



**SENATE**  
**Minutes of Meeting**

**Date:** Friday, February 9, 2024

**Time:** 2:30pm-4:20pm

**Room:** 203 Anthony P Toldo Health and Education Centre

**ATTENDANCE:** Esam Abdel-Raheem, Robert Aguirre, Kyle Ashquith, Natalie Atkin, Reem Bahdi, Nick Baker, Fazle Baki, Isabelle Barrette-Ng, Clinton Beckford, Selinda Berg, Judy Bornais, Meris Bray, John Cappucci, Dora Cavallo-Medved, Cheryl Collier, Shari Cunningham, Darryl Danelon, Ray Darling, Harbal Deep Sidhu, Laurie Freeman, Nobuko Fujita, Ashley Glassburn, Robert Gordon (chair), Kevin Granville, Ghallia Hashem, Victoria Iannetta, Ofelia Jianu, Shanti Johnston, Ruth Kura, Erika Kusta, Michael Macdonald, Diana Marion, Bruce Minaker, Ken Montgomery, Husam Morra, Kristen Morris, Maureen Muldoon, Kat Pasquach, Lauren Pupulin, Jessica Raffoul, Chita Rangan, Suki Randhawa, Roger Reka, Walter Rischke, Karen Robson, Linda Rohr, Luis Rueda, Giuliana Salvato, Renu Sharma-Persaud, Debbie Sheppard-LeMoine, Brahmjot Singh, Jennifer Soutter, Andrew Swan, Eric Tanlaka, Bruce Tucker, Nurlan Turdaliev, Niel Van Engelen, Bill Van Heyst, Lionel Walsh, Stephen Weir, Sue Williams, Yuan Xiaobu, Zuochen Zhang.

**ABSENT:** Francesco Biondi, Norman King, Jagdish Pathak, Joanna Luft, Kate Hadwin.

**REGRETS:** Ali Abdulhusein, Ashish Mahajan, Chris Baillargon, Drew Marquardt, Ehab Elsaid, Jake Rondot, Kenneth Drouillard, Phil Dutton, Scott Martyn, Shetina Jones.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Chris Busch, Jess Dixon, Beverley Hamilton, Jenn Meyer; Renée Wintermute, Danny Anger, Alison Zilli (University Secretariat).

**1 Approval of Agenda** (Unstarring agenda items)

Item 5.3.3 was changed to “for discussion” and will be placed on the March meeting agenda for approval, allowing for a preliminary discussion at Senate and additional feedback over the next few weeks.

**MOTION: That the agenda be approved.**

Lionel Walsh/Meris Bray  
**CARRIED, as amended**

**Minutes of the meeting of January 12, 2024**

*(see document S240112M.)*

**MOTION: That the minutes of the meeting of January 12, 2024 be approved.**

Roger Reka/Judy Bornais  
**CARRIED**

**3 Business arising from the minutes**

Nothing to report.

**4 Outstanding Business/Action Items**

Nothing to report.

**5 Reports/New Business**

**5.1 Program Development Committee**

**\*5.1.1 Program/Course Changes**

**(a) Psychology (Graduate) – New Course Proposal (Form D)**

*(See document S240209-5.1.1a for more details.)*

**MOTION: That the following course be approved: ^**

**PSYC-8591. Advanced Adult Assessment Fall and Winter Practicum**

*^Subject to approval of the expenditures required.*

**\*CARRIED**

**(b) Languages, Literatures, and Culture – New Course Proposals (Form D)**

*(See document S240209-5.1.1b for more details.)*

**MOTION: That the following courses be approved: ^**

**ASIA-1100. Chinese for Beginners**

**ARAB-2150. Oral Proficiency in Arabic I**

*^Subject to approval of the expenditures required.*

**\*CARRIED**

**(c) Languages, Literatures, and Culture – Minor in Arabic Studies – Minor Program Changes**

**(Form C) (See document S240209-5.1.1c for more details.)**

**MOTION: That the requirements for the Minor in Arabic Studies be changed in accordance with the program/course change forms. ^**

*^Subject to approval of the expenditures required.*

**\*CARRIED**

**\*5.1.2 Political Science – Request for Waiver of Course Deletion**

*(See document S240209-5.1.2 for more details.)*

**MOTION: That the Request for Waiver of Course Deletion for the following course be approved:**

**POLS-2035 Quebec Politics and Society [French]**

**\*CARRIED**

**\*5.1.3 Kinesiology (Graduate) – Course Learning Outcomes**

*(See document S240209-5.1.3 for more details.)*

The document was received for information. \*

**5.2 Academic Policy Committee**

**\*5.2.1 Master of Fine Arts (Film and Media Arts) – Admission Requirements Revision**

*(See document S240209-5.2.1 for more details.)*

**MOTION: That the proposed revision to the admissions requirements for the MFA be approved.**

**\*CARRIED**

### **5.2.2 Information Technology Services Annual Report (2022-2023)**

*(See documents S240209-5.2.2 and S240209-5.2.2a for more details.)*

In response to questions about classroom upgrades, members were provided a list of the classrooms upgraded since 2021 and the planned upgrades for this year. Major challenges are tied to resources and financial sustainability as demands for IT Services support and maintenance continues to increase substantially, as well as the very long lead times for receiving equipment orders.

