

665TH MEETING OF SENATE
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2024, 1:30 P.M.
MCGREER 100 AND BY VIDEOCONFERENCE

MINUTES

Chair: Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier

Present: Dr. Hafid Agourram, Sonoma Brawley, Dr. Eva Bures, Leana Ceresoli, Julien Collin, Bruno Courtemanche, Dr. Julie Desjardins, Dr. Anthony Di Mascio, Sophia Driscoll, Dr. Valerio Faraoni, Dr. Mark Gandey, Fiona Gaombalet, Dr. Kerry Hull, Catherine Lavallée Welch, Dr. Heather Lawford, Alex Madore, Dr. Jean Manore, Dr. Patrick McBrine, Dr. Matthew Peros, Dr. Jessica Riddell, Roser Rise, Dr. John Ruan, Hans Rouleau, Dr. Cranmer Rutihinda, Dr. Michael Teed, Dr. Maxime Trempe, Dr. Yanan Wang, Dr. Andrew Webster

Regrets: Dr. Dawn Wiseman

Secretary: Geneviève Gagné

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier formally opened the 665th meeting at 1:33 p.m. and welcomed Mark Gandey, Eva Bures, Valerio Faraoni, Heather Lawford, Maxime Trempe, Cranmer Rutihinda and Dawn Wiseman as new members of Senate. The chair continued by asking Geneviève Gagné, Secretary General, to present herself, and he introduced Danai Bélanger, Vice-Principal of Student Affairs, and Annick Lambert, Associate Vice-Principal of Recruitment, Marketing, and Communication.

665/1 AGENDA

The agenda was approved with a minor change to item 5.2 which was intended for discussion rather than for approval.

Moved by: Andrew Webster

Seconded by: Kerry Hull

Motion carried.

665/2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2.1 MINUTES OF THE 663RD SENATE MEETING

Geneviève Gagné was invited by the Principal to present the amendments to the minutes of the 663rd meeting of the Senate, held on May 17, 2024. Geneviève Gagné, Secretary General, noted an amendment to the attendees list (p. 1) to move Julie Desjardins to the regrets list and that Dawn Wiseman was to be added to the Motion section of item 7.5 of the School of Education (p. 14).

Principal Lebel-Grenier stated that the minutes of the 664th meeting of the Senate were currently being processed and will be presented for adoption at the Senate meeting scheduled for October 11, 2024.

The Minutes of the 663rd meeting of Senate, held on May 17, 2024, were approved with amendments.

Moved by: Andrew Webster

Seconded by: Roser Rise

Motion carried.

665/3 BUSINESS ARISING

The Chair talked about the Academic Code of Conduct presented at the 663rd Senate meeting (item 663/3) and clarified that with the recent transition, efforts are being made to incorporate all the necessary elements and corrections noted in previous meetings to the document. The final document should be conveyed to Senators at the October 11, 2024, Senate meeting.

663/4 COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

Principal Lebel-Grenier noted the potential for protests on various university campuses across Canada as the first anniversary of the conflict in Gaza approaches. He emphasized that, while political protests are a natural part of campus life, Bishop's University remains committed to providing a welcoming and safe environment for students and the broader community. The Chair mentioned maintaining communication with internal and external stakeholders from other universities to monitor the situation, and that contingency plans have been established in the event of such events to provide support to our students on campus.

Principal Lebel-Grenier proceeded to address the ongoing efforts towards creating a recovery plan for the University. Such a plan is meant to outline the roadmap for returning to a balanced budget and is mandated by government when universities are in deficit. He reminded Senate that a deficit is predicted for the current financial year but also highlighted that the projected increase in costs for future years is expected to far outpace the projected increase in revenue, resulting in growing deficits. The Principal mentioned that a clearer picture will emerge once the add-drop date is reached but that the fundamentals affecting these growing deficits are not expected to change significantly without intervention.

