SENATE
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683RD MEETING OF SENATE
FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2026, 1:30 P.M.
IN PERSON AND BY VIDEOCONFERENCE

MINUTES

Chair: Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier

Present: Mariana Rodriguez Aguilar, Dr. Eva Bures, Julien Collin, Grace Cordeiro Ferrigno, Dr. Julie Desjardins, Dr. Anthony Di Mascio, Sofia Fata, Dr. Valerio Faraoni, Dr. Jonas Goliasch, Dr. Kerry Hull, Catherine Lavallée-Welch, Dr. Jean Manore, Dr. Adrianna Mendrek, Dr. Matthew Peros, Dr. John Ruan, Hans Rouleau, Dr. Jade Savage, Josef Spence, Dr. Maxime Trempe, Dr. Calin Valsan, Dr. Dawn Wiseman, Dr. Steven Woodward

Regrets: Juliette Chaput, Dr. Bruno Courtemanche, Dr. Heather Lawford, Dr. Linda Morra, Dr. Cranmer Rutihinda, Dr. Margaret B.K. Shepherd

Secretary: Geneviève Gagné

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier acknowledged upcoming changes in Senate membership and thanked outgoing Senators for their contributions to the work of Senate. He also welcomed Josef Spence, Mariana Rodriguez Aguilar, Sofia Fata, Juliette Chaput, and Joshua Hoekstra as incoming 2026-27 student Senators, and thanked the outgoing student Senators for their service.

683/1 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

Moved by: Adrianna Mendrek
Seconded by: Grace Cordeiro Ferrigno

Motion carried.

683/2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the 682nd Senate meeting held on April 10, 2026, were presented for approval. It was noted that minor corrections were brought to the attention of the Secretary General and will be implemented in the final version of the Minutes.

Moved by: Grace Cordeiro Ferrigno
Seconded by: Dawn Wiseman
Abstention: 4

Motion carried.

683/3 BUSINESS ARISING

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier indicated that the discussion regarding classroom recordings would be addressed as part of the Academic Report.

An update on the discussions with the members of the Decolonization Circle was provided. It was noted that recent meetings had led to productive conversations and that discussions would continue. A progress report and proposal will be brought back to Senate at a future meeting.

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier reported that the process to appoint the Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics had concluded, and that Dr. Valerio Faraoni had been appointed Dean for a five-year mandate beginning July 1, 2026.

683/4 COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

Principal's Video Message

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier reported on a new initiative consisting of regular video messages from the Principal to the University community. He noted that the purpose of the initiative is to provide information to the broader community on a more regular basis during the academic year with small number of topics being addressed at a time. Senators were invited to provide constructive feedback on the format.

Townhall

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier noted that a Townhall will be held on June 18, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., and will be preceded by a recognition ceremony. The ceremony is intended to highlight recognitions, including the Distinguished Professor Emeritus and Professor Emeritus distinctions, Faculty Merit Awards, and Contract Faculty Teaching Awards. It was also noted that new awards would be announced, with recipients to be recognized at a future ceremony.

Stephen A. Jarislowsky Chair in Undergraduate Teaching Excellence

An update on the Stephen A. Jarislowsky Chair in Undergraduate Teaching Excellence, currently held by Dr. Jessica Riddell, was given. An internal call for candidates will be issued in Fall 2027, with a new Chair holder expected to begin in May 2028. The Chair will be open to Tenure-Stream faculty and will support initiatives aimed at supporting undergraduate teaching excellence at Bishop's University.

Marjorie Goodfellow Chair in English Quebec Studies

The creation of the Marjorie Goodfellow (DCL'93) Chair in English Quebec Studies was announced. It was noted that the Chair was made possible through a bequest from Marjorie Goodfellow, who was well known to the Bishop's University community and whose contributions to the English-speaking community of the Eastern Townships were extensive. The Chair will be internal and will support work related to English Quebec Studies. While the timeline is not yet confirmed, it is expected that the Chair may become available around 2028. A call for candidates will be issued in conjunction with the call for the Stephen A. Jarislowsky Chair in Undergraduate Teaching Excellence.

