

**675TH MEETING OF SENATE
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2025, 1:30 P.M.
IN PERSON AND BY VIDEOCONFERENCE**

MINUTES

Chair: Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier

Present: Sonoma Brawley, Dr. Eva Bures, Julien Colin, Dr. Julie Desjardins, Dr. Anthony Di Mascio, Dr. Valerio Faraoni, Rosalyn French, Mathieu Garceau-Tremblay, Dr. Kerry Hull, Mirana Iliza, Catherine Lavallée-Welch, Dr. Heather Lawford, Dr. Jean Manore, Dr. Adrianna Mendrek, Emily Miller, Dr. Linda Morra, Dr. Matthew Peros, Hans Rouleau, Dr. John Ruan, Dr. Cranmer Ruthihinda, Liam Stewart, Dr. Jade Savage, Dr. Margaret B.K. Shepherd, Dr. Maxime Trempe, Dr. Calin Valsan, Vivienne Webster, Dr. Dawn Wiseman, Dr. Steven Woodward

Regrets: Dr. Bruno Courtemanche, Dr. Yanan Wang

Secretary: Geneviève Gagné

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier formally opened the 675th meeting at 1:37 p.m. and welcomed all attendees. He extended a special welcome to several colleagues assuming new roles: Dr. Kerry Hull as Interim Vice-Principal Academic and Research; Dr. Matthew Peros as Interim Associate Vice-Principal Research; Dr. Jean Manore as Interim Associate Vice-Principal Learning and Teaching – a newly created position – and Dr. Valerio Faraoni as Interim Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier also warmly welcomed the new Senators: Dr. Calin Valsan, Dr. Linda Morra, Dr. Steven Woodward and Dr. Jade Savage as well as new student Senators who were attending their first Senate meeting, Emily Miller and Liam Stewart.

675/1 AGENDA

The agenda was approved, with item 5.1 amended for discussion instead of approval.

Moved by: Heather Lawford

Seconded by: Steven Woodward

Motion carried.

675/2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the 673rd meeting of Senate, held on May 23, 2025, were submitted for approval. It was noted that minor corrections had been received and will be incorporated into the final version. The Minutes were approved with these amendments.

Moved by: Dawn Wiseman

Seconded by: Mathieu Garceau-Tremblay

Motion carried.

The Minutes of the 674th meeting of Senate – electronic vote – held on July 21, 2025, were submitted for approval.

Moved by: Jean Manore

Seconded by: Vivienne Webster

Motion carried.

675/3 BUSINESS ARISING

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier provided an update on Item 3 — *Professional Librarian Representation on Senate* (May 23, 2025) — noting that the proposal, initially discussed at the April 11, 2025, Senate meeting was presented to the Board of Governors on June 13, 2025. The matter has since been referred to the Governance and Ethics Committee, which will present its recommendation to the Board of Governors at its September 26, 2025, meeting.

Interim Vice-Principal Academic and Research Kerry Hull provided an update on Item 6.3 – Moodle Access Issues (March 14 and April 11, 2025) noting that measures have been implemented to minimize class disruptions and alleviate impacts on students. She also invited Senators to share any feedback or suggestions regarding these measures with the Registrar's Office.

Clarification was sought on how faculty would be informed of the initiative, with an emphasis on the need-to-know which students may be affected. Interim Vice-Principal Academic and Research Kerry Hull explained that, due to privacy considerations, the identities of the students concerned would not be disclosed. She also clarified that Moodle access would be revoked at 10 p.m. on the Thursday before Reading Week to minimize class disruption and to provide sufficient time to contact the Registrar's Office. Access would be restored as soon as students reach an agreement with the Registrar's Office. Hans Rouleau indicated that communications to affected students would be issued in advance through various channels, and that faculty would be informed prior to the revocation taking place. A statement regarding the Moodle access revocation would also be added to the Sessional Dates webpage.

A suggestion was made to explore the possibility of moving affected students from the course roster to the waiting list, rather than removing them from the class, noting this approach could address the relational issues with the University, while still limiting Moodle access.

Concerns raised in previous discussions were brought noting that denying students access to Moodle could significantly impact their coursework, assessments and fairness while creating additional accommodation burdens for faculty. Interim Vice-Principal Academic and Research Kerry Hull emphasized that these concerns had been taken into consideration, but no feasible alternative solutions were found.