Principal Lebel-Grenier explained that a comprehensive analysis of the financial situation of the University is underway to support the recovery plan process and that it should be ready for presentation to the community in the following weeks. This plan will take account of the current context under which universities are operating in Quebec and the multiple constraints we are facing. The Chair also reminded Senators that the University will be going into strategic planning shortly and that, although the current context is very challenging, we should take it as an opportunity to assess the strengths of our institution, reflect on the implications of our unique educational model and look to essential foundations to our ability to thrive and deliver on our promise to students.

665/5 COMMITTEE ITEMS

5.1 ACADEMIC STANDING AND ADMISSION POLICY COMMITTEE(ASAP)

Registrar Hans Rouleau presented a two-fold report. The first portion of the report is composed of recommendations and a motion on standardizing the language of the academic calendar and related processes for course taking in another university. These changes are made to comply with regulations and pertain to the signature required on the letter of permission form.

Questions were raised on the rationale behind the removal of the Dean's signature. Registrar Rouleau provided more information on the management of the electronic process used for students who want to take a course elsewhere in the province – a process managed through the Bureau de Coopération interuniversitaire (BCI) - and on the process for students who want to study outside of the province of Quebec which is not electronic and requires the Dean's signature. He followed by mentioning that these changes are intended to harmonize the processes following discussions with the Deans at the ASAP level – the Dean's signature is not required at this stage. He also specifies that on both processes, it is the Chair that has signing authorities on the documents.

MOTION

That Senate approves the Academic Standing and Admissions Policy Committee's recommendation to remove the Dean's signature requirement for taking courses elsewhere. This change is to come into effect immediately.

Moved by: Andrew Webster

Seconded by: Kerry Hull

Motion carried.

Registrar Rouleau continued by explaining the second part of the report which pertains to the removal of a condition that is highly restrictive for students with non-standard degree completion pathways and hence is almost universally waived in any case.

Registrar Rouleau confirmed that the removal of credit requirements will not affect scholarship eligibility and that students must still earn half of their degree credits, including those for honours or majors, from courses taken at Bishop's. Formally removing the current requirement will thereby reduce the administrative obstacles for students, with the approval for taking courses elsewhere still left to the discretion of the Deans and Chairs.

MOTION

That Senate approves the Academic Standing and Admissions Policy Committee's recommendation to remove from the academic calendar section pertaining to courses completed elsewhere the bullet "At least 21 of the final 30 credits of a Bishop's degree must be completed at Bishop's, leaving a maximum of 9 credits which may be completed elsewhere on a letter of permission." This change is to come into effect immediately.

Moved by: Andrew Webster

Seconded by: Mark Gandey

Abstention: Julien Collin and Hafid Agourram

Motion carried.

5.2 GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE — THESIS SUBMISSION POLICY

Dr. Kerry Hull presented the Graduate Studies Committee report, emphasizing the importance of open access and secure dissemination of research through the institutional repository, which archives and shares scholarly works like thesis and research articles. To enhance this, the university is adopting a new repository, *Scholaris*. Dr. Hull mentioned upcoming amendments to the Thesis Submission Policy, including the need for official confirmation of thesis defense, a signed Thesis Non-Exclusive Licence Agreement, and compliance with repository formatting requirements.

Catherine Lavallée-Welch elaborated on the benefits of the repository as a digital archive for disseminating an institution's intellectual works and highlighted the need for a new system due to outdated functionality in the current one. She noted that the university plans to adopt *Scholaris*, a national repository initiative hosted by the Ontario Council of University Libraries' Scholars Portal, with Bishop's as an early implementer. Catherine Lavallée-Welch also mentioned that a privacy audit is underway to ensure the security of the service.

Questions were raised regarding whether thesis documents would feature the Bishop's logo and if thesis titles would be communicated to the Registrar's office. Comments were also addressed to define departmental processes and the consultation of the Decolonization Circle for indigenous data diffusion. Kerry Hull mentioned that some information is already part of the Graduate Studies Regulations, and a full evaluation of the Individual Master's Program is scheduled for the fall. Catherine Lavallée-Welch confirmed that discussions with the Decolonization Circle will occur, and a template and cover letter, including the thesis title and University branding, will be developed. Kerry Hull mentioned that a task force will be established to review BCI applications to improve student access to Individualized Master's programs.