An overview of the conditional access program was provided. Ensuring that all electronic devices that access the University's networked servers are secure and managed is a critical to mitigating cybersecurity risks. In response to concerns raised about privacy when enrolling personal devices with the University, it was noted that the user's privacy is protected as the organization can only see the administered University apps inventory, not the user's personal data or apps. IT Services' goal is to provide value-add for faculty and staff who want to bring-their-own-devices to access work-related servers, while still ensuring that there is no access to anyone's personal data. Unenrolling a device from the program is a simple process, providing an easy option if you decide not to participate further.

All devices used within the University network must be properly managed to ensure compliance with cybersecurity standards and to gain access to essential institutional applications such as Adobe and Microsoft Word. Researchers who need to be exempt due to incompatible software are dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

In response to a concern raised regarding long-term support for securing and maintaining active, research data it was noted that there is some provincial and federal assistance for data storage that needs to be further explored, but there is also some internal infrastructure in place, if the data sets are not too large. In addition, given that research data management is now a funding requirement, an institutional strategy is being explored by a Working Group led by the VP Research.

In response to a question raised, it was noted that there are on-campus resources available in some departments and in the library for sessional instructors who may not want to register their personal devices. However, strategies are being actively pursued to address this issue as many instructors do need to work remotely. Moving forward, sessional instructors should be informed of the requirement to enrol any devices they may use to access the University network in the conditional access program.

Given that many faculty members do not understand the difference between Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) and Conditional Access, it was suggested that additional education and outreach efforts be pursued.

The document was received for information.

### **5.2.3 Centre for Teaching and Learning Annual Report (2022-2023)**

*(See documents S240209-5.2.3 and S240209-5.2.3a for more details.)*

An overview was provided to Senators on the Centre for Teaching and Learning activities, accomplishments, and challenges over the past academic year, as well as current and future initiatives. These included its various teaching and learning educational sessions and workshops, support of education technology (including the successful implementation of Brightspace (with IT Services and the Office of Open Learning)), significant success in teaching and learning

development grants, and publications and scholarly work in the scholarship of teaching and learning. Members were reminded that the mandate of CTL is to work in partnership with instructors, staff, administrators, and students to enhance teaching and student learning.

Given that CTL has played a central role in many urgent challenges over the years (i.e., COVID-19 pandemic, cyber incident, numerous LMS shifts, etc.), staff have not had any downtime which has led to increasing issues with employee health and well-being. Moving forward, priorities will be reviewed and evaluated with the goal of reducing burnout and creating more work/life balance.

Senators commended the CTL on its outstanding leadership across a variety of teaching and learning initiatives and challenges (from pedagogical guidance to scholarly publications), and the exceptional level of support provided on an ongoing basis.

The document was received for information.

### **5.3 Senate Governance Committee**

#### **5.3.1 Senate Meeting Scorecard – Results from Fall 2023**

*(See document S240209-5.3.1 for more details.)*

A summary of the feedback from the Scorecard was provided. To increase meeting efficiency, revisions to the Senate meeting format will focus on: 1) continued prioritization of actionable outcomes; 2) streamlining of presentations; and 3) limiting speakers to new comments or questions.

#### **5.3.2 Proposed Bylaw Revisions [Bylaws 14, 15, 16, 18, 3]**

*(See document S240209-5.3.2 for more details.)*

**MOTION 1: That the proposed revisions to Senate Bylaws 14, 15, 16, 18 be approved.**

Walter Rischke/Linda Rohr

**CARRIED**

**MOTION 2: That the proposed revisions to Senate Bylaw 3 be approved.**

Shanti Johnson/ Laurie Freeman

The creation of a Senate Research and Innovation Advisory Committee will provide a mechanism for more structured reporting to the Senate and structured guidance and advice to the VPRI.

**CARRIED**

#### **5.3.3 Senate Emergency Academic Plan**

*(See document S240209-5.3.3 for more details.)*

An overview was provided on the Senate Emergency Academic Plan. It was noted that the proposed academic plan mirrors the emergency academic plans that were implemented during the COVID pandemic and the cybersecurity incident. In response to a suggestion that there be a distinction between different levels of emergencies, categorizing them from minor to major, it was noted that this categorization would be part of the overall University emergency plan covering all university operations. The emergency academic plan needs to be flexible enough to allow for all or some of the components to be implemented as needed.

#### **5.4 Senate Student Caucus**

Members were informed that the Registrar attended the Senate Student Caucus to address concerns regarding UWinsite, course registration, and other process-related issues. Members were also informed that the Registrar's office will be posting course offerings in the Spring for Intersession, Fall, and Winter. Another topic discussed was student food insecurity, with Caucus members acknowledging the Administration's prompt response to this issue which was appreciated. Additionally, the introduction of a new bubble tea option in the library was announced, alongside discussions on improving campus life after hours.

