



SENATE MINUTES

Online Meeting
Monday, January 26, 2026

Present: D. MacLatchy (Chair), A. Acharya, W. Arshad, M. Barua, J. Blair, T. Britz, T. Brookfield, J. Cairns, C-A. Cait, M. Cantalini-Williams, L. Chu, K. Clarke, V. Collis, J. Coolman, A. Davis, L. Dawe, D. Dee, S. Doherty, K. Dowler, G. Edwards, M. Emery, A. Essaji, G. Foster, S. Gillies, D. Gray, L. Habtemichael, A. Hansra, D. Henderson, A. Herman, S. Hu, P. Ironstone, C. Johnston Turner, L. Keeping, D. Kelly, M. Kelly, D. Kojutek, S. Lachapelle, J. Lavery, A. Lawrence, K. Lund, P. Mallet, D. Maoz, C. Matheson, R. McGowan, T. McLaren, R. McLeman, K. Murray, J. Newman, S. Perry, V. Philip, J. Popham, S. Poynter, S. Risavy, J. Rusin, C. Shiamptanis, M. Skop, J. Straub, D. Thomas, D. Van Nijnatten, M. Wiebe, B. Wolfe, M. Woodford

Regrets: S. Chan, I. Hamza, L. King, N. Patel, A. Zaidi

Absent: J. Crowell, R.J. Damour Mugabonihera, A. Domurath, G. Dilworth, T. Gibson, A-R. Mawlood-Yunis, E. Mazaheri, G. Yun

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

Open Session

1. Call to Order

a. Land Acknowledgement and Welcome to New Members

Following the land acknowledgment, the chair welcomed new members Debbie Martin, Vice-President: Finance and Administration; Kate McCrae Bristol, Vice-President: Student Affairs; and Richelle Monaghan, Dean of Science to their first Senate meeting.

b. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts declared.

c. Approval of the Consent Agenda

Motion (D. Maoz/M. Kelly): 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 (P. Ironstone/C. Matheson): to move the meeting *in camera*. **Carried.**

4. Leadership Update

a. Report of the President

D. MacLatchy provided an update on recent activities which included a “campus connections” day with Brantford officials, and the opening of the new winterized dome. She spoke to some government relations matters, including ongoing advocacy for the sector at both the federal and provincial levels, the funding model review that is part of SMA4, some considerations related to Bill 33, and some pre-budget advocacy. There were no questions.

b. Report of the Interim Provost and VP Academic

T. McLaren spoke to the preliminary Ontario application numbers provided in her regular update email earlier in the day and she thanked all members of the community involved in recruitment on a job well done. She reported on the University’s allocation of international students and some of Laurier’s expectations and plans. She advised that work continues by H. Northwood on some senior searches and she commented on the ongoing work being done by the Senate *ad hoc* Academic Structure Subcommittee (SASS) and the Freedom of Expression & Academic Freedom Task Force. In response to questions, she clarified some details about the international student allocation and Ontario application number details.

Reports and Recommendations from Standing Committees

5. Senate Academic Planning Committee

a. Embargoed, for Information and Discussion

- i) Creation of a new Faculty, Faculty of Law and ii) New Program Statement of Intent for a Juris Doctor Program

T. McLaren provided introductory comments to frame the context of the proposal and describe governance processes. Senators heard that a motion to recommend that the Board of Governors establish a Faculty of Law in principle will be considered by Senate and the Board in the next meeting cycle. A. Essaji and Kelly Gallagher-Mackay in turn spoke to the proposed new Faculty of Law and the statement of intent for a Juris Doctor (JD) program. Senators heard that the proposed Faculty: is contingent on the JD

being approved by the Senate and relevant regulatory authorities; will be located at the Brantford campus; builds on Brantford's existing interdisciplinary strengths; furthers the Brantford vision as a home to second degree programs; has potential for an innovative residential community; strengthens Laurier's status as a comprehensive university; will be a home for high impact research; advances Laurier's commitment to Indigenization and decolonization; and complements existing strengths across the University. Senators heard that as normal, in the future, once other approvals are in place, the Senate will receive a proposal for the JD academic program for approval, and separately, detailed information regarding the creation of a new Faculty for recommendation to the Board of Governors. In other discussion: evidence of student demand for the degree and method of study; other potential pathways in the future; the benefits and some of the challenges of the integrated practice program approach to articling; a high-level impression of the conversations held with external bodies; the benefits of the Brantford location.