5.3 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Interim Chair Dr. Heather Lawford thanked Dr. Dawn Wiseman for her service as the former Chair of the Nominating Committee. She noted that due to significant turnover, some committees still have vacancies which are in the process of being filled and should be completed by the October Senate meeting.

Nominating Committee Report Summary of new terms and renewals September 13, 2024

Page	Committee	Unit	Representative
3	Nominating Committee	Hum	P. McBrine (new term)
4	Academic Appeals Committee	SRC SRC (alt)	D. Henkel (new term) S. Driscoll (new term)
4	Academic Integrity Committee	Soc Sci SRC ugrad SRC ugrad	J. Robbins-Kanter (new term) R. Rise (new term) S. Brawley (new term)
5	Academic Review Committee	SRC SRC SRC (alt) SRC (alt)	R. Rise (new term) L. Ceresoli (new term) A. Mador (new term) F. Gaombalet (new term)
5	Academic Standing and Admissions Policy Committee	SRC Dean, WSB VP Student Affairs	R. Rise (new term) M. Gandey (new term) D. Bélanger (new term)
6	Lifelong learning Committee	Soc Sci	J. Morrison (new term)
7	Experiential Learning Committee	SRC	R. Rise (new term)
8	Graduate Studies Committee	Soc Sci	Miltsov (renewal)
9	Senate Research Committee	Soc Sci SRC ugrad	M. Aoun (new term) F. Gaombalet (new term)
10	Senate Library Committee	SRC SRC	S. Driscoll (new term) A. Mador (new term)
11	Senate Program Academic Review Committee	Soc Sci SRC	J. Robbins-Kanter (new term) S. Brawley (new term)
12	Senate Committee on Prizes	SRC	R. Rise (new term)

12	Research Ethics Committee	Fac Senator with Tenure	
13	Research Space Committee	SRC	F. Gaombalet (new term)
13	Senate Committee on Statistics	SRC	A. Mador (new term)
14	Senate Committee on Student Accessibility and Accommodations Services	SRC FT	C. Lépine (new term)
15	TLC	Soc. Sci. SRC	M. Aoun (new term) R. Rise (new term)
16	Senate Teaching Evaluation Committee	SRC	R. Rise (new term)
17	Senate Timetable Committee	SRC	R. Rise (new term)
18	E-learning Sub-Committee	Soc Sci SRC ugrad	D. Fernandes da Silva (new term) A. Mador (new term)
20	Ad Hoc Senate Committee on EWP/Writing Centre	Soc Sci SRC SRC	M. Vigneault (new term) C. Lépine (new term) L. Ceresoli(new term)
21	Governance Committee for Joint Committee on EDI	SRC	L. Cersoli (new term)
21	Working Group on Senate Committees	SRC	A. Mador (new term)

MOTION

That Senate approve the new membership of the Senate Committees as presented on September 13, 2024.

Moved by: Heather Lawford

Seconded by: Hafid Agourram

Motion Carried.

6.1 ACADEMIC REPORT

Dr. Andrew Webster discussed the government's decision to direct that there could be no medical note requirement for student absences under five days, which was made to reduce pressure on clinics. He noted some universities had implemented measures while others were more hesitant in doing so, including regarding whether the requirement should also be lifted for absences from assessment tasks and exams. The ASAP Committee will review the feedback from the Deans, following their discussions with their divisions, and will present a motion at the Senate meeting on October 11, 2024. Concerns were raised on examination rules— hence the need for standard guidelines. Hans Rouleau mentioned ongoing discussions with the Student Services office to develop a plan for structuring student accommodations for exam absences.

