



SENATE MINUTES

Hybrid Meeting – SBC, Waterloo
Wednesday, April 8, 2026, 2:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Present: D. MacLatchy (Chair), A. Acharya, M. Barua, T. Brookfield, T. Britz, J. Cairns, C-A. Cait, M. Cantalini-Williams, J. Coolman, S. Chan, L. Chu, K. Clarke, V. Collis, L. Dawe, D. Dee, G. Dilworth, S. Doherty, A. Domurath, K. Dowler, M. Emery, G. Foster, S. Gillies, D. Gray, L. Habtemichael, I. Hamza, A. Hansra, D. Henderson, S. Hu, D. Hunt, P. Ironstone, L. Keeping, M. Kelly, L. King, D. Kogutec, S. Lachapelle, J. Lavery, P. Mallet, D. Maoz, A-R. Mawlood-Yunis, E. Mazaheri, D. Martin, K. McCrae Bristol, R. McGowan, T. McLaren, R. McLeman, R. Monaghan, K. Murray, J. Newman, H. Northwood, S. Perry, V. Phillip, J. Popham, S. Risavy, J. Rusin, C. Shiamptanis, M. Skop, J. Straub, D. Thomas, M. Wiebe, B. Wolfe, M. Woodford

Absent: W. Arshad, M. Barua, A. Davis, G. Edwards, T. Gibson, A. Herman, C. Johnston Turner, K. Lund, C. Matheson, G. Yun

Regrets: J. Blair, J. Crowell, A. Essaji, D. Kelly, N. Patel, S. Poynter

Secretariat: A. Kornobis, K. Jack, A. Juhik, B. Norwich

Open Session

1. Call to Order

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

No conflicts were declared.

- c. Approval of the Consent Agenda

The chair suggested that an amendment be made to the agenda so that the two motions related to the budget occur in the open session not the *in camera* session. No concerns were raised.

Motion (M. Skop/M. Woodford): that Senate approve the Consent items listed for approval under item 12.a. **Carried, as amended.**

2. Business Arising from the Previous Minutes

There was no business arising.

3. *In Camera* Session

Motion (P. Ironstone/L. Dawe): to move to *in camera*. **Carried.**

4. Leadership Update

a. Report of the President

D. MacLatchy offered congratulations to everyone as the community moves toward the end of term. She provided Senators with updates on several recent activities, including the successful open houses in Waterloo and Brantford, both of which saw excellent turnout and the recent update on Brantford campus vibrancy. She also highlighted a recent public lecture by Bob Rae, the Indigenous graduation celebrations at Six Nations, the Edna Staebler Award presentation, the athletics banquet, and the various Faculty colloquia showcasing student research. She further provided an update on government relations, including the provincial government's announcement regarding the funding model and tuition framework, postsecondary research investments, the province's AI strategy, and a recent visit from the MCURES Minister. At the federal level, she noted a recent visit by Universities Canada and ongoing advocacy discussions, as well as infrastructure-related realignment efforts between the federal and provincial governments. Municipally, Laurier's social and economic impact report was presented to Waterloo's Town and Gown Committee, and ongoing discussions with Brantford officials will be taking place again soon. There were no questions.

b. Report of the Provost and VP Academic

H. Northwood expressed her pleasure at returning from her leave and thanked T. McLaren for so capably stepping into the role over the past six months. Senate responded with a round of applause. She advised Senators that her upcoming Provost's Newsletter will differ slightly from the usual format. Instead of the regular staff spotlight, it will include a report on the research she conducted during her leave, along with updates on work within her portfolio over the past several months. She also reinforced the President's comments regarding the recent open houses, noting the excellent turnout at both events. She observed that there appeared to be a higher number of Grade 11 students attending than in previous years, and that the Brantford event was the largest spring open house held since before the pandemic. She thanked the staff and volunteers whose efforts contributed to the success of the events. There were no questions.

Reports and Recommendations from Standing Committees

5. Senate Executive and Finance Committee

a. Revised 2026-2027 Tuition Fee Report

J. Fraser introduced the report, and R. Reid spoke to the updates to the domestic tuition rates in light of the recent government announcements. There were no questions.

Motion (T. Brookfield/M. Emery): that on the recommendation of the Senate Executive and Finance Committee, the Senate recommend the Board of Governors approve the revised 2026 / 2027 Tuition Fee Report, as presented.
Carried.

b. 2026-2027 Non-Tuition Fee Report

Z. Danis spoke to the report, including details regarding the government's policies and the internal consultations that informed its development. She noted that parking fees related to faculty and employee groups covered by collective agreements had been removed, as they do not fall within the scope of this process. In response to questions, Senators heard that student union fees are not applied to Milton students because they do not meet the membership quota; a sector scan is conducted for fees to ensure reasonable alignment with fees at other universities; and consultation will occur should the government introduce changes to ancillary fees.

