SENATE MINUTES

Present: Deb MacLatchy (Chair), Abhijith Acharya, Sanaab Anas, Kimberly Barber, Mitra Barua, Manahil Bashir, Joanna Blair, Tarah Brookfield, Tyler Britz, Diego Cabral Melo, James Cairns, Cheryl-Anne Cait, Maria Cantalini-Williams, Vida Collis, Jason Coolman, Andrea Davis, Louise Dawe, Sean Doherty, Anne Domurath, Mike Emery, Stephanie Enyinnaya, Gary Foster, Scott Gillies, Isaac Halsey, Daranne Harris, Shengda Hu, Donald Hunt, Penelope Ironstone, Sapna Isotupa, Mary Kelly, Loren King, Sofie Lachapelle, Jonathan Lavery, Kate McCrae Bristol, Paul Mallet, Daniel Maoz, Debbie Maritn, Abdul-Rahman Mawlood-Yunis, Ebrahim Mazaheri, Rosemary McGowan, Trish McLaren, Robert McLeman, Richelle Monaghan, Jane Newland, Jonathan Newman, Heidi Northwood, Stephen Perry, Veronica Philip, Michael Ras, Steve Risavy, Dana Sawchuk, Christos Shiamptanis, Jennifer Straub, Kevin Swinden, Darren Thomas, Peter Urquhart, Makenna Wiebe, Brent Wolfe, Michael Woodford

Regrets: Anthony Benjamin, Ripley Clipperton, Jeff Crowell, Darryl Dee, Kenneth Dowler, Gary Edwards, Azim Essaji, Lisa Keeping, Demian Kogutek, Jamila Maliha, Nadir Patel, Jim Phillips, Jill Rusin, Michelle Skop

Absent: Sofia Ferreyro Mazieres, Derek Gray, Devyn Kelly, Kyle Murray, Sarah Poynter

Secretariat: Anna Kornobis, Karen Jack, Phil Marfisi, Jessica Balzer, Broderick Norwich

Open Session

1. Call to Order, D. MacLatchy

    a. Land Acknowledgement

    b. Kick-Off and Welcome to Senators

        The chair offered a warm welcome to new and returning Senators and thanked them for their volunteerism in Senate's important work.

    c. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest: none.

    d. Approval of the Consent Agenda

        Members discussed a question about the enrolment report under consent item 10.b.iv. with a note that it would be useful to see total counts of full time and part-time students broken down separately. It was confirmed that the next enrolment reports could display the data in this manner.

        Motion (Penelope Ironstone/Sapna Isotupa): that Senate approve the

Consent items listed for approval under item 10.a. Carried.

2. Business Arising from the Previous Minutes, Deb MacLatchy

There was no business arising from the previous minutes.

3. Governance Essentials, Anna Kornobis

Anna Kornobis provided a brief overview of governance processes at the Senate, including: reminders about using the portal to RSVP and obtain documentation; that Senators should come prepared and ask relevant questions, because this is a key part of their role; decisions should be made in the best interests of the university; an explanation of how quorum, motions, and voting works at Senate meetings.

4. Leadership Update

a. Report of the President, Deb MacLatchy

Deb MacLatchy began her report by noting that the University had recently hosted the CANHEIT conference for IT professionals in the post-secondary education sector. More than 500 attendees came to the conference, and Laurier's ICT team was thanked for their work in hosting the event. The University was welcoming the largest incoming class in its history and celebrating the launch of a new sports management MBA in Toronto. The new Principal-Dean of Martin Luther University College had been formally installed and was welcomed to the Senate. Several faculties are celebrating milestone anniversaries this year. Homecoming was a success. An update on government relations noted that municipal elections were taking place, and the University looked forward to working collaboratively with newly elected councils across its campuses to reaffirm Laurier as a critical anchor institution. There was ongoing advocacy work with the federal government that aims to strengthen institutional capacity and research opportunities. There were no questions.

b. Report of the Provost and VP Academic, Heidi Northwood

Heidi Northwood thanked all University faculty, staff, and students who represented Laurier at the Ontario Universities' Fair. The Senate *ad hoc* Academic Structure Subcommittee had continued its meetings over the summer. The Freedom of Expression and Academic Freedom Task Force had divided into smaller working groups for its meetings over the summer, and the full group had resumed its work for the fall terms. More updates from both groups are expected to come during this governance year. Plans for a law school are moving ahead, with a special advisor appointed to support the proposed Faculty and Juris Doctor program . Leadership updates were provided for the office of the provost and vice-president, academic, including: searches were underway for new deans in the Faculty of Education and Faculty of Music; a renewal

process is underway for Dr. Trish McLaren, and her portfolio as associate vice-president, academic was reviewed and restructured into deputy provost and associate vice-president, faculty affairs; Dr. Andrea Davis is serving as interim associate vice-president, integrated academic affairs in addition to her position as associate vice-president, equity, diversity, and inclusion; and Dr. Steve Sider was welcomed as academic director, international. There were no questions.