Dr. Webster reported a decline in enrollment, applications, and acceptances in Master's programs, particularly in the MSc Computer Science, largely driven by international students. He also highlighted the successful launch of the new Doctorate in Clinical Psychology. Undergraduate applications have increased to 3,022 compared to previous years; however, this is offset by a decline in admission offers. He added that the cause of this decline will be examined. He added that the University is ahead of target for enrollment with 873 acceptances received as of August 30, though this number will very likely decrease by the add/drop deadline.

Dr. Webster thanked Nicole Riley and her team for their work on projection data based on historical conversion rates from acceptance to registration. He indicated that the fall 2024 graduate student target has been revised from 90 to 46 and the undergraduate target from 690 to 681, influenced by factors such as the revised Quebec budgetary rules, the controversy over changes in tuition fees for out-of-province and international students, Canadian government restrictions on international students, and the French proficiency requirement imposed by the Quebec government which will have an impact starting next year.

Dr. Webster concluded by presenting the Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) enrollment data expected of 1,234 students this year, advising caution as various factors, including those previously mentioned, will affect these numbers. Principal Lebel-Grenier added that the University demographic is shifting, with more undergraduate students being admitted than in previous years, which impacts the institution since subsidies are higher for graduate studies.

6.2 APPROVAL OF DEGREES, DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES

Registrar Hans Rouleau outlined that 64 students completed their programs and are seeking the University Senate's approval to graduate. The breakdown is as follows:

Degrees	# of Students
BA	15
BBA	3
BED	1
BSC	3
CER	3
GCE	1
MA	1
MED	1
MSC	36 ¹
Grand Total	65

He pointed out that one of the degrees to be conferred is in accordance with the University's policy on the posthumous award of degrees (as approved on May 17, 2017, at the 588th meeting of Senate).

MOTION

1-Undergraduate degrees

That Senate approves 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).

2-Graduate degrees

That Senate approves 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.

3-Certificates

That Senate approves the list of candidates for Certificates and Graduate Certificates as presented by the Registrar, and that these candidates be awarded this certificate.

4- Posthumous degree

That Senate approves the granting of a posthumous Master of Science degree to Dhruv Gosain.

5-General motion to add or delete candidates after the Senate meeting

That Senate approves 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: Julien Collin

Seconded by: Jessica Riddell

Abstention: Valerio Faraoni

Motions Carried.

6.3 RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES REPORT

Dr. Kerry Hull discussed the Celebration of Research event held on September 12, 2024, where Vicky Chartrand and Linda Morra were honoured with the Research and Creativity Award. The event also featured Bruno Courtemanche's 3D mines modelling exhibition which was a great success. Dr. Hull continued by highlighting the presence of the Chair of the Board of Governors, who had the opportunity to interact with Bishop's University researchers and to appreciate the diversity of their work. She expressed that faculty participation is highly valued and invited suggestions to help increase involvement.

She announced that the research space allocation requests will be sent next week and called for volunteers for the Ethics, Animal Care, and Student Research Projects Committees, emphasizing that involvement in these committees is crucial for advancing research. She concluded by stating that the Office of Research and Graduate Studies is exploring ways to develop an improved framework for regional collaboration and a new institutional repository web-based system to enhance the transparency of research and creative work dissemination.

6.4 LIBRARY REPORT IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE 2022 SPARC REVIEW

Catherine Lavallée-Welch highlighted improvements to the LLC carried out during the summer, including the relocation of librarian offices and the implementation of noise-reduction measures.

6.5 SENATE HANDBOOK

Geneviève Gagné informed Senators that the 2024-2025 Senate handbook has been uploaded and reminded them that it serves as an informational and reference resource for Senate matters.

665/7 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 William School of Business – No recommendation

7.2 Division of Humanities – No recommendation

7.3 Division of Social Sciences – No recommendation

7.4 Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics – No recommendation

7.5 School of Education – No recommendation

The meeting was adjourned at 3:17 p.m.



Sébastien Lebel-Grenier, Chair
Vice-Chancellor and Principal



Geneviève Gagné, Secretary General