Motion (A. Herman/M. Cantalini-Williams): that on the recommendation of the Senate Executive and Finance Committee, the Senate recommend the Board of Governors approve the 2026 / 2027 Non-Tuition Fee Report, as presented.
Carried.

c. 2025-2026 9-Month Fiscal Update

Z. Danis provided Senators with an overview of the 9-month fiscal update and guided members through a brief presentation. Her remarks included the Q3 results for the consolidated operating and ancillary funds, key operating fund details, the operating fund forecast, and the consolidated forecast, with highlights of the major variances throughout. In response to a question regarding the predictability of fall student enrolment numbers, H. Northwood spoke about the detailed review undertaken to better understand the \$10 million variance, including some of the contributing factors and the ongoing work.

d. 2026-2027 Budget Report

D. Martin offered introductory remarks noting that because the province continues to embargo the information, Senate will move to discuss the budget in a closed session but that once the embargo is lifted, the information will be

made public.

[Secretary's note: the minutes below document a discussion that occurred *in camera* due to a provincial embargo on the information at the time of the meeting. In light of the province lifting the embargo, a motion from Senate to make the materials public once the embargo was lifted, and the Laurier community being provided with the details on April 21, 2026, the minutes are being distributed in the open meeting materials and minutes.]

Motion (P. Ironstone/M. Woodford): to move to *in camera*. **Carried.**

H. Northwood began by outlining the context for the budget, including information about the budget process, the modest targets that had been established, the strong work undertaken by the University community over many years, and the impact of the government's February 1, 2026 announcement. She also described factors related to the enrolment corridor and how Laurier has navigated the corridor. H. Northwood and D. Martin then reviewed the details of the 2026–2027 operating budget and the multi-year forecast. They highlighted the various factors affecting the budget and noted that strategies are being developed to address infrastructure needs and strengthen long-term financial stability. D. Martin also spoke to ancillary forecasts and projected net income/(loss). Senate heard that the primary reserve ratio continues to be closely monitored. Both vice-presidents thanked everyone involved in the budget process, acknowledging the excellent and diligent work undertaken in an increasingly complex and changing environment.

In response to questions, Senators heard from P. Cant that the pension-related figures do not represent a deficiency, but rather reflect increased costs; from D. Martin that scenario two on the net income/(loss) slide represents the worst-case outcome and is intended to ensure the University is prepared to respond to a range of possible situations; from D. MacLatchy that Laurier was not operating in a deficit during the pandemic and experienced other cost savings during that period, making it an imperfect basis for comparison; discussion regarding the use and meaning of the term "structural deficit"; and additional information about the use of reserves over the past five years and the efforts made to maintain an appropriate balance in their use.

Motion (M. Woodford/L. Dawe): to move out of *in camera*. **Carried.**

Motion (M. Woodford/M. Cantalini-Williams): that on the recommendation of the Senate Executive and Finance Committee, the Senate recommend the Board of Governors approve the 2026–2027 Budget Report, as proposed. **Carried.**

Motion (V. Philip/D. Maoz): that the Senate approve the associated materials and relevant minutes be made public once the provincial embargo is lifted. **Carried.**

6. Senate *ad hoc* Academic Structure Subcommittee

a. Draft Guiding Principles

T. McLaren spoke to the proposed guiding principles for the subcommittee's work, noting that they will continue to be refined following the discussion and will return to Senate for approval at the May meeting. In presenting the material, she highlighted the purpose of the guiding principles, key issues identified by the subcommittee, overarching themes, and next steps. She then reviewed the draft principles, which are organized into categories relating to overarching considerations, the University's Faculty structure, operational matters, and the University's multi-campus organization. During the discussion, she agreed that the subcommittee will consider whether any guiding principles relating to faculty members should also be added; noted that the principles are intended to reflect feedback received through consultations rather than prescribe specific outcomes; and noted that the committee's eventual recommendations will be specific and clearly articulated. There was agreement that the term "disciplines" should be more clearly defined. Senators were invited to provide additional suggestions to the committee for consideration.

7. Senate Committee on Research and Publication

J. Newman briefly introduced the new university and faculty research centres and agreed to take back to Research Institute for Sustainability & Equity the question of whether other researchers outside of the named areas might participate assuming alignment with the institute's work, and to invite them to consider whether there may be confusion with Laurier's "RISE (Reporting Incidents to Support Equity) Form".

a. New University Research Institute: Research Institute for Sustainability & Equity

Motion (J. Newman/J. Popham): that on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Research and Publication, the Senate approve the establishment of the Research Institute for Sustainability & Equity. **Carried.**

b. New Faculty Research Centre: Social Innovation Research Group

Motion (J. Newman/M. Woodford): that on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Research and Publication, the Senate approve the establishment of the Social Innovation Research Group. **Carried.**

8. Matters from the Consent Section of the Agenda

None.

9. Other Business

a. President and Vice-Chancellor Search Committee Update

A. Kornobis reminded Senators that the committee has begun its consultations and invited those who were unable to attend the pre-meeting session to provide feedback through the online form.

10. Q&A

None.

11. Adjournment

The Senate adjourned by consensus.

12. Consent Items

a. Items for Approval

- i. Agenda
- ii. Draft Minutes of the March 3, 2026 Senate Meeting
- iii. Substantive Minor Modification, Bachelor of Music
Motion: that on the recommendation of the Academic Planning Committee, the Senate approve the changes to the Community Music and Music Education specializations for the Honours Bachelor of Music program.

b. Items for Information

- i. Reports of the Senior Executives
- ii. University Research Professor Awards
- iii. Report from the COU Academic Colleague