A special event in recognition of Marjorie Goodfellow will take place on June 12, 2026, at 1:30 p.m.

It was noted that an additional Chair opportunity would be addressed in the Research and Graduate Studies Report, and that the new structure of the Vice-Principal Academic and Research portfolio would be discussed further as part of the Academic Report.

683/5 COMMITTEE ITEMS

5.1 SENATE PLANNING COMMITTEE (SPC)

Resourcing and Viability Report

Vice-Principal Academic and Research Dr. Kerry Hull presented the resourcing and viability review for potential approval. It was noted that the report included supporting documentation, a summary table, revised departmental summaries, and a Frequently Asked Questions section. The report had been revised and updated as a result of consultation with departments and Deans.

Vice-Principal Academic and Research Dr. Kerry Hull noted that endorsement of the report as a whole did not necessarily mean agreement with each individual program-level observation or suggestion.

Senators noted their appreciation for the work undertaken in preparing the resourcing viability review, and reiterated their concern that endorsement of the report may carry program-level implications. An amendment was proposed to add "in principle" to the endorsement of the report as a whole, clarifying that it did not constitute approval of each individual program-level observation, suggestion, or future implementation measure.

Concerns were also raised regarding the framework used to assess program viability, including the focus on teaching capacity and the lack of specific program-level targets. In response, Vice-Principal Academic and Research Dr. Kerry Hull explained that the focus on theoretical teaching capacity reflected the financial levers available to the University, particularly with respect to contract faculty allocation. She also noted that more specific targets would be addressed through other planning processes.

MOTION 1

On behalf of the Senate Planning Committee, that Senate endorse in principle the Resourcing and Viability Report.

Moved by: Kerry Hull
Seconded by: Josef Spence
Absention: 1

Motion carried.

Tenure Stream and Limited Term Appointment Guidelines

Vice-Principal Academic and Research Dr. Kerry Hull presented the revised Guidelines on the Allocation of Full-Time Faculty Positions, noting that the proposed amendments were intended to clarify expectations and processes in staffing requests. It was stated that an error had been identified in the reference to the collective agreements, and that the correction would be made to refer to the collective agreement rollovers rather than the original collective agreement. Updates to the terminology and the funding approach for Limited-Term Appointments (LTAs) were noted.

In response to a question regarding the process and timing for requesting LTAs, it was clarified that both tenure-stream and LTA requests can be submitted for the early September deadline.

A subsequent question was raised on the role of LTAs within our overall academic resourcing model. It was clarified that LTAs remain an important component of this model.

An amendment to restore the reference to "teaching excellence, success, and/or innovation" in the relevant section of the guidelines and the related form was proposed. A further amendment was proposed to clarify that references to new students in the guidelines include both fall and winter admissions. Both amendments were accepted and will be reflected in the final documents.

MOTION 2

On behalf of the Senate Planning Committee, that Senate approve the SPC Guidelines on Allocation of Full-time Faculty Positions.

Moved by: Kerry Hull
Seconded by: Jean Manore

Motion carried.

Vice-Principal Academic and Research Dr. Kerry Hull invited Dean Dr Matthew Peros to present the suspension of admissions to the Economics major. Dr Matthew Peros explained that the Department of Economics is facing significant staffing challenges and that the proposed suspension was initiated by the Department following discussion at the departmental and division levels. The suspension would allow the Department to focus its resources on existing commitments, including the International Economy major and service courses for the Williams School of Business. It was noted that any students currently in the program would be supported in completing their degree requirements.

It was suggested that a separate form may be useful in future for the temporary suspension of admissions, as the current form relates to program deletion. It was noted that the form would be adjusted accordingly.

MOTION 3

On behalf of the Senate Planning Committee, that Senate approve the recommendation of the Department of Economics and the Division of Social Sciences to suspend new admissions into the Economics Major (MAJECO) after the current application cycle.

Moved by: Matthew Peros
Seconded by: Eva Bures

Motion carried.

