

SENATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (SGC)
Minutes of Meeting**Date:** Wednesday, May 14, 2025**Time:** 2:00pm-4:15pm**Room:** Assumption Hall Room 209 & MS Teams**PRESENT:** Nick Baker, Selinda Berg, Dave Bussiere, Cheryl Collier, Joel Cort, Phil Dutton, Robert Gordon (Chair), Dennis Jackson, Joanna Luft, Bruce Minaker, Ken Montgomery, Stephen Weir.**ABSENT:** Reem Bahdi (regrets), Clinton Beckford (regrets), Husam Morra, Debbie Sheppard-Lemoine (regrets), Patti Weir (regrets).**IN ATTENDANCE:** Adriana Duquette (For items 5.1-5.6); Danny Anger (Associate University Secretary), Renée Wintermute (University Secretary).**1 Approval of the agenda****MOTION:** That the agenda be approved.Nick Baker/Dave Bussiere
CARRIED**2 Minutes of the Meeting of December 4, 2024**
(see documents SGC241023M)**MOTION:** That the minutes of the Senate Governance Committee meeting of December 4, 2024 be approved.Joanna Luft/Dave Bussiere
CARRIED

The e-vote of February 19, 2025 was received.

3 Business arising from the minutes
Nothing to report.**Outstanding Business**
Nothing to report.**5 Reports/New Business****5.1 Report of the Research Ethics Board (January 2024 – March 2025)**
(See document SGC250514-5.1 for more details.)**NOTED:**

- An overview of the mandate of the REB and the results of the recent accreditation feasibility review was provided.
- While accreditation is not a requirement, the review was helpful in identifying areas for improvement, including formalizing in writing its standard operating procedures.
- A clearer written institutional framework explaining where the REB fits within the organizational structure would be helpful.

- Succession planning through vice-chair appointments and training would strengthen the work of the REB which sees a significant number of REB applications (~300 in the reporting period).
- While the REB would like additional staff support, other options to assist with workload could be via vice-chair appointment(s) and/or seeking funding from industry and community partners that rely on the REB. It was also noted that more focus should be on training at faculty level to ensure clean applications from AAUs, and the REB should be sending back applications rather than assisting with revisions.

5.2 UCAPT Report on Renewal, Tenure/Permanence, and Promotion Processes

(see document SGC250514-5.1 for more details.)

NOTED:

- There were no significant delays during the reporting period. The few delays were addressed on a case-by-case basis.
- Members commended the training and structures developed in support of those involved in the RTP process.

5.3 Memberships

5.3.1 Senate Standing Committees

(see document SGC250514-5.3.1 for more details.)

MOTION: That the Senate Governance Committee recommend to Senate the approval of the Senate Standing Committees membership for 2025-2026.

Ken Montgomery/Dennis Jackson

CARRIED

5.3.2 Discipline Appeal Committee, Procedures and Discrimination Committee, SGC Nominating Committee, SGC Special Appointments Committee, SGC Bylaw Review Committee

(see document SGC250514-5.3.2 for more details.)

MOTION: That the 2025-2026 Discipline Appeal Committee, Procedures and Discrimination Committee, SGC Special Appointments Committee, SGC Nomination Committee, and SGC Bylaw Review Committee memberships be approved.

Nick Baker/Joanna Luft

CARRIED

***5.3.3 Senate Membership (2025-2026)**

(see document SGC250514-5.3.3 for more details.)

The document was received for information.

***5.3.4 UCAPT Membership (2025-2026)**

(see document SGC250514-5.3.4 for more details.)

The document was received for information.

5.4 Revisions to Bylaws 10, 20, 32

(see document SGC250514-5.4 for more details.)

MOTION 1: That the proposed revisions to Bylaw 20 be approved.

Phil Dutton/Cheryl Collier

CARRIED

MOTION 2: That the Bylaw 32 be renamed “Procedural Irregularities Regarding Academic Instruction, Academic Evaluation, or Academic Grade Appeals” and that reference to allegations of discrimination, bias, sexual or other forms of harassment be removed.

Phil Dutton/Ken Montgomery

NOTED:

- If passed, all editorial changes will be made accordingly, and the name of the Committee will be the Procedural Irregularities Committee.

CARRIED

MOTION 3: That the proposed revisions to Bylaw 10 be approved.

Phil Dutton/Dave Bussiere

NOTED:

- Adding staff as voting members on Council for the purpose of decanal appointments/renewals is a significant revision which may have implications for other academic administrative appointments/renewals.
- The proposal masks a broader issue of allowing Faculty Councils/Assemblies to have the deciding vote on an appointment/renewal. Such a practice raises questions of equity and fairness.
- Search Committee members, appointed by Councils/Assemblies, are entrusted with the task of interviewing and making a recommendation on an appointment/renewal. For Council/Assembly members to vote on a recommendation, when they have not been privy to the candidate interviews, committee discussions or debate, raises the question of popularity and bias particularly when they vote against the candidate. There is no requirement to justify a vote against a candidate and so issues of bias are not addressed.

DEFEATED

AGREED:

- The Bylaw Review Committee will be tasked with conducting a comprehensive assessment of decanal appointment and renewal processes (Bylaw 10), including a review of policies and practices at other Canadian universities.

5.5 Senate Information Sessions (2025-2026)

(See document SGC250514-5.5 for more details.)

NOTED:

- These sessions have been helpful, particularly during the pandemic, as a means to bring the academic community together to discuss key issues and strategic topics.
- Attendance has declined over the past 1-2 years, making it difficult to justify the time and effort required from presenters.

AGREED:

- Senate Information Sessions will remain as an option, scheduled on an as-needed basis.

5.6 Restructuring – International Recruitment, Domestic Recruitment, and Student Retention

(See document SGC250514-5.6 for more details.)

MOTION: That the following revisions be made to Bylaw 19 for a trial period of two years.

Cheryl Collier/Ken Montgomery

NOTED:

- International recruitment has been identified as the University’s top ERM risk. Federal regulation changes have impacted international student demand and there is a need to put greater focus on

domestic recruitment. Other universities are placing significant resources in domestic recruitment and increasing their efforts in the tri-county area.

- While members agreed that domestic student recruitment and retention strategies differ from international strategies and require dedicated attention, there were differing suggestions for how this could be structured.
- There also has to be shift in focus at the graduate level, so that the focus is not almost entirely on international course-based masters.

AGREED:

- A position to focus on domestic recruitment should be established, the reporting structure to be determined by the Provost, with the AVPEM focussing on international recruitment. An assessment of the success of any new structure should be conducted within two years.

WITHDRAWN

5.7 Distinguished University Professor (*in-camera*)

MOTION: That the meeting move *in-camera*.

Nick Baker/Dennis Jackson

CARRIED

NOTED:

- The criteria and process for selecting Distinguished University Professor candidates were reviewed.
- A synopsis of the proposed candidate's lifetime achievements was provided.

MOTION: That Dr. David Tanovich be appointed Distinguished University Professor.

Cheryl Collier/Ken Montgomery

Voting was by secret ballot.

CARRIED

MOTION: That the ballots be destroyed.

Selinda Berg/Nick Baker

CARRIED

MOTION: That the meeting move out of *in-camera*.

Dave Bussiere/Dennis Jackson

CARRIED

6 Question Period/Other Business

Nothing to report.

7 Adjournment

MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned.

Cheryl Collier/Joel Cort

CARRIED