



SENATE MINUTES

Hybrid Meeting

September 26, 2023, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Present: D. MacLatchy (Chair), A. Acharya, D. Antonowicz, A. Beek, R. Buehler, M.L. Byrne, J. Cairns, M. Cantalini-Williams, L. Chu, A. Clarke, K. Clarke, J. Coolman, M. Coulter, L. Dawe, A. Domurath, C. Dutt, M. Elayyan, A. Essaji, E. Felician, E. Fox Tree, W. Gillam, S. Guardado, A. Hansra, A. Herman, P. Ironstone, S. Isotupa, C. Johnston Turner, L. King, S. Lachapelle, K. Lund, R. Makarov, D. Maoz, C. McAdam, R. McGowan, B. McKay, T. McLaren, K. Menon, J. Newman, L. Noronha, H. Northwood, V. Oliver, A. Parker, S. Pepper, S. Perry, S. Ramsay, M. Ras, H. Richards, J. Schwieter, K. Shankardass, M. Skop, C. Smith, D. Smith, T. Snoddon, D. Thomas, P. Urquhart, M. Walton-Roberts, J. Wang, F. Wang, K. Werbin, D. Wheatley, B. Wolfe, G. Yun, A. Zaidi, J. Zhan

Regrets: M. Abu-Rshaid, M. Baldwin, T. Dowling, P. Elliott, I. Joseph, J. Leung, E. Mercier, D. Yerichuk

Absent: N. Espiritu, C. Hoang, M. Khan, J. Monture, F. Perez, J. Popham, C. VanEvery-Albert, K. Zhu

Secretariat: A. Juhik, S. Kelly, A. Kornobis, A. Lukin, P. Marfisi, P. Nicholls

1. Open Session

- a. Call to Order & Approval of the Consent Agenda, D. MacLatchy

Motion (S. Ramsay/P. Ironstone): that Senate approve the Consent items listed for approval under item 6.a. **Carried.**

- b. Kick-Off and Welcome to Senators, D. MacLatchy
 - i. Governance Aspects: Voting Overview, A. Kornobis
The Senate was provided a brief overview of voting procedures as dictated by Robert's Rules of Order, emphasizing the purpose of abstentions and when to declare a conflict of interest.
- c. Leadership Update
 - i. Report of the President, D. MacLatchy
An overview of the president's portfolio was given including the following: orientation week and move in went well; it was noted that the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation was upcoming and that the University had a series of events planned to recognize survivors and those impacted by colonialism and residential schools; homecoming weekend took place with no significant incidents, a thank-you was sent out to both those internal

and external who planned and took part in this; the provincial Blue-Ribbon Panel had prepared its report and was moving through final processes to be presented to the government, a date had not yet been confirmed; the University continued its advocacy on tuition and grant flexibility, work continued with COU and with universities of a similar size and composition within southwestern Ontario, to note the inequities of the current structure; Laurier received one-time only funding for its bachelor of education program and continue to advocate to the province to convert this to base funding, it is anticipated that the results of the Blue Ribbon Panel will impact this; the President published an op-ed in the Toronto Star about stagnant infrastructure funding and its importance not only to the University but to surrounding communities; advocacy continued at the local level with mayors and councillors as a third party advocate and on shared advocacy priorities such as housing and infrastructure support; a survey was conducted to inform the role of the Brantford campus SEO and decisions would be shared shortly; the Vice-President Research and Vice-President Advancement & External Relations were up for review, search committees would soon be populated.

The Senate discussed: how competition with colleges (who were posting significant surpluses) was being considered and discussed, noting the high proportion of international students at nearby colleges and the pull towards professional programs.

ii. Report of the Provost and VP Academic, H. Northwood

An overview of the VPA's portfolio was given including the following: the University held a financial sustainability session earlier that week with numerous attendees who engaged heavily in discussion; a working group was struck to examine classroom safety and initiatives were being implemented, noting updates to the SafeHawk app and university notification system; a committee was formed to continue exploring the impacts of generative AI on the University; planning continued on program development, leased space and recruitment to welcome students to Milton in fall 2024; the Brantford 5000 Committee was created to develop an action plan, part of this included the exploration of implementing a Law School in Brantford; it was noted that a proposal for a cultural hub was being brought to the Brantford Finance Committee; the Strategic Academic Plan was tracking to go through the October Senate Academic Planning Committee and then Senate; the Dean, Lazaridis School of Business and Economic and Associate Vice-President: Equity, Diversity & Inclusion searches were underway with Committees being formed and meetings being scheduled; the upcoming ribbon tying event to unveil a mural by Ojibwe artist Michael Cywink in alignment with the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation; the Provost's ongoing visits to Divisional Councils and shared services.