Vice-Principal Academic and Research Dr. Kerry Hull introduced the creation of the Academy for Performing Arts within the Division of Humanities, and invited Dean Manore to present. Dr. Jean Manore explained that Drama, Music, and Arts Administration have agreed to come together under a single academic unit administering all relevant programs, including the Musical Theatre concentration.

Dean Manore noted that the reference to the Musical Theatre concentration had been removed from the motion, as this concentration was not a separate academic unit.

MOTION 4

On behalf of the Senate Planning Committee, that Senate approve the merger of the Drama department, the Music department, and the Arts Administration Program into the Academy of Performing Arts as of June 30, 2026.

Moved by : Jean Manore
Seconded by: Grace Cordeiro Ferrigno

Motion carried.

5.2 SENATE PROGRAM ACADEMIC REVIEW COMMITTEE (SPARC)

School of Education

Committee Chair Dr. Jean Manore presented the SPARC report, clarifying that the School of Education document was a program review and response to the reviewers' report, rather than the Dean's final report. It was noted that SPARC had reviewed and approved the report and had appreciated its thoughtfulness and thoroughness.

In response to a question, it was clarified that the School of Education's programs include both Education-specific courses and disciplinary courses frequently offered through partner departments.

A question was raised regarding the funding timeline for wellness support for School of Education students. It was explained that the dedicated wellness advisor had been supported through strategic mandate funding in collaboration with Student Services. Although the initiative is seen as valuable in addressing the specific needs of Education students, discussions are ongoing regarding ways to sustain this support, as the strategic mandate funding is expected to be reduced considerably and the final 2026-2027 Budgetary Rules and the Calculation of Operating Grants for Québec Universities (*Règles budgétaires et calculs des subventions de fonctionnement aux universités du Québec)* have not yet been confirmed.

MOTION 1

That Senate approve the program review from the School of Education.

Moved by: Jean Manore
Seconded by: Julie Desjardin

Motion carried.

Williams School of Business

Committee Chair Dr. Jean Manore presented the Dean's final report regarding the Williams School of Business SPARC review. It was noted that SPARC appreciated the inclusion of accreditation-related considerations, recommendations related to reconciliation, and the report's emphasis on the need for additional faculty resources.

MOTION 2

That Senate approve the Dean's final report from the Williams School of Business.

Moved by : Jean Manore
Seconded by: Grace Cordeiro Ferrigno

Motion carried.

Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Committee Chair Dr. Jean Manore presented the Dean's final report regarding the Computer Science SPARC review, noting that SPARC was impressed by the significant work undertaken by the Department over the past few years to implement the recommendations of the SPARC review, where possible.

A question was raised regarding the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in Computer Science and more broadly across the University. It was clarified that the report focused primarily on academic programming, including developments related to cybersecurity and AI, while broader institutional questions regarding the use of AI will be addressed at item 6.5 *Policy Governing Administrative uses of Artificial Intelligence*.

MOTION 3

That Senate approve the Dean's final report from the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics for Computer Science.

Moved by: Jean Manore
Seconded by: Valerio Faraoni

Motion carried.

Faculty of Humanities

Committee Chair Dr. Jean Manore introduced the Dean's final report regarding the Études françaises et québécoises SPARC review, noting that the Committee was impressed with the development of the OUI Experience and the work undertaken to support the program.

In response to a question concerning the initiative funding, Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier noted that the draft 2026-2027 2026-2027 Budgetary Rules and the Calculation of Operating Grants for Québec Universities (*Règles budgétaires et calculs des subventions de fonctionnement aux universités du Québec)* appear to confirm continued funding for the francization mandate, although the rules have not yet been finalized.

MOTION 4

That Senate approve the Dean's final report from the Faculty of Humanities for Études françaises et québécoises.

Moved by : Jean Manore
Seconded by: Grace Cordeiro Ferrigno

Motion carried.

Committee Chair Dr. Jean Manore presented the Dean's final report regarding the Classical Studies SPARC review, noting that several recommendations could not be implemented due to resource constraints, reflecting the University's current financial situation. It was also explained that some recommendations were not considered to accurately reflect the Department's context, including a misunderstanding regarding pro bono courses.

