

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

March 18, 2022

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The meeting was held at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom.

### SENATORS:

K. Arora	S. Hodgson	A. Nelson
P. Barmby	V. Jaremek	J. Nord
A. Baxter	T. Jenkyn	J. O'Hagan
J. Baxter	T. Joy	A. Pahargarh
I. Berry	S. Kadish	T. Peace
E. Boussoulas	E. Kalaydjian	P. Peddle
D. Brou	G. Kelly	S. Powell
S. Burke	R. Kennedy	A. Pyati
C. Burghardt-Jesson	M. Kim	V. Radcliffe
C. Burucúa	D. Kotsopoulos	A. Robin
E. Chamberlain	J. Lacefield	S. Roland
M. Cleveland	D. Laird	E. Sapurdis
J. Compton	J. Langille	A. Shami
S. Constas	M. Lebo	A. Shepard
J. Cuciurean	W. Lehmann	Z. Sinel
S. Datars Bere	J. Li	V. Smye
M. Davison	L. Logan	B. Sriharan
G. De Viveiros	M. Longtin	C. Steeves
R. DeKoter	M. H. McMurrin	L. Stephenson
M. Fahmida	M. Milde	L. Stoyles
C. Gallant	L. Miller	G. Tigert
J. Garland	J. Minac	J. Watson
K. Gibbons	K. Mooney	K. Yeung
N. Harney	S. Morrison	J. Yoo
L. Henderson	I. Namukasa	S. Zivkovic
R. Heydon		

Observers: Z. Fakirani, J. Hutter, R. Isard, M. McGlynn,  
N. Narain, O. Oloya, k. seanor

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

V. Smye offered a Land Acknowledgement.

S.22-57 MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

It was moved by M. Longtin, seconded by M. Milde,

That the minutes of the meeting of February 17, 2022, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

S.22-58 REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The Report of the President, distributed with the agenda, contained information on the following topics: COVID-19 update, statement of solidarity with Ukraine, strategic priorities fund update, 450 Talbot Street, strategic mandate agreement update, and gender-based and sexual violence.

The President additionally commented on the following items:

- President A. Shepard's return from medical leave.
- Western's United Way campaign raised over \$617,000.
- Approximately 35 Western students have been directly affected by the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. L. Laporte, Senior Director, Western International provided an update on support provided by Western including direct outreach, immigration support, immediate and long-term financial support, and partnerships with a variety of community groups and two Ukrainian universities. O. Oloya confirmed that the ongoing support aligns well with Western's values and suggested that there should be an action committee for emergency preparedness, which was being explored.
- Upcoming open house for future Western students.
- Goal of in-person convocation, including make-up convocation for students whose ceremonies were impacted by the pandemic.
- Honoured the passing of Sonia Labatt, wife of Arthur Labatt, Western's chancellor from 2004-2008.
- Plan for the April Senate meeting to take place in person.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

S.22-59 ITEM 6.1 – Membership – Selection Committee for the Dean of the Faculty of Science

Ken Coley was acclaimed to the Selection Committee for the Dean of the Faculty of Science as a member of faculty who is a Dean. Carolyn McLeod and Art Poon were acclaimed as the remaining two faculty members.

S.22-60 ITEM 6.2 – Membership – Selection Committee for the Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Humanities

Lisa Henderson was acclaimed to the Selection Committee for the Dean of the Faculty of Science as a member of faculty who is a Dean. Geoff Wild and Andrew Nelson were acclaimed as the remaining two faculty members.

REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY AND AWARDS

S.22-61 ITEM 7.1 – Introduction of a Policy and Related Procedures on Establishing Senate Academic Policies and Procedures

It was moved by S. Burke, seconded by S. Roland,

That effective March 18, 2022, a Policy on Establishing Senate Academic Policies and Procedures be introduced as shown in Item 7.1.