The Senate discussed: concerns of the previous hiring pause on retaining talent and ongoing gaps on teams as well as the need for ongoing communication as these processes take place.

iii. Report of the Board of Governors, M. Ras

A summary of highlights from the last two Board of Governors meetings was provided noting the following: the approval of the Indigenous Strategic Plan and the Milton Lease Space Business Plan; the review and approval of capital planning policies; the establishment of a working group on climate change; the approval of the amendment to the tuition fee report given the approval of the tuition anomaly portfolio; the approval of the Audited Financial Statements and Pension valuation.

iv. Question Period: Written or Verbal

Senators discussed: procedures for University notices/communications surrounding natural disasters, conflicts as well as the passing of students and members of the university community; the University's commitment to updating Policy 8.3 *Conferring Emeritus Status on Retired Faculty and Professional Librarians* to expand language beyond "Emeritus" to refer to genders beyond male; ongoing impacts on student visa processing delays as well as the University's responses and support provided to these students; if there are vacant spaces in residences and if these spaces can be used for international students; concerns about graduate drop dates and refund timelines as well as required payment for transcripts.

d. Business Arising from the Previous Minutes, D. MacLatchy

2. Reports and Recommendations from Standing Committees

a. Senate Executive and Finance Committee, D. MacLatchy

i. Financial Status Update, L. Noronha / H. Northwood

A brief overview was provided to the financial status of the University noting that all information was provided in Senate materials.

Senators Discussed: clarification on if the \$5.8 million austerity measures factored into the \$11 million challenge noted in the materials; how fall enrollment numbers will factor into the projections and if they will help the current financial situation; how the university will retain staff and continue hiring despite the budget line for salaries and benefits staying flat from the previous year; concerns surrounding year-over-year projection shortfalls, why this is happening and how budgeting processes are being adjusted accordingly; concerns surrounding international student recruitment targets given the ongoing funding freeze.

b. Senate Committee on Research & Publications, J. Newman

i. Cyclical Review of University Research Centres/Institutes, J. Newman

The Senate Committee on Research & Publication conducted cyclical reviews as per policy *11.1 Establishment, Operations and Review of Research Centres*. In their review of the centres, the Committee must recommend one of three options: continuation with review in 3 years, continuation with review in 1 year, or termination. Rationale for continuation was included in the materials.

Motion (J. Newman/T. Snoddon): that on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Research and Publications, the Senate approve the continuation of the following University Research Centres, as presented.
Carried with 1 abstention.

- a. Laurier Centre for the Study of Canada
- b. Cold Regions Research Centre
- c. Laurier Centre for Sustainable Food Systems

ii. Cyclical Review of Faculty Research Centres/Institutes, J. Newman

The Senate discussed: the funding structure of these centres given the financial sustainability measures being put in place.

Motion (J. Newman/L. Chu): that on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Research and Publications, the Senate approve the continuation of the following Faculty Research Centres, as presented.
Carried.

- a. Centre for Research on Security Practices
- b. CPA Ontario Centre for Capital Markets and Behavioural Decision Making (CPA Ontario Centre)

The Senate Committee on Research & Publications chose to recommend continuation with a shortened review period of the Manfred and Penny Conrad institute for Music Therapy Research noting the transition of a new director as well and potential funding uncertainty.

Motion (J. Newman/J. Schwieter): that on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Research & Publications, the Senate approve the continuation, with review in one year, of the Manfred and Penny Conrad Institute for Music Therapy Research. **Carried.**

3. Matters from the Consent Section of the Agenda

None.

4. Other Business

It was noted that a feedback survey surrounding the joint governance dinner would be released and that there was an upcoming student orientation session.

5. Adjournment

6. Consent Items

The following items were provided for approval or information. The items noted for approval will be approved by consent unless otherwise highlighted during item 1.a.

a. Items for Approval

- i. Agenda
 - ii. Draft Minutes of the May 11, 2023, Senate Meeting
 - iii. Draft Minutes of the May 16, 2023, Senate Meeting
 - iv. Draft Minutes of the May 30, 2023, Senate Meeting
 - v. 2024-2025 Academic Calendar Dates
- Motion: that the Senate approve the 2024-2025 Academic Calendar dates.

b. Items for Information

- i. Report of the Senior Executives
- ii. COU Academic Colleague Report
- iii. Spring Convocation Report
- iv. Sprummer Enrollment Report
- v. Record of E-vote: Senate Nominations Report due June 26, 2023
- vi. Record of E-vote: Senate Nominations Report due August 30, 2023
- vii. Record of E-vote: Senate Nominations Report due September 11, 2023

Note: If you need assistance or have a question about these minutes or the Senate, please contact the University Secretariat office, by email to skelly@wlu.ca.