MOTION 5

That Senate approve the Dean's final report from the Faculty of Humanities for Classical Studies.

Moved by: Jean Manore
Seconded by: Valerio Faraoni

Motion carried.

5.3 SENATE ACADEMIC AND CURRICULUM COMMITTEE (SACC)

Committee Chair Dr. Jean Manore presented the Senate Academic and Curriculum Committee report for information. It was noted that minor program and course modifications in Classics, Modern Languages, Drama, Philosophy, and English had been reviewed and accepted by SACC, following the submission of the required documentations. Senate was also informed of a request to change the name of the College of Liberal Arts back to Liberal Arts Department.

A concern was raised regarding the reduction of credit requirements for minors. It was noted that the change may allow students, particularly those in 90-credit programs, greater flexibility to complete both major and minor requirements within their degree.

5.4 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

In the absence of Dr. Heather Lawford, Dr. Calin Valsan presented the Nominating Committee report. It was noted that three (3) changes had been made, including the addition of Dr. Gilbert Gagné as the representative from Social Sciences, and Dr. Darren Millington as representative from Humanities, to the Senate Program Academic Review Committee (SPARC), and a minor correction regarding Dr. Malik's term on that same Committee.

MOTION

That Senate approve the new membership of Senate Committees for the 2025-2026 academic year as presented on May 22, 2026.

Moved by: Calin Valsan
Seconded by: Josef Spence

Motion carried.

5.5 SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Interim Associate Vice-Principal Research, Matthew Peros presented the Senate Research Committee's proposed Canada Research Chair nomination process. He noted that Bishop's University currently holds five Tier II Canada Research Chairs, one of which will conclude on June 30, 2027. It was explained that the nomination process would be conducted internally and must begin in advance to avoid a vacancy and the related loss of funding. It was further noted that the call would be open to eligible faculty members across the institution and that, in keeping with past practice, applications would be reviewed by a committee chaired by the Vice-Principal Academic and Research, with participation from the Deans and support from the Director of Research and Graduate Studies. The goal would be for the selected nominee to begin the Chair appointment on July 1, 2027.

In response to a question, it was confirmed that new Tenure-Stream Faculty members, starting on July 1, would be eligible to apply, provided they meet the applicable eligibility criteria.

Questions were raised regarding the decision to proceed with an internal search. While the financial considerations were acknowledged, it was emphasized that this approach should be viewed as specific to the current context and is not intended to establish a standard practice. It was also noted that an external recruitment process would need to be coordinated with Tenure-Stream hiring and could affect the allocation of positions to departments. The importance of maintaining research excellence and allowing for external competition in future processes was noted.

MOTION

That Senate approve the 2026 Tier II Canada Research Chair Allocation process as outlined in the current document.

Moved by: Matthew Peros
Seconded by: Grace Cordeiro Ferrigno

Motion carried.

683/6 OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 ACADEMIC REPORT

Changes in Academic Roles

Vice-Principal Academic and Research Dr. Kerry Hull presented the Academic Report. She explained the rationale behind changes to the Interim Associate Vice-Principal Research and Interim Associate Vice-Principal Learning and Teaching roles, noting that these changes followed discussions among the Principal and the Deans regarding the distribution of university-wide portfolios within the academic leadership team. She noted that, pending approval by the Board of Governors, the role of Interim Associate Vice-Principal Research, currently held by Dr. Matthew Peros, would be restructured as Associate Vice-Principal Research and Graduate Studies and assumed by the Dean of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Dr. Valerio Faraoni. She also noted that the Interim Associate Vice-Principal Learning and Teaching role, currently held by Dr. Jean Manore, would not continue. However, Dr. Jean Manore would retain responsibilities related to artificial intelligence, digital competency, and academic integrity, while other responsibilities would be redistributed within the academic leadership team. Vice-Principal Academic and Research Dr. Kerry Hull expressed thanks to Dr. Matthew Peros and Dr. Jean Manore for their continued support and leadership.