Strategic Plan

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier reported that the Strategic Plan had been adopted by the Board of Governors on June 13, 2025. The official launch is scheduled to take place at the Gait on September 26, 2025, at 1 p.m. Communications will be issued in the coming days, and all are invited to attend.

University Budget

The Board of Governors adopted the 2025-2026 budget on June 13, 2025. The budget projects a deficit of \$1.4 million, reflecting a particularly challenging financial context. Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier explained that the government's under-indexation of grants, combined with changes to budget rules, is exerting significant pressure on the University's financial resources and operational planning.

Declining enrolment—especially international but also from other provinces—has intensified these pressures by limiting the University's ability to generate revenue and sustain balanced operations. This situation mirrors challenges faced by institutions across the province.

In response, the University is maintaining the recovery plan and continuing to implement targeted recruitment and retention initiatives to stabilize enrolment and revenues. The budget will be updated after the add/drop date in late October to incorporate the most recent figures, and a Townhall will be held to present the updated data.

A question was raised regarding whether maintaining the current targets of the recovery plan would result in failure. Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier confirmed that, without adjustments, the plan will not achieve a full recovery of the structural deficit. He emphasized that this challenge is shared by other universities and will require government intervention, either through additional funding or increased revenue flexibility. While a review or an extended timeline may ultimately be necessary, the current strategy is to stay the course, as the University is now aligned with others rather than standing as an outlier.

The *Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur* (MES) requires a recovery plan when deficit occurs but has signalled it will not take an overly intrusive approach. The gap between the current plan and achieving balance budget is expected to be addressed through future University policy changes, though the situation will be reassessed if it worsens.

Tenure-Stream Positions

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier informed Senators that the Board of Governors, at its June 13, 2025, meeting, postponed the approval of tenure-stream positions in view of the current financial constraints and insufficient data to support an informed decision. Recommendations for tenure-stream positions will be brought back to the Board of Governors for consideration in December 2025.

Government Relations

Senators were reminded of the favourable outcome of the court challenge brought by Concordia and McGill Universities against the francization requirements and tuition increases for Canadian non-Quebec resident students imposed by the provincial government in 2023. The ruling led to the removal of the francization mandate but also to the suspension of the corresponding funding. Although the mandate is no longer in place and formal funding has yet to be reinstated, Deputy Ministers as well as the Minister of Higher Education have reassured the University that the funding will be forthcoming. In the meantime, Bishop's is moving forward with its French-language initiatives – an official launch will take place on September 17 at lunch at the LLC Agora, followed by outdoor activities.

The government has until the end of the year to review its tuition regulations, and current indications suggest it intends to maintain its stance on tuition increases for universities. In this context, Bishop's has initiated discussions with the government to develop a collaborative, non-punitive framework for supporting French-language learning opportunities for students. Despite recent changes within the provincial Cabinet, discussions remain ongoing, and a positive resolution appears possible. Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier noted that he attended the swearing-in ceremony and met with several ministers to ensure they recognize Bishop's unique situation.

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier informed Senators that the government's multi-year immigration consultations, initiated in June, are premised on international students being considered immigrants. In response, Bishop's submitted a brief advocating for distinct treatment and coordinated its position with other universities and local stakeholders. He noted that he was invited to appear before the Parliamentary Committee to present the University's position, and although consultations were paused following the prorogation of the National Assembly, it is expected they will resume shortly.

Given the government's focus on identity politics, challenges are anticipated; however, advocacy efforts will remain ongoing.

In response to a question regarding the possibility of the Parti Québécois (PQ) forming the next government, it was noted that their position on these matters remains uncertain. The University is monitoring the situation and establishing contacts in preparation for potential policy shifts.

Dr. Eva Bures arrived at 2: 25 p.m.

675/5 COMMITTEE ITEMS

5.1 ACADEMIC STANDING AND ADMISSIONS POLICY (ASAP)

Registrar Hans Rouleau presented a two-fold report for discussion.

Course Withdrawal Notation

The Academic Standing and Admissions Policy (ASAP) Committee reviewed the current course withdrawal process, which includes three (3) key periods: the add-drop period; withdrawal without permission (currently noted as "WP"); and exceptional withdrawals with permission after the deadline. As the current use of "WP" is misleading—since students may withdraw without permission up to the ninth week—the Committee proposed introducing a "W" notation during this period, with a limit of ten (10) withdrawals before students are flagged for follow-up. This change aims to address the pattern of repeated withdrawals and ensure that appropriate support measures are in place.