- b. Virtual Campus Courses: In-Person Midterms, In-Person Assessments, and In-Person Final Examinations Location Policy

D. Van Nijnatten described the rationale for the proposed changes. In discussion: ways the updated policy should assist with academic integrity; capacity.

Motion (D. Van Nijnatten/C. Matheson): that the Senate approve the addition of the Virtual Campus Courses: In-Person Midterms, In-Person Assessments, and In-Person Final Examinations Location Policy, in the Undergraduate Academic Calendar, effective Fall 2026 term. **Carried with one vote against.**

- c. English Language Proficiency Test Requirements

M. Emery spoke to the proposed changes and Senate heard the motions as an omnibus motion.

Motion (M. Emery/A. Essaji): that the Senate approve the inclusion of LanguageCert as an approved test to demonstrate English language proficiency for admission to Laurier's undergraduate programs with a requirement of a score of 70 or higher with a minimum score of 65 in each skill beginning with 2026 admissions. **Carried.**

Motion (M. Emery/A. Essaji): that the Senate approve the addition of the new TOEFL 1-6 scale scoring in the undergraduate and graduate calendars beginning in January 2026 with a requirement of a score of 4.5 or higher and a minimum 4.0 in each section band. **Carried.**

d. School of International Policy and Governance

K. Rygiel introduced the new certificate.

- i) New Certificate, Undergraduate Certificate in International Migration and Governance

Motion (C. Matheson/M. Woodford): that the Senate approve the creation of a new for-credit Undergraduate Certificate in International Migration and Governance. **Carried.**

e. Faculty of Human and Social Sciences

T. Brookfield briefly spoke to each submission and clarified that in item 5.e.ix., the mode of delivery of "in person hybrid" is an added mode of delivery, not a replacement of the existing mode of "in person".

Senate heard the first four motions as an omnibus motion.

- i) Major Modification, Health Studies

Motion (T. Brookfield/J. Straub): that the Senate approve changes to the program requirements and mode of delivery of the Honours BA in Health Studies. **Carried.**

- ii) Major Modification, Health Studies

Motion (T. Brookfield/J. Straub): that the Senate approve changes to the program requirements and mode of delivery of the Honours BA in Health Studies in combination with another degree. **Carried.**

- iii) Major Modification, Health Studies

Motion (T. Brookfield/J. Straub): that the Senate approve changes to the program requirements and mode of delivery of the Honours BASc in Applied Health Sciences. **Carried.**

- iv) Major Modification, Health Studies

Motion (T. Brookfield/J. Straub): that the Senate approve the establishment of an In-person Hybrid General BA in Health Studies. **Carried.**

Senate heard motions 5.e.v. and vi. as an omnibus motion.

- v) Major Modification, Criminology

Motion (T. Brookfield/C. Matheson): that the Senate approve the closure of the Certificate in Criminology and Diploma in Criminology. **Carried.**

- vi) Major Modification, Criminology

Motion (T. Brookfield/C. Matheson): that the Senate approve the creation of new Specializations in Media and Crime; Power, Identity and Justice; Crime and Justice Policy; Advanced Criminological Research; and

Human Trafficking and Migration Studies for the undergraduate Criminology programs. **Carried.**

Senate heard motions 5.e.vii. and viii. as an omnibus motion.

vii) Major Modification, Public Safety

Motion (T. Brookfield/M. Woodford): that the Senate approve the Honours Bachelor of Arts Public Safety – Advanced Standing be offered in a full-time format. **Carried.**

viii) Major Modification, Public Safety

Motion (T. Brookfield/M. Woodford): that the Senate approve the creation of, and admission requirements for an online combined Honours BA Public Safety & Leadership program. **Carried.**

Senate heard motions 5.e.ix. and x. as an omnibus motion.

ix) Major Modification, Leadership

Motion (T. Brookfield/R. McGowan): that the Senate approve the change to mode of delivery of the Honours BA in Leadership. **Carried, as amended.**

x) Major Modification, Leadership

Motion (T. Brookfield/R. McGowan): that the Senate approve the change to mode of delivery of the Honours BA in Leadership in Combination with another Honours BA Program. **Carried.**

xi) Major Modification, Game Design & Development

Motion (T. Brookfield/L. Habtemichael): that the Senate approve the creation of a new 3+2 pathway between the Mohawk College Game Design program and Laurier's Game Design and Development program. **Carried.**

f. Martin Luther University College

K. Lund clarified that the program's correct name is "Spirituality and the Arts, Global Music Minor" and spoke to the proposed changes.