English Writing Proficiency

Vice-Principal Academic and Research Dr. Kerry Hull then referred to the second part of the report which pertains to the English Writing Proficiency requirement. She noted that, while support for students' writing proficiency remains an academic priority, the English Writing Proficiency program could now be formally closed, as no students were currently required to complete the English Writing Proficiency test in order to graduate.

MOTION

That Senate approve to formally close the English Writing Proficiency program and remove all mentions of the English Writing Proficiency requirement from the Academic Calendar.

Moved by: Kerry Hull
Seconded by: Catherine Lavallée-Welch

Motion carried.

Timeline for Senate Planning Committee (SPC) and Senate Academic and Curriculum Committee (SACC) Processes

Vice-Principal Academic and Research Dr. Kerry Hull provided an overview of the academic planning processes. It was noted that the goal is to make the processes more efficient and manageable for Department Chairs. She explained that departments would be asked to update their three-year teaching delivery plans, with SPC providing guidance to support the planning of course offerings. She also noted that the separate part-time course requests would no longer be required, as the relevant information would now be incorporated into the three-year teaching plans and the faculty workload calculation model.

Dr. Hull also outlined revised processes for major and minor course and program changes, noting that the changes are intended to improve the flow of proposals through the approval process.

A question was raised as to whether a form could be developed to allow departments to submit several minor changes together, rather than completing separate forms for each change. It was noted that the Registrar's Office is currently reviewing ways to modernize the forms, including the possible use of electronic forms. It was further noted that minor changes are not submitted to Senate and that the revised process is intended to provide greater flexibility.

Concerns were expressed regarding the timelines for submissions, particularly the September deadline for certain planning processes and the February deadline for minor course and calendar changes. It was explained that the deadlines are intended to align with the timing required for staffing decisions, academic calendar preparation, and student registration.

The importance of better coordination between the publication of the course offerings and updates to the Academic Calendar was stressed to support accurate course planning.

A comment was brought forward to the effect that changes made by one department may have implications for other departments, which can affect timelines and require additional coordination. Vice-Principal Academic and Research Dr. Kerry Hull indicated that moving the Registrarial review earlier in the process should help identify affected departments sooner and support better coordination among departments.

Updates on Degree Regulations

Vice-Principal Academic and Research Dr. Kerry Hull provided an update on degree regulations, noting that ongoing discussions regarding common definitions, program structures, course numbering conventions, and depth requirements would continue before the matter is brought back to Senate at a later date. She emphasized that the aim of the definitions is to improve clarity for students and support the future implementation of the Degree Regulations. She noted that a clean version and a side-by-side version of the Degree Regulations was provided to allow for comparison with the current regulations. The documents will be made available on a shared site for broader consultation.

Regulation for Classroom Recordings

Vice-Principal Academic and Research Dr. Kerry Hull explained that a document outlining regulations for classroom recordings had been prepared by the Secretary General for discussion. The draft is intended to provide a clear framework based on instructor consent while recognizing situations involving student accommodations.

The need to clarify wording related to accommodations was emphasized. Senators raised questions regarding student privacy, the use of artificial intelligence tools, consent, and the conditions under which classroom recordings are permitted. It was noted that the wording would be further reviewed before being brought back to Senate for approval and possible inclusion in the Academic Regulations.

It was noted that any related process or form should clearly identify the acceptable use of recordings or transcripts.

6.2 RESEARCH AND GRADUATED STUDIES REPORT

Interim Associate Vice-Principal Research Dr. Matthew Peros presented the Research and Graduate Studies Report, noting that the work of the Senate Research Committee and the Graduate Studies Committee is progressing on several fronts, including graduate admission processes, research-related awards, and research space requests. He noted that several graduate students had been accepted into competitive PhD programs and received significant external awards. He also noted that further work remains regarding individualized master's programs, including the clarification of approval processes, cohort support, and how these programs fit within the broader graduate studies framework. He concluded by congratulating faculty and students on recent research funding and other achievements.

A suggestion was made to further promote the successes of students completing individualized master's programs, particularly those who have been admitted to competitive PhD programs or received significant external awards. It was noted that highlighting these outcomes could help promote Bishop's research profile and the value of its graduate programs. Interim Associate Vice-Principal Research Dr. Matthew Peros acknowledged the suggestion and noted that some promotion is already taking place through social media and communications channels, but that additional promotion could be beneficial.

