



SENATE MINUTES

Hybrid Meeting

In-Person location: SBC Waterloo

November 27, 2025

Present: D. MacLatchy (Chair), W. Arshad, J. Blair, T. Britz, T. Brookfield, J. Cairns, C-A. Cait, P. Cant, M. Cantalini-Williams, L. Chu, A. Clarke, K. Clarke, V. Collis, J. Coolman, J. Crowell, A. Davis, L. Dawe, D. Dee, G. Dilworth, S. Doherty, A. Domurath, K. Dowler, G. Edwards, M. Emery, G. Foster, S. Gillies, D. Gray, I. Hamza, D. Henderson, P. Ironstone, C. Johnston Turner, L. Keeping, D. Kelly, M. Kelly, L. King, D. Kojutek, S. Lachapelle, A. Lawrence, K. Lund, P. Mallet, C. Matheson, A-R. Mawlood-Yunis, E. Mazaheri, R. McGowan, T. McLaren, R. McLeman, K. Murray, J. Newman, S. Perry, V. Philip, S. Risavy, C. Shiamptanis, J. Straub, D. Thomas, P. Urquhart, D. Van Nijnatten, M. Wiebe, B. Wolfe, M. Woodford, G. Yun, A. Zaidi

Regrets: S. Chan, L. Habtemichael, A. Hansra, A. Herman, S. Hu, J. Lavery, D. Maoz, N. Patel, J. Popham, J. Rusin, M. Skop

Absent: A. Acharya, M. Barua, R.J. Damour Mugabonihera, A. Essaji, T. Gibson, S. Poynter

Secretariat: K. Jack, A. Kornobis, P. Marfisi, B. Norwich

Open Session

1. Call to Order

- a. Land Acknowledgement
- b. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts declared.

- c. Approval of the Consent Agenda

Motion (J. Blair/A. Clarke): that Senate approve the consent items listed for approval under item 12.a. **Carried.**

2. Business Arising from the Previous Minutes

There was no business arising.

3. *In Camera* Session

Motion (J. Straub/M. Kelly): to move the meeting in camera. **Carried.**

4. Leadership Update

a. Report of the President

D. MacLatchy provided Senators with an update on recent events. She commented on the recent federal budget, noting there is some indication of support for universities in some of the details. She remarked on international student caps, the province's fall economic statement, and the funding model review. She updated members on Bill 33 and Bill 46 matters and provided a brief update on recent conversations with Brantford and Milton municipal leaders. There were no questions.

b. Report of the Interim Provost and VP Academic

T. McLaren reported briefly on matters contained in her message to the community yesterday, including: the recent successful open houses; the "Supporting Advising at Laurier" project; the ongoing work and consultations of the Senate *ad hoc* Academic Structure Subcommittee, and the Freedom of Expression and Academic Freedom Task Force; and the important work being done in the office of Indigenous Initiatives. There were no questions.

c. Report from the Board of Governors

L. Keeping spoke to the report, highlighting some of the conversations held by the Board at its last meeting. There were no questions.

Reports and Recommendations from Standing Committees

5. Senate Academic Planning Committee

a. Change to Irregular Course Policy

D. Van Nijnatten spoke to the proposed changes to the irregular course policy.

Motion (D. Van Nijnatten/P. Ironstone): that the Senate approve the revision of the Irregular Course policy in the Undergraduate Academic Calendar, effective Fall 2025 term. **Carried.**

b. Proposal for the Consolidation of Minors and Options

D. Van Nijnatten spoke to the proposed changes and some of the resources available to the Faculties and academic departments.

In discussion, T. McLaren clarified that current "options" may continue, but will

be called “minors”, there is flexibility permitted in the number of courses required for them, and the term “option” is not well understood outside of the University.

