



SENATE MINUTES

Hybrid Meeting (Brantford and Zoom)
Monday, April 7, 2025, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Present: D. MacLatchy (Chair), A. Akanni, D. Antonowicz, B. Assiginaak, B. Basso, M.L. Byrne, J. Cairns, M. Cantalini-Williams, B. Chiu, L. Chu, A. Clarke, K. Clarke, V. Collis, J. Coolman, M. Coulter, J. Crowell, A. Davis, L. Dawe, A. Domurath, M. Emery, A. Essaji, G. Foster, E. Fox Tree, S. Gillies, A. Hansra, D. Henderson, P. Ironstone, C. Johnston Turner, M. Kelly, M. Khan, S. Lachapelle, R. Makarov, P. Mallet, D. Maoz, E. Mazaheri, C. McAdam, R. McGowan, B. McKay, T. McLaren, D. McMurray, K. Murray, J. Newman, L. Noronha, H. Northwood, A. Parker, H. Pimlott, S. Ramsay, M. Skop, C. Smith, D. Smith, J. Straub, D. Thomas, P. Urquhart, K. Werbin, D. Wheatley, B. Wolfe, G. Yun, A. Zaidi

Regrets: S. Chan, S. Doherty, L. Habtemichael, N. Lehecka, C. Matheson, N. Patel, S. Perry, S. Poynter, T. Snoddon

Absent: W. Arshad, J. Bomberry, M. Elayyan, L. Felice, K. Lund, J. Popham, A. Tariq, J. Wang, F. Wang

Secretariat: K. Jack, A. Juhik, A. Kornobis, P. Marfisi

1. Open Session

a. Call to Order & Approval of the Consent Agenda

Following the chair's welcome, she advised that at 3:30 she would need to depart the meeting to travel to Ottawa for university business. By consensus, members agreed that H. Northwood would assume the chair at that time.

Members also heard that a question for leadership had been received in advance of the meeting, and so in order to ensure the chair's participation, members heard a request to amend the agenda such that the question and answer period follow the leadership updates instead of occurring later in the meeting.

Motion (D. Maoz/K. Werbin): that Senate approve the Consent items listed for approval, as amended, under item 7.a. **Carried.**

b. Leadership Update

i. Report of the President

D. MacLatchy spoke to recent activities, including: the recent open houses in Waterloo, Brantford, and Milton; the continuing 25th anniversary

celebrations of the Brantford campus, and the recent opening of an Office of the President there; end of term celebrations that recognized students and their achievements; ongoing work with municipal partners including discussions with Brantford city staff about the campus's vibrancy and safety; discussions with the province related to Brantford, corridor funding for BEd students, and advocacy for funding unfunded STEM students; ongoing advocacy *via* Universities Canada at the federal level; that tariff and trade talks between Canada and the United States are continuing to be monitored; that the search for the next Vice-President: Student Affairs continues and that the Senate will have the opportunity to meet with selected candidates soon. There were no questions.

ii. Report of the Provost and VP: Academic

H. Northwood informed Senate about the ongoing work of the Freedom of Expression Task Force, and that the *ad hoc* Committee on Academic Structure had held its first meeting. She also spoke briefly to the continuing discussions and exploration of Laurier establishing a law school. She thanked everyone involved in the recent open houses and noted that the searches for the next Dean of Science, the next Dean of Social Work, and the review of the Dean of Education continue. There were no questions.

iii. Q&A with Leadership

In response to a question about why the move of the Wilfrid Laurier International College (WLIC) from Brantford to Waterloo was not brought to Senate for approval, the chair advised that: the college is in fact a separate entity from Laurier and has a partnership agreement with the University; the college is not a "Faculty" or any other similar body or sub-unit within Laurier's structure; the initial motions at Senate and the Board establishing this partnership did not speak to any specific campus at which the activity would occur; and, the "WLIC Dean" is not an academic-administrator dean in the traditional sense, nor must it be one of the University's nine deans though currently, it happens to be one of them; the University's quality control for courses that are transferred to Laurier degree programs comes via equivalency audits, having CTF faculty in the academic credit courses who have been hired through the University's processes, and having a strong partnership with the college regarding student success and shared goals for students. In discussion: thanks for the clarity about the college and its partnership with Laurier; agreement about the value of collegial governance.

c. Business Arising from the Previous Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

2. Reports and Recommendations from Standing Committees

a. Senate Committee on Research and Publications

i. Laurier Research Culture Survey 2024

J. Newman spoke to the results of the survey and noted: progress is being made to transition Laurier from a “primarily undergraduate” to a more “comprehensive research” institution; the University has been much more research focused over the last fifteen years; results related to faculty assessments of the research environment and culture; hallmarks and things being done well, things where the University is improving, and things that still need improvement. There were no questions.

b. Senate Executive and Finance Committee

i. 2024-2025 9-Month Fiscal Update

C. Dale walked members through highlights of the presentation distributed with the agenda. She provided an overview of the third quarter fiscal results and noted: the consolidated and separated operating and ancillary fund updates; the forecasts for both; future considerations. There were no questions.

ii. 2025-2026 Budget Update

H. Northwood spoke to key details in the presentation distributed with the agenda. She highlighted: the budget’s principles that link directly to Laurier’s strategic action plan; current and ongoing challenges; the building blocks of the budget, and the draft 2025/26 operating budget. L. Noronha spoke to: the multi-year budget assumptions and the base scenarios; each scenario’s multi-year forecast and the moving parts which may cause changes; the challenges evident even in the best case scenarios; next governance steps. There were no questions.

iii. 2025-2026 Non-Tuition Fee Report

J. Krizmanic spoke to the report and the government’s guidance about these fees, and the highly collaborative process of internal consultation in advance of this recommendation.

Motion (M. Cantalini-Williams/K. Werbin): that on the recommendation of the Senate Executive and Finance Committee, the Senate recommend the Board of Governors approve the 2025-2026 Non-Tuition Fee Report, as presented. **Carried.**

3. Matters from the Consent Section of the Agenda

None.

4. Other Business

There was no other business.

5. Q&A with Leadership

The question and answer period occurred under agenda item 1.b.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned by consensus.

7. Consent Items

a. Items for Approval

- i. Agenda
- ii. Draft Minutes of the March 4, 2025 Senate Meeting
- iii. Update to Bachelor of Education Guidelines for Academic Dates
Motion: that the Senate approve the changes to the guidelines for the Bachelor of Education previously approved September 24, 2024.

b. Items for Information

- i. Reports of the Senior Executives
- ii. Correction to the 2025-2026 Tuition Fee Report
- iii. 2025-2026 University Research Professor Awards
- iv. 2025-2026 Early Career Research Award Recipients