i) Major Modification, Spirituality and Global Music Minor

Motion (K. Lund/D. Maoz): that the Senate approve the changes to the name and program requirements of the Spirituality and Global Music Minor. **Carried, as amended.**

g. Faculty of Science

R. Monaghan spoke to the proposed changes and Senate heard the two motions as an omnibus motion.

i) Major Modification, Mathematics

Motion (R. Monaghan/L. Dawe): that the Senate approve the introduction

of co-operative education option in the Honours BSc Mathematics, Honours BA Mathematics, and Honours BSc Mathematics & Data Analytics programs.

Carried.

ii) Major Modification, Mathematics

Motion (R. Monaghan/L. Dawe): that the Senate approve the introduction of co-operative education option in Honours BSc Financial Mathematics and Analytics and Honours BA Financial Mathematics and Analytics programs.

Carried.

h. Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

B. Wolfe briefly introduced each of the proposed changes.

i) Major Modification, Master of International Public Policy (SIPG)

Motion (B. Wolfe/C-A. Cait): that the Senate approve the addition of the Digital Policy Innovation graduate field in the Master of International Public Policy program. **Carried.**

ii) Major Modification, Criminology

Motion (B. Wolfe/M. Skop): that the Senate approve the creation of a Type 1 Graduate Diploma in Criminology. **Carried.**

Senate heard the following two motions as an omnibus motion.

iii) Major Modification, MBA

Motion (B. Wolfe/M. Emery): that the Senate approve the addition of a new location (Toronto) for the Full-time MBA program. **Carried.**

iv) Major Modification, MBA

Motion (B. Wolfe/M. Emery): that the Senate approve the creation of a Sports Management Concentration in the Master of Business Administration Program. **Carried.**

i. Faculty of Arts

S. Lachapelle introduced each item briefly. Following a brief articulation of the difference between medieval and medievalism studies, Senate heard the first four motions as an omnibus motion.

i) Major Modification, Medieval & Medievalism Studies

Motion (S. Lachapelle/J. Rusin): that the Senate approve the creation of a Minor in Medieval Studies. **Carried.**

ii) Major Modification, Medieval & Medievalism Studies

Motion (S. Lachapelle/J. Rusin): that the Senate approve the deletion of

the Minor in Medieval & Medievalism Studies. **Carried.**

iii) Major Modification, Medieval & Medievalism Studies

Motion (S. Lachapelle/J. Rusin): that the Senate approve the deletion of the Option in Medievalism. **Carried.**

iv) Major Modification, Medieval & Medievalism Studies

Motion (S. Lachapelle/J. Rusin): that the Senate approve the creation of a Minor in Medievalism. **Carried.**

v) Major Modification, Anthropology

Motion (S. Lachapelle/D. Maoz): that the Senate approve a new option for degree completion for Anthropology, as a standalone major for completion of an Honours BA. **Carried.**

vi) Major Modification, Film Studies

Motion (S. Lachapelle/C. Matheson): that the Senate approve the deletion of the Film Production Option. **Carried.**

6. Senate Executive and Finance Committee

a. 2026-2027 Tuition Fee Report

J. Fraser and R. Reid spoke to their presentation, highlighting: the four categories of tuition rates; the tuition fee framework; considerations; proposed tuition rates and fees for 2026-2027. There were no questions.

Motion (T. McLaren/P. Ironstone): that the Senate recommend the Board of Governors approve the 2026-2027 Tuition Fee Report as presented. **Carried.**

7. Senate Committee on Research and Publications

J. Newman spoke to the rationales for the proposed policy changes. There were no questions.

a. Policy Revision: 11.3, Ownership of Student-Created Intellectual Property

Motion (J. Newman/L. Chu): that the Senate approve the proposed changes to 11.3, Ownership of Student-Created Intellectual Property, effective immediately. **Carried.**

b. Policy Revision: 11.8, Signing of the External Grant, Contract and Research Donation Cover Sheet

Motion (J. Newman/S. Perry): that Senate approve the proposed changes to 11.8, Signing of the External Grant, Contract and Research Donation Cover Sheet, effective immediately. **Carried.**

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 committee adjourned by consensus.