CARRIED

REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH BOARD

S.22-62 ITEM 9.1 – Revisions to MAPP 7.6 – Guideline for Postdoctoral Fellows and Postdoctoral Associates

CARRIED

S.22-65 CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

REPORT FROM THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY AND AWARDS

S.22-66 ITEM 11.1(a) – Faculty of Health Sciences, School of Kinesiology: Revisions to the

S.22-69 ITEM 11.1(d)

S.22-73 ITEM 11.1(d)(v) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Renaming of the MA, MSc and PhD in Geography

It was moved by M. Milde, seconded by J. Garland,

That effective May 1, 2022, the MA, MSc and PhD in Geography be renamed as the MA, MSc and PhD in Geography and Environment.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

S.22-74 ITEM 11.1(e) – Revisions to the Registration and Progression in Three -Year, Four -Year and Honours Programs Policy (Progression Requirements)

It was moved by M. Milde, seconded by J. Garland,

That effective September 1, 2022, the “Registration and Progression in Three-

- ITEM 11.2(a) – Election Results – Selection Committees for the Vice-Provost (Students) and the Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (International)
- ITEM 11.2(b) – Academic Administrative Appointments

S.22-78 DISCUSSION AND QUESTION PERIOD

The full text of questions submitted in advance of the meeting were posted in the Agenda at Item 13.0 prior to the meeting. The questions and responses are summarized below.

1. Faculty Extension to Submit Final Grades

A Senator asked if Western could extend the seven-day deadline for faculty to submit final grades.

J. Doerksen responded that the Senate Committee on Academic Policy and Awards (SCAPA) currently has a subcommittee looking at academic accommodations (SRA, SIRT, etc.). He added that there should be an update on the use of SRAs soon. He mentioned that 2,200-2,300 students had used the SIRT process with approximately 95 current active cases. J. Doerksen discussed the new AODA requirements to be put in place by 2025, mainly the move from accommodations to accessibility and group responses as opposed to one-off situations.

G. Tigert acknowledged the challenges that the University has faced due to the pandemic. He responded regarding the timeline to submit final grades and explained the process used in the Registrar's Office to prepare for convocation. He confirmed that there are only five weeks to prepare the final grades which includes adjudication by academic advisors, collation of the final grades, printing and collation of final degrees, communication for convocation programs, and verifying the information.

The Senator understood the tight timelines but added that there has been an increase in faculty burnout and a negative impact on morale.

2. Graduate Student Pandemic -Related Bursary

A Senator asked if there were any plans to provide a 2022 graduate student bursary to help students cope with pandemic-related delays to their studies.

L. Miller acknowledged there are issues for graduate students whose studies have been affected by the pandemic. She advised that departments have been creative in finding TA opportunities b77776.72 16.72 16.7ET .018 TwTj ET EM0 04.32 Lo0 0 12 2.018 0.0g.6 207.84 509

3. Strategic Priorities Fund Applications

A Senator asked for information on how applications for the strategic priorities fund are adjudicated, as well as if more meaningful feedback could be provided in the future.

A. Shepard advised that Western was able to devote \$20M for the strategic priorities fund to give funding for the ideas coming forward. There have been two rounds completed and one left to go. In the first round, \$12M was allocated and the second round was approximately \$2M. He added that there is still money left for future rounds in the coming academic year. This money comes out of the University's surplus fund and they are not base funds.

A. Shepard mentioned that in some cases, new academic programs or certificate programs were proposed through the strategic priorities fund, which was not the purpose of the fund. He was concerned about those proposals not coming through Senate or through the regular approval process.

A. Shepard confirmed that applicants were offered an opportunity for feedback on their proposals. In the first round, feedback was automatically sent, sometimes before the decision letter, which didn't go well. In the second round, contact information was provided for feedback. A. Shepard mentioned that they realized the mistake during the first round and aimed to correct the process during the second round. He apologized for any confusion.

4. 450 Talbot Street

A Senator asked about the vision for 450 Talbot Street and how proposals are being prioritized. The Senator asked how transparent the process would be and if there was any opportunity for collaboration across proposals.

A. Shepard responded and advised that the decision for 450 Talbot Street was ongoing. The criteria for proposals were published and he reviewed these points for the Senators. He estimated that they had received 19 proposals, 17