#### **5.5 Report from the Student Presidents**

##### UWSA

Senators were provided with an overview of the UWSA's ongoing marketing initiatives, which include showcasing services and highlighting past executives. They were also informed about the upcoming general election, with numerous students expected to advocate around campus with nomination packages. It was also noted that UWSA has been actively involved in planning various events and activities such as Super Bowl Sunday, financial literacy education programming, participation in the Sustainability Fair, the dissemination of the "Know Your Rights" student booklet, Relay for Life (hosted at the Greenbean café), and the expansion of the Walksafe program to downtown, pending grant approval. Furthermore, UWSA is collaborating with Leddy Library to increase study space for students.

##### GSS

Members were informed that GSS will be appointing an intern President in the upcoming week. Members were also informed that the renovation project initiative between the GSS and the Leddy Library will create an enhanced environment for students. It was noted that the completion date is set for Fall 2024..

##### OPUS

Members were informed that OPUS hosted a successful Winter Social with a panel of speakers providing information sessions to students. Members were also informed that there are a variety of upcoming events and activities on the horizon for students.

#### **5.6 Report of the Academic Colleague**

*(See document S240209-5.6 for more details.)*

The document was received for information.\*

#### **5.7 Report of the President**

*(See document S240209-5.7 for more details.)*

Senators were informed that the government plans to respond to the Blue-Ribbon Panel recommendations by late February. Unofficial statements suggest a reluctance towards tuition increases, and no clear indication on increases to government grants. In addition, the recent federal announcement capping undergraduate international student permits amounts to a net decrease of 35% study permits from 2023. The requirement of a provincial attestation letter by March 31st, will cause further delays and strains on international student numbers.

It was noted that although there is turbulence ahead, Canada is still viewed favourably as a destination for learners, especially those in exempted groups, and it is essential to protect this amidst these challenges. It was noted that this decision may have been more directed towards institutions that are not specifically publicly-assisted Ontario universities. As a sector, Ontario enrolls about 26,000 international undergraduate students per year.

In response to a question regarding the impact of this change on undergraduate Indigenous students applying as US citizens and eligible for the US Neighbour fee, it was noted that the responsibility for establishing criteria for the attestation letter falls to the province. However, it is anticipated that there will be sufficient spots for all applicants, with the cap being large enough to accommodate both Indigenous and non-Indigenous learners.

It was recommended that the University explore innovative programming options and offerings to adapt to ongoing changes and generate alternative revenue streams. For instance, the implementation of laddered master's degrees could be considered among these initiatives.

Members were informed that due to budget constraints, the Windsor Essex County Health Unit (WECHU) has informed the University that they will not be proceeding with a strategic partnership involving a planned relocation to the University of Windsor, though the commitment to public health research and collaborations continues. Members were also informed the Windsor is moving forward with signing an MOU to develop long-term partnership framework with the YMCA.

Senators were informed that the Turtle Island House renovation project, led by Two Row Architects, is in progress with cross-campus Indigenous advisory groups established and the design phase underway.

## **5.8 Report of the Provost**

*(See document S240209-5.8 for more details.)*

Members were informed that that University is undergoing an audit by the Ontario Quality Council's (QC) of its quality assurance process, as required every eight years under the QC's Quality Assurance Framework. Members were also informed the final candidate(s) for the Dean of Science position will shortly be presented to Council.

### **5.8.1 Enrolment Management Update**

*(See document S240209-5.8.1 for more details.)*

Members were informed that the University has witnessed a slight increase over last year in undergraduate applications with a heightened interest in specific undergraduate programs from high school applicants. Despite the recent caps introduced by IRCC, the international cohort-based master's programs have continued to attract a strong number of applicants.

In response to a question raised about proving course enrolment data to the departments early in December in order to proactively connect with possible "early leavers", it was noted that the challenge is that students will wait to register until the new year due to a variety of reasons such as life changes, mental health, financial concerns, clarification on how the degree will lead to a career, *etc.* Work is being done on developing strategies for identifying and sharing data on possible early leavers, as early as possible, as well as developing wrap-around retention initiatives.

## **5.9 Report of Vice-President, People, Equity, and Inclusion**

*(See document S240209-5.9 for more details.)*

It was noted that a committee has been struck to develop strategies to address the issue of food insecurity.

The document was received for information.

### **5.9.1 Question Arising from Senate Information Session: Mental Health Strategy**

None reported.

#### **5.10 Report of Vice-President, Research, and Innovation**

*(See document S240209-5.10 for more details.)*

The following key research initiatives were highlighted: 1) On January 16, the Government of Canada released its policy on Sensitive Technologies Research and Affiliations of Concern (STRAC), which was adopted by all Tri-Agency and CFI funding programs. In light of this, researchers were strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the new policy; and 2) The VPRI recognized the significant contributions of the Animal Care Committee, Research Ethics Board, and Research Safety Committee to the University's research excellence. These committees ensure that research is conducted safely and ethically.

#### **6 Question Period/Other Business**

Nothing to report.

#### **7 Adjournment**

**MOTION: To adjourn.**

Meris Bray/Patti Weir

**CARRIED**