Motion (D. Van Nijnatten/G. Yun): that the Senate approve the removal of the category of Option from Laurier’s undergraduate academic calendar and consolidate all Options into Minors and associated undergraduate revisions effective Fall 2027. **Carried.**

c. Faculty of Arts

S. Lachapelle spoke briefly to the proposed changes and their rationale.

i. Major Modification, English

Motion (S. Lachapelle/P. Urquhart): that the Senate approve the closure of the Professional Writing Minor, offered through the English program at the Brantford campus. **Carried.**

ii. Major Modification, Languages and Literature

Motion (S. Lachapelle/P. Ironstone): that the Senate approve the closure of the French Minor within the Faculty of Liberal Arts. **Carried.**

d. Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

B. Wolfe spoke to proposed calendar revisions.

i. Graduate Calendar, Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

Motion (B. Wolfe/L. Keeping): that the Senate approve the proposed revisions to the calendar language for roles and responsibilities for graduate students, advisors, advisory committees, and graduate coordinators/officers/directors. **Carried.**

6. Senate Executive and Finance Committee

a. 2026-2027 Budget Planning Process Update

P. Cant spoke to next year’s budget planning process. Senators heard: that the the budget planning process for 26/27 is underway; the focus continues to be financial sustainability; the structural deficit remains and will increase annually as expenses continue to grow beyond expected revenues. Senators heard that Laurier will continue to focus on strategic investments and strategies to generate revenue growth and create further efficiencies, while working with government to advocate for sustainable sector funding. Some specifics for the 2026-2027 budget include: continuing to monitor and reduce budget conservatism; making strategic use of reserves; a similar approach as last year

where units are asked to implement a modest 1% budget reduction; this year, essential requests will be more tightly defined. Efforts and reporting will continue over the coming months as usual. There were no questions.

7. Senate *ad hoc* Academic Structure Subcommittee Consultation

T. McLaren reminded Senators about the subcommittee's establishment in fall 2024, its mandate, and the key motivations for its formation. She spoke to the subcommittee's consultations to date and invited Senators to offer feedback on three key questions. Members were advised that the committee is not seeking to reduce collegial governance but instead look at whether any aspects can be improved.

1. Senate committee structure and processes are a critical element in balancing collegial governance with bureaucratic process. Does our current structure and process provide a good balance?

In discussion: a feeling that there is some repetition in approval processes; it is important to have broader consultation beyond a Faculty for curricular changes; some support for more items being moved to the consent agenda; the SAPC workload is comparatively very large; Senate sometimes feels like it is rubber-stamping academic approvals which have already received a lot of attention before Senate; whether chairing of committees other than the Governance Committee could be opened up beyond senior leadership; appreciation that leadership provides space for healthy conversations at both the committee and Senate level; whether the committee structure remains correct.

2. Are there ways we could carry out collegial governance responsibilities more efficiently? If so, please provide specific examples.

In discussion: should a way be found to communicate some of the earlier discussions about curricular matters in the materials as they move forward to ensure successive committees are aware of concerns; more matters placed in the consent agenda; continue to allow hybrid meetings; SAPC should be given more authority to approve minor changes; streamline curriculum approval pathways.

3. Was there a time recently when performing your duties as a Senator or member of its subcommittees that you experienced challenges due to structure or process? What were these challenges and what was the eventual outcome?

In discussion: a concern that *in camera* confidentiality may be compromised by hybrid meetings; Senate is too large; Laurier's processes are too slow; SPAT should be reconsidered given the University's growth; "consultation" should be clearly defined and understood; the Senate Governance Committee works well; the agenda bottleneck in January is not ideal.

8. Matters from the Consent Section of the Agenda

None.

9. Other Business

There was no other business.

10. Q&A

There were no questions.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by consensus.

12. Consent Items

a. Items for Approval

- i. Agenda
- ii. Draft Minutes of the October 22, 2025 Senate Meeting
- iii. Substantive Minor, Business Technology Management
- iv. Substantive Minor, Business Technology Management
- v. Substantive Minor, Master of Music (MMus C3)
- vi. Substantive Minor, Master of Science in Health Sciences
- vii. Substantive Minor, Master of Applied Computing
- viii. Major Modification, Sociology

b. Items for Information

- i. Reports of the Senior Executives
- ii. Embargoed New Program Proposal, PhD in Health Sciences
- iii. Report from the Senate Executive and Finance Committee re: 3-Month Fiscal Update
- iv. Fall Convocation Report
- v. Fall Enrollment Report
- vi. Report from the Senate Governance Committee: E-vote for Approval of Appointment of the Faculty Senator to the Sustainability Advisory Committee