A discussion followed, during which Hans Rouleau provided clarification on the proposed ten (10) "W" limit and the ninth (9) week withdrawal deadline. He emphasized that the ninth (9) week aligns with practices at other Canadian universities following adjustments made during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the limit of ten (10) withdrawals corresponds to an approximate of two (2) semesters' worth of courses, with immediate flagging if a student withdraws from all courses in a single semester.

Concerns were raised about the potential impact of multiple "W" notations on transcripts, particularly for students withdrawing for financial or medical reasons, or to avoid detrimental grades. Registrar Hans Rouleau reiterated that the primary goal of the proposed policy is to identify at-risk students earlier and ensure timely institutional support. Although not implemented yet, an early alert system involving midterm grades has previously been discussed at Senate.

Several comments highlighted the importance of appropriate support services and early intervention to promote student success. It was also mentioned that limiting the number of withdrawals permitted would help manage course availability, as frequent withdrawals can prevent other students from securing seats in high-demand classes.

A request was made for data on the distribution and frequency of course withdrawals to assess whether the proposed limit of ten (10) is appropriate and to inform future discussion on potential adjustments.

“With Distinction” Notation at Convocation

Senators were reminded that discussions are ongoing at the ASAP Committee level regarding the methodology for awarding the “With Distinction” notation. Senators were encouraged to consult with their faculty members during upcoming Divisional and School meetings and to share any feedback with the Registrars’ Office. Student Senators will also be consulted to gather their perspectives.

A question was raised regarding the applicability of the “With Distinction” notation to graduate degrees. Hans Rouleau clarified that the notation currently applies only to undergraduate degree.

It was noted that preliminary discussions at the student level highlighted the high percentage of “With Distinction” designations awarded to previous graduating classes. Future discussions may focus on determining the appropriate threshold to better reflect student achievement.

5.2 SENATE PLANNING COMMITTEE (SPC)

Interim Vice-Principal Academic and Research Kerry Hull noted that the report consisted of four (4) updates, including the three (3)-year teaching plans and the five (5) to ten (10)-year tenure faculty staffing plan – further discussed under item 6.1 alongside the financial modelling report – tenure-stream positions and limited-term appointment conversion.

Three (3) year Teaching Plans

The preliminary analysis of departmental teaching plans reflects anticipated retirements and the non-replacement of certain limited-term appointments. Interim Vice-Principal Academic and Research Kerry Hull thanked Department Chairs for their efforts to reduce projected course needs and noted that an update will be presented to Senate at the October meeting.

Five (5) to Ten (10) year Staffing Plans

Following the Senate motion presented at the April 11, 2025, meeting, Deans and Chairs are developing long-term staffing plans. Deans have until September 25, 2025, to submit their plans to the Senate Planning Committee in preparation for a university-wide discussion at the October 24, 2025, Senate meeting.

Tenure-Stream Positions

As mentioned by the Principal, the Board of Governors did not approve new tenure-stream positions at its June 13, 2025, meeting. Departments are encouraged to submit requests through the usual process in anticipation of future hires. The Senate Planning Committee has begun meeting with Chairs to review and clarify requests received so far. The meeting process should be completed within two (2) weeks before proceeding with the evaluations.

Limited-Term Appointment

Vice-Principal Academic and Research Kerry Hull conveyed the approval of one (1) limited-term appointment in the Williams School of Business, enabling the hiring of Charles Milliard to teach three (3) courses during the Fall semester.

5.3 SENATE PROGRAM ACADEMIC REVIEW COMMITTEE (SPARC)

Interim Vice-Principal Learning and Teaching Jean Manore presented an updated list of reviewers for the upcoming program reviews. She noted that the School of Education submitted a revised list of internal reviewers, while the Arts Administration Department proposed three (3) external reviewers—two (2) from Canadian universities and one (1) from the United States—given this type of program’s stronger presence and reputation in the neighbouring country.

MOTION

That Senate approve the proposed reviewers as presented in Appendix 2 and 3 for:

- The School of Education
- The Department of Arts Administration

Moved by: Jean Manore

Seconded by: Dawn Wiseman

Motion carried.