c. Reports of the Board of Governors, Stephen Perry

Stephen Perry provided updates on the activities of the Board of Governors from their recent meetings. There were no questions.

Reports and Recommendations from Standing Committees

5. Senate Academic Planning Committee, Heidi Northwood

a. Revisions to Policies 2.1 and 2.2 (Institutional Quality Assurance Processes), Trish McLaren

Trish McLaren reviewed the proposed changes to policies 2.1 and 2.2. The key changes proposed included clarification around the format of external reviews in terms of what was in-person and virtual, along with updated language for sub-degree credentials.

Members discussed which attendance options were appropriate for external reviewers in terms of what was conducted in-person or online.

The motions for item 5.a. were reviewed and passed as an omnibus motion.

Motion (Trish McLaren/Brent Wolfe): that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee, the Senate approve the proposed revisions to Policy 2.1., Cyclical Review of Undergraduate and Graduate Academic Programs.

Motion (Trish McLaren/Brent Wolfe): that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee, the Senate approve the proposed revisions to Policy 2.2., Approval of New Undergraduate and Graduate Programs.

b. Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, B. Wolfe

i. Major Modification, PhD in Computer Science New Program Proposal

Brent Wolfe reviewed the PhD in Computer Science new program proposal.

Members discussed: the amount of full-time equivalent (FTE) students needed to maintain the program; how the program compared to those at

other universities; whether there was expertise among program faculty in the ethical use of artificial intelligence; and that several faculty members did have a focus on research in artificial intelligence.

Motion (Brent Wolfe/Peter Urquhart): that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee, the Senate approve the PhD in Computer Science new program proposal.

c. Faculty of Science, Richelle Monaghan

i. Major Modification, Psychology

Richelle Monaghan spoke to the proposed changes.

Members discussed the implications of the proposed law school under development and what effect that may have on the future of the Sussex stream. Currently, the pathways are distinct enough likely to attract two different types of students.

Motion (Richelle Monaghan/Louise Dawe): that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee, the Senate approve the addition of a Sussex stream for the Honours BA Psychology program at the Brantford Campus, administered by the Faculty of Human and Social Sciences.

d. Martin Luther University College, Daranne Harris

i. Major Modification, BA Christianity, Interfaith Dialogue, and Community Engagement

Daranne Harris spoke to the proposed changes. In response to a question submitted ahead of the meeting, it was noted by a Martin Luther University College faculty member that the programs were in a state of transition; nomenclature for course names would be updated over time to reflect the program's orientation towards interfaith dialogue and study.

Motion (Daranne Harris/Daniel Maoz): that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee, the Senate approve the changes to the program name, calendar description, and course requirements for the Honours BA Christianity, Interfaith Dialogue, and Community Engagement and the Honours BA Christianity, Interfaith Dialogue, and Community Engagement in Combination programs.

6. Matters from the Consent Section of the Agenda

There were no matters raised from the consent section of the agenda.

7. Other Business

   None.

8. Q&A

   In response to questions regarding a possible labour disruption, members of senior leadership confirmed that there were contingency and communication plans in place, and that students would be notified of any impacts on them if necessary. There is a full day of mediation scheduled for Friday, October 2, 2026, and the university remains hopeful that an agreement will be reached.

9. Adjournment

   The meeting adjourned by consensus.

10. Consent Items

The following items are 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 21, 2026 Senate Meeting
   iii. 2027-2028 Academic Calendar Dates
   Motion: that Senate approve the 2027-2028 Academic Calendar dates.

b. Items for Information
   i. Reports of the Senior Executives
   ii. COU Academic Colleague Report
   iii. Spring Convocation Report
   iv. Sprummer Enrolment Report
   v. Report of Electronic Vote: Senate Executive and Finance Committee: OSS Senator and Vice-Chair of Senate
   vi. Report of Electronic Vote: Senate Governance Committee: Various Committee Appointments
   vii. Senate Orientation

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