a Vice-Chair of URB (Alison Allan) for a term from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

ITEM 12.0 – Report of the Academic Colleague

S. Roland advised Senate that there was no Academic Colleague report at that time and provided an overview of the role of Academic Colleagues in the Council of Ontario Universities, including the work they undertake.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

REPORT FROM THE OPERATIONS/AGENDA COMMITTEE (OAC)

Information Items Reported by OAC on Unanimous Consent:

- ITEM 13.1(a) – Membership - ad hoc Working Group for the 2025-2026 Governance Review – Graduate Student Senator
- ITEM 13.1(c) – Speaking Rights at Senate – Chair of the Senate Committee on Academic Curriculum and Awards (ACA)
- ITEM 13.1(d) – Appointment of Officers of Convocation
- ITEM 13.1(e) – Senate Membership – Vacancies Filled by Appointment

REPORT FROM THE SENATE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Information Items Reported by the Senate Nominating Committee on Unanimous Consent:

- ITEM 13.2(a) – Senate Membership – Undergraduate Student Senator

REPORT FROM THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY

ITEM 13.3(a)(i) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Revisions to the Policies on “Course Outlines” and “Program Design – Courses, Milestones and Course Outlines”

It was moved by N. Zabian, seconded by G. Little,

That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy, Senate approve that effective September 19, 2025, the policy on “Course Outlines” be revised as shown in Item 13.3(a)(i); and

That the policy on “Program Design – Courses, Milestones and Course Outlines” be renamed as the policy on “Program Design – Courses and Milestones” and that the policy be revised as shown in Item 13.3(a)(i).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

ITEM 13.3(a)(ii) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Revisions to the Policy on “Assessing Student Progress in Multi-Year Research-Based Programs”

It was moved by N. Zabian, seconded by G. Little,

That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy, Senate approve that effective September 19, 2025, the policy on “Assessing Progress in Multi-Year Research-Based Programs” be revised as shown in Item 13.3(a)(ii).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Information Items Reported by Policy on Unanimous Consent:

- ITEM 13.3(b) – Editorial Policy Revisions Relating to Academic Advising

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

ITEM 13.4(a) – Faculty of Health Sciences, Arthur Labatt Family School of Nursing: Revisions to the Policy on “Nursing – Applicants”

It was moved by N. Zabian, seconded by G. Little,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2025, the policy on “Nursing – Applicants” be revised as shown in Item 13.4(a).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

ITEM 13.4(b) – Faculty of Health Sciences, Arthur Labatt Family School of Nursing: Revisions to the Policy on “Progression Requirements – Nursing”

It was moved by N. Zabian, seconded by G. Little,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2025, the policy on “Progression Requirements – Nursing” be revised as shown in Item 13.4(b).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

ITEM 13.4(c) – Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry: Introduction of a Subject Area in Public Health

It was moved by N. Zabian, seconded by G. Little,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2026, a Subject Area in “Public Health” be introduced by the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry and included in Category C for Breadth Requirements for Graduation, as shown in Item 13.4(c).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

**ITEM 13.4(d) – Faculty of Science, Department of Physics and Astronomy:
Revisions to the Honours Specialization and Specialization in Medical Physics**

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2025, the Honours Specialization and Specialization in Medical Physics, offered by the Department of Physics and Astronomy in the Faculty of Science, be revised as shown in Item 13.4(d).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

**ITEM 13.4(e) – Faculty of Social Science: Renaming of and Revisions to the
Social Science Internship Program and Withdrawal of the BMOS Internship
Program**

It was moved by N. Zabian, seconded by G. Little,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2025, the “Social Science Internship Program” offered by the Faculty of Social Science be renamed as the “Social Science Co-op Program” and that the program requirements be revised as shown in Item 9.0; and

That effective September 1, 2025, admission to the BMOS Internship Program offered by the Faculty of Social Science be discontinued; and

That students currently enrolled in the BMOS Internship Program be permitted to graduate with the BMOS Internship Program upon fulfilment of program requirements by August 31, 2026; and

That the BMOS Internship Program be withdrawn effective September 1, 2026.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

**ITEM 13.4(f)(i) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Major Modification
to the Doctor of Education (EdD)**

It was moved by N. Zabian, seconded by G. Little,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2026, the Doctor of Education (EdD) be revised as shown in Item 13.4(f)(i).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

ITEM 13.4(f)(ii) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Major Modification to the Master of Engineering (MEng) in Electrical and Computer Engineering

It was moved by N. Zabian, seconded by G. Little,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2026, the Master of Engineering (MEng) in Electrical and Computer Engineering be revised as shown in Item 13.4(f)(ii); and

That students currently enrolled in the following fields be permitted to graduate upon fulfillment of the field requirements by April 30, 2027:

Communications and Signal Processing
Power Systems Engineering
Robotics and Control; and

That the above-named fields be withdrawn effective May 1, 2027.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Information Items Reported by ACA on Unanimous Consent:

- ITEM 13.4(g) – Report of the Subcommittee on Program Review – Undergraduate (SUPR-U): Cyclical Reviews of the Undergraduate Programs in Chemistry, Mathematics, and Anthropology
- ITEM 13.4(h) – Report of the Subcommittee on Program Review – Graduate (SUPR-G): Cyclical Reviews of the Graduate Programs in Law, Library and Information Science, Statistics, and Anthropology
- ITEM 13.4(i) – Report of the Subcommittee on Undergraduate Academic Courses (SOC) (July 2024 – June 2025)
- ITEM 13.4(j) – New Donor-Funded Scholarships, Awards and Prizes

REPORT FROM THE HONORARY DEGREES COMMITTEE

Information Items Reported by Honorary Degrees Committee on Unanimous Consent:

- ITEM 13.5(a) – Honorary Degree Recipient - Autumn 2025

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

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

- ITEM 13.6(a) – Academic Administrative Appointments

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

ITEM 13.1(b) – Revisions to the Terms of Reference of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy

A Senator requested that this item be removed from the Consent Agenda to provide the rationale for the decision outlined in the executive summary.

K. Yeung, Chair of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy, advised that the decision to provide the Office of the Registrar with the delegated authority to determine all applicable undergraduate sessional dates stemmed from the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Working Group to Review the Structure of the Academic Year. He also outlined the extensive consultation process undertaken and the potential alternatives considered.

QUESTION PERIOD

A. Bryson, University Secretary, noted the general regulations for the Question Period as outlined in the Adopted Policies and Procedures and advised Senate that no questions were received in advance of OAC's meeting deadline. The questions received after the deadline will be brought forward to OAC at its next meeting on October 8.

Questions regarding the restructuring of administrative staff at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities due to budgetary constraints and the August 25th incident in Weldon Library were referred by the Chair to the Operations/Agenda Committee for consideration.

In response to a question, the Chair addressed Western's emergency communication system, and encouraged Senators to download the [Alert WesternU](#) app, the university's mass notification system.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

A. Shepard
Chair

A. Bryson
University Secretary