12. Consent Items

a. Items for Approval

- i. Agenda
- ii. Draft Minutes of the November 27, 2025 Senate Meeting
- iii. Substantive Minor, Law and Society Program
Motion: that the Senate approve the changes to the program requirements of the Honours BA Law and Society programs.
- iv. Substantive Minor, Human Rights Program
Motion: that the Senate approve the changes to the program requirements of the Conestoga College and Mohawk College Advanced Standing Program Pathways.
- v. Substantive Minor, Health Studies
Motion: that the Senate approve changes to the program requirements of the minor in Health Studies.
- vi. Substantive Minor, Criminology
Motion: that the Senate approve changes to the program requirements of Honours Criminology programs.
- vii. Substantive Minor, Public Safety
Motion: that the Senate approve the program requirement changes to the Honours Bachelor of Public Safety – Advanced Standing.
- viii. Substantive Minor, Public Safety
Motion: that the Senate approve the program requirement changes to the Honours BA Public Safety.
- ix. Substantive Minor, BA Multidisciplinary Studies
Motion: that the Senate approve the changes to GPA and graduation requirements for the Honours BA Multidisciplinary Studies.
- x. Substantive Minor, BBA
Motion: that the Senate approve the GPA requirements for transfer to Year 2 of the BBA program.

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- xi. Substantive Minor, Biology
Motion: that the Senate approve the changes to the admission requirements for the Honours BSc Environmental Science program.
 - xii. Substantive Minor, Health Sciences
Motion: that the Senate approve the changes to the program requirements for the Honours BSc Health Sciences program.
 - xiii. Substantive Minor, Master of Science in User Experience Design
Motion: that the Senate approve the changes in admission requirements for the course-based option of the Master of Science in User Experience Design.
 - xiv. Substantive Minor, Master of Arts/Master of Environmental Studies in Geography
Motion: that the Senate approve the course requirement change for the Environmental Data Analytics field of the MA and MES programs in Geography.
 - xv. Substantive Minor, Anthropology
Motion: that the Senate approve the changes to the General BA in Anthropology.
 - xvi. Substantive Minor, Anthropology
Motion: that the Senate approve the following changes to calendar description for requirements to Combined Honours BA in Anthropology.
 - xvii. Substantive Minor, Film Studies
Motion: that the Senate approve the reduction of junior credits counted towards the Film Studies Minor.
 - xviii. Substantive Minor, International Education Studies/Global Studies
Motion: that the Senate approve the removal of the required option of 1.0 additional credits of language study (language other than English) or 2.5 credits for the TEFI Certificate in the program requirements for the Bachelor of Arts-International Education Studies program.
 - xix. Substantive Minor, Multidisciplinary Studies
Motion: that the Senate approve the changes to GPA and graduation requirements for the Honours BA Multidisciplinary Studies.
 - xx. Substantive Minor, Religion & Culture
Motion: that the Senate approve the changes to program requirements for the Honours BA Program Religion and Culture Minor.
 - xxi. Substantive Minor, Religion & Culture
Motion: that the Senate approve the changes to program requirements for the General BA Religion and Culture.
 - xxii. Substantive Minor, Religion & Culture
Motion: that the Senate approve the changes to program requirements for the Honours BA Religion and Culture in Combination with another Honours BA program.
 - xxiii. Substantive Minor, Religion & Culture
Motion: that the Senate approve the changes to program requirements for the Honours BA Religion and Culture.
 - xxiv. Substantive Minor, Religion & Culture
Motion: that the Senate approve the changes to program requirements

for the Honours BA Religion and Culture and Honors BA Religion and Culture with Co-Operative Education programs.

xxv. Substantive Minor, Sociology

Minor: that the Senate approve the deletion of the 14.0 credit maximum for Sociology courses in the Honours Bachelor of Arts in Sociology.

b. Items for Information

- i. Reports of the Senior Executives
- ii. Embargoed New Program Proposal, Master of Kinesiology Program
- iii. Embargoed New Program Proposal, Master of Laws in Digital Technology and Innovation Governance
- iv. COU Academic Colleague Report