6.3 LEARNING AND TEACHING REPORT

Interim Associate Vice-Principal Learning and Teaching Dr. Jean Manore provided an update on the competencies framework, including the results of student and faculty surveys. She noted that the two groups shared some, but not all, priorities. Possible next steps include clarifying support for digital competency instruction and the possible creation of a Senate Academic and Curriculum Committee task force group or subcommittee to advance this work.

It was noted that career management emerged from the survey results as a competency of particular interest to students, reflecting broader concerns about employment opportunities and career pathways after graduation. It was also emphasized that curriculum mapping and student portfolios would be important tools and would help students connect their learning to future employment. It was explained that the competencies framework is intended to help students identify and articulate the transferable skills they develop throughout their programs.

6.4 APPROVAL OF DEGREES, DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES

The Registrar and Director of Admissions, Hans Rouleau presented for approval the names of students for graduation and for the conferral of their respective degrees at the next Convocation Ceremony.

A total of four hundred and sixty-six (466) students have successfully completed their program requirements pending receipt of final grades, and are seeking the University Senate's approval to graduate. The breakdown is as follows:

Degree/ Primary Division	# of Students
BA	**227**
BBA	**96**
BED	**77**
BSC	**50**
CER	**5**
MA	**1**
MED	**1**
MSC	**7**
MPG	**1**
Grand Total	**466**

1- Undergraduate Degrees

It is moved by Dean Peros that the University Senate receive the list of candidates for the following undergraduate degrees: Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Business Administration, Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Education, as presented by the Registrar, and that these candidates be awarded their degree(s).

Moved by: Matthew Peros
Seconded by: Josef Spence

Motion carried.

2- Graduate Degrees

It is moved by Dean Dejardins that the University Senate receive the list of candidates for the following graduate degrees: Master of Arts, Master of Education, and Master of Science, as presented by the Registrar, and that these candidates be awarded their degree.

Moved by: Julie Desjardins
Seconded by: Calin Valsan

Motion carried.

3- Micro-Certificates and Certificates

It is moved by Dean Manore that Senate receive the list of candidates for Micro-Certificates and Certificates as presented by the Registrar, and that this candidate be awarded their certificate.

Moved by: Jean Manore
Seconded by: Adrianna Mendrek

Motion carried.

4- General Motion to Add or Delete Candidates After the Senate Meeting

It is moved by Dr. Kerry Hull, that the Vice-Principal Academic and Research, the Academic Deans, and the Registrar be authorized by the University Senate to add the names of students to the graduating list, subject to satisfactory completion of program requirements, or to delete candidates who do not meet their program requirements by the date of Convocation.

Moved by: Kerry Hull
Seconded by: Jean Manore

Motion carried.

6.5 POLICY GOVERNING ADMINISTRATIVE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

Secretary General Geneviève Gagné presented the Policy Governing Administrative Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for discussion, noting that it was developed in response to Québec government requirements allowing public bodies to use AI tools provided that a governance framework is in place.

It was explained that the policy applies only to the administrative use of AI and does not establish conditions for teaching, learning, research, or other core academic activities. It was further noted that the policy is not intended to supersede Senate-approved academic policies, research ethics requirements, collective agreement provisions, academic freedom protections, or divisional and departmental academic governance processes.

It was noted that a student representative would be added to the institutional committee created under the policy, namely the Students' Representative Council (SRC) President or a delegate appointed by the SRC Board.

Concerns were raised regarding automated decision-making, particularly the reference to grading without human review. It was noted that academic uses of AI, including grading, fall outside the scope of this administrative policy and would require separate institutional discussion.

It was further noted that the policy would allow the University to begin considering AI strategy and tools to support administrative efficiency, while ensuring that such tools are used responsibly.

The meeting ended at 5:48 p.m.

Sébastien Lebel-Grenier, Chair
Vice-Chancellor and Principal

Geneviève Gagné, Secretary General