Postponement of Program review

Given the ongoing curriculum review and structural changes within the Division of Humanities, the Senate Program Academic Review Committee supported the Department of Philosophy’s request to postpone its program review.

A question was raised regarding whether similar postponement requests from other departments would also be approved. Interim Associate Vice-Principal Learning and Teaching Jean Manore clarified that such requests would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

MOTION

That Senate approve the postponement of the Senate Program Review Committee review for the Department of Philosophy until the Fall of 2026 as requested in Appendix 4.

Moved by: Jean Manore

Seconded by: Sonoma Brawley

Abstention: 1

Motion carried.

5.4 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Dr. Heather Lawford provided an update on Committee membership mentioning that the Senate Nominating Committee was filled. She extended thanks to Calin Valsan and Steven Woodward for joining the Committee.

MOTION

That Senate approve the new membership of Senate Committees for the 2025-2026 academic year as presented on September 12, 2025.

Moved by: Heather Lawford

Seconded by: Kerry Hull

Abstention: 1

Motion carried.

5.5 GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE

Interim Vice-Principal Academic and Research Kerry Hull clarified that Interim Associate Vice-Principal Research, Matthew Peros, will now serve as the lead of the committee and then presented the Cross-level Listing of Undergraduate/Graduate Courses Policy, which was approved by the Graduate Studies Committee in September 2022 but never formally endorsed by Senate. Nonetheless, its principles have been consistently applied and are reflected in Senate-approved procedures for the Individualized Master's program.

A friendly amendment to the motion was proposed to account for the potential creation of the Senate Academic and Curriculum Committee (SACC) and the transfer of approval responsibilities to this new body.

In response to a question regarding the need for committee approval, it was explained that this applies only to newly created courses as some past cross-level courses did not adequately distinguish between undergraduate and graduate levels. The proposed criteria aim to ensure academic standards are met across both levels. Suggestions were also made regarding the recognition and seniority points for Contract Faculty, underscoring the need for further consideration of the policy implications.

MOTION

That Senate approve the Cross-listing of Undergraduate/Graduate Courses Policy and approve the transfer of approval responsibilities to the Senate Academic and Curriculum Committee if and when it is created.

Moved by: Kerry Hull

Seconded by: Steven Woodward

Motion carried.

5.6 SENATE WORKING GROUP ON SENATE COMMITTEES

Interim Vice-Principal Academic and Research Kerry Hull provided an overview of the original mandate of the Senate Working Group on Senate Committees, established in September 2023. Due to competing priorities, the group was unable to complete its mandate, which involved reviewing the relevance and structure of Senate Committees. Given evolving institutional needs and increased administrative support, maintaining full membership on some committees has become both unnecessary and increasingly challenging. As related committee governance may be addressed in significant part through the potential creation of the Senate Academic and Curriculum Committee (SACC), and with the support of the Secretary General for any other committee, the dissolution of the Working Group on Senate Committees was presented as an appropriate next step.

Comments were raised regarding the frequency of committee reports to Senate, with the expectation that reporting should occur regularly to expose the ongoing work being addressed and that a mechanism be instated to prevent committees from becoming dormant. It was further noted that faculty engagement continues to pose significant challenges, underscoring the need for an in-depth evaluation of the current structure.

A Senator raised concerns about outdated information on Senate Committees and suggested reviewing past activities to inform decisions on their continuation. It was noted that this review is already underway and will be completed progressively throughout the year. Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier emphasized that the Secretary General's Office already fulfills the necessary administrative responsibilities and that additional measures are unnecessary. Secretary General Geneviève Gagné clarified that the Senate Handbook and related information are available on the university website, acknowledging some outdated information on committees memberships due to time constraints, and reassured Senators that updates will be provided as they become available.

MOTION

That Senate approve the disbandment of the Working Group on Senate Committees.

Moved by: Kerry Hull

Seconded by: Heather Lawford

Abstention: 1

Motion carried.

Interim Vice-Principal Academic and Research Kerry Hull presented a report comprising four components:

- Financial Modelling Paper II
- Academic Staffing Plan: Guideline for Deans and Chairs
- Moodle Access for Student Accessibility Services (SAS) Coordinators
- Update and Motion: Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning

She thanked Nicole Riley and her team and Dr. Andrew Webster for their contributions.

Financial Modelling Paper II

The paper builds on the March 14, 2025, Senate presentation and outlines a four-year recovery plan, including spending reductions across academic and non-academic sectors. It aligns with qualitative considerations and previously approved Senate motions. The Senate Planning Committee will explore ways to enhance transparency, including the use of rubrics.

Part-time budget savings are a key element of the academic savings plan, with a target of \$2 million by 2028–2029. Reductions in additional part-time course offerings are planned. Spring and summer courses are included in the budget figures. Alternative delivery models may be considered to meet savings targets.

The financial modelling presentation discussed quantitative and qualitative measures that can be used to guide resource allocations.

A comment emphasized the importance of considering the broader academic ecosystem when interpreting course allocation data. Clarifications were provided on lab course weighting calculations and on how target ranges were set as planning guidelines to support long-term staffing plans.

Academic Staffing Plan

Following a motion passed in the spring, the Senate Planning Committee—working in collaboration with Deans and academic divisions—is developing a comprehensive University-wide staffing plan for the next five to ten years. The motion approved by Senate states:

That the Senate direct the Senate Planning Committee to develop a set of recommendations for full-time faculty staffing at the level of both academic programs and academic divisions to cover the 5-10 year future horizon.

This process will inform decisions related to demand, faculty complement, institutional priorities, and various scenarios for adjusting tenure-stream positions within existing financial constraints. It was noted that long-term planning aligns with the ongoing reviews conducted by the Senate Planning Academic Review Committee, as well as with tenure-stream appointment processes—allowing for annual adjustments based on evolving needs. A timeline will be shared with Senators, with a preliminary plan expected for the October Senate.

Concerns were expressed regarding the potential impact of reduced course offerings on student choice and program breadth, which may influence prospective students' decisions to attend Bishop's. The concerns were acknowledged and creative solutions, such as larger class sizes or innovative course models may be needed. Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier emphasized that while financial constraints limit the course offerings, the aim is to make strategic, controlled decisions to minimize negative impacts.

In response to a question regarding the graduate supervision and research activities, it was noted that research and graduate students generate income through elements such as graduate student tuition and indirect cost. It was also confirmed that raw data will be made available to Senators upon request, in line with the University's commitment to transparency.

Dr. Linda Mora left at 4:53 p.m.

Moodle Access for Student Accessibility Services (SAS)

Vice-Principal Academic and Research Kerry Hull presented a proposal concerning Moodle access for the SAS Coordinator, emphasizing the significant increase in workload and the critical role the position plays in supporting both students and faculty. She then invited Scott Stodard and Katie Bibbs to present further on the topic.

Katie Bibbs outlined the rationale for granting SAS Specialists limited access to course outlines, citing the growing demand for accommodations and challenges in obtaining adequate documentation. The proposal aims to reduce administrative burden, streamline processes, minimize delays, and enhance coordination with faculty.

Dr. Adrianna Mendrek left at 5: 00 p.m. followed by Rosalyn French at 5: 27 p.m.

Scott Stoddard explained that from an Information Technology Services standpoint, the new advisory role was proposed to provide limited access to course material while maintaining strict privacy protections. This initiative aligns with the Strategic Plan goal of leveraging technology for operational efficiency, aiming to improve processes particularly during high demand periods or when urgent accommodations are requested.

Questions were raised regarding the system-wide versus course-by-course access, with clarification that both options are possible. Suggestion included having the SAS advisors sign confidentiality agreements to protect intellectual property and the need for balance between student self-determination and practical support during difficult time.

Senators expressed concerns about relying on Moodle access for SAS instead of syllabi, emphasizing that syllabi already contain the necessary information and are mandated by the collective agreement. They suggested enforcing existing requirements rather than expanding Moodle access, though acknowledged that timing issues with syllabus availability pose challenges. While Moodle access could improve efficiency and faculty communication, questions were raised about the rationale, scope, and intellectual property implications of requiring syllabus submission to Deans. Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier affirmed the institution's right to access syllabi in line with intellectual property principles and stressed the need to balance growing demands with financial constraints, noting that administrative inefficiencies hinder student support. Senators discussed ways to reconcile faculty intellectual property concerns with operational needs, recognizing technical limitations as a barrier.

The item will be revisited by Senate at a future meeting.

Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning

Interim Vice-Principal Academic and Research Kerry Hull noted that due to prolonged inactivity and the financial constraints of the University, the Office of the Continuing Education was closed in the Spring of 2025, and the coordinator position was abolished. As a consequence of this decision, it is proposed that the Lifelong Learning Committee of Senate, which has not met since 2022, be disbanded.

MOTION

That Senate approve the disbandment of the Lifelong Learning Committee.

Moved by: Kerry Hull

Seconded by: Heather Lawford

Motion carried.

6.2 RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES REPORT

Interim Associate Vice-Principal Research Matthew Peros congratulated Dr. Jessica Riddell on her election to the College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists of the Royal Society of Canada—a distinguished recognition of her excellence and leadership. The recent Celebration of Research was noted as a successful and well-attended event, featuring a variety of engaging activities. Gratitude was extended to Joanie Saint-Germain and the Office of Research and Graduate Studies for their valuable contributions.

The launch of the Bishop’s institutional repository was also acknowledged. This initiative is designed to collect, preserve, and showcase scholarly output from the University community. Appreciation was expressed to Isabelle Lafontaine and Catherine Lavallée-Welch for their efforts in this initiative.

Additional research achievements included Dr. Anthony Di Mascio’s receipt of a *Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada* Insight grant, the publication of Dr. Catherine Tracy’s new book, and the naming of minor planet 57139 in honour of Dr. Jason Rowe.

Guidelines for internal research Chairs were presented for discussion. These positions are designed to promote research excellence and would be funded through private donations or endowments managed by the Bishop’s Foundation. The framework shared with Senators outlined the purpose, application and selection procedures, funding structure, appointment terms, governance, and expectations for Chair holders to prioritize research and seek external funding opportunities.

Concerns were raised regarding the proposed limits to individual term. Suggestions included implementing rigorous performance reviews—such as external evaluations after five (5) years—as a more effective alternative to fixed time limits. It was noted that long-term research projects and significant donor investments may require greater flexibility to ensure continuity and maximize the impact.

Clarifications were provided regarding Chair tenure and processes. Senators recommended further defining the University bodies in the establishment process and developing a clearer framework to guide agreements with donors. Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier acknowledged the unique challenges faced by Chair holders in a small, teaching-focused university, emphasizing that the guidelines are intended not as formal policies but as tools to support donor negotiations and foster shared understanding when establishing Chairs.

Dr. Matthew Peros left at 5: 30 p.m.

6.3 LEARNING AND TEACHING REPORT

Interim Associate Vice-Principal Learning and Teaching Jean Manore highlighted the Academic Launch held in late August, noting that while the event was generally well attended, some workshops drew more interest than others. Opportunities for improvement were identified in communication and ensuring interactive formats. A survey to collect feedback will be circulated to inform planning of future launches, including the possibility of a winter event and additional onboarding for new faculty.

6.4 PROPOSAL FOR THE CREATION OF THE SENATE ACADEMIC AND CURRICULUM COMMITTEE (SACC)

Interim Associate Vice-Principal Learning and Teaching Jean Manore presented the proposal to create the Senate Academic and Curriculum Committee (SACC) for discussion. This Committee aims to consolidate several committees and focus on learning and teaching policies and guidelines, including program and course changes, curriculum design, and teaching and learning strategic plan. The SACC would work closely with the Academic Standing and Admissions Policy (ASAP) Committee, the Senate Program Academic Review (SPARC) Committee, the Senate Planning Committee (SPC) and the Senate Teaching and Learning Centre Initiative (TLCI) Committee.

Dr. Eva Bures left at 5:46 p.m.

Senators discussed the proposal, emphasizing the need for clear curriculum ownership to meet accreditation requirements and avoid governance challenges. Concerns were raised about workload, coordination with other committees, committee size, and the need to expand student representation for greater effectiveness.

It was clarified that the Senate Academic Curriculum Committee (SACC) could establish working groups to manage intensive tasks and would liaise with the Senate Planning Committee (SPC) on resource-related matters. Membership and student representation would be overseen by the Senate Nominating Committee and the Students' Representative Council.

6.5 AD HOC SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR THE VICE-PRINCIPAL ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH – SENATE NOMINATION

Secretary General Geneviève Gagné reminded Senators of the formation of the Ad Hoc Search Committee following Dr. Andrew Webster's departure announcement, noting that one seat on the committee is designated for a Senate representative. At the close of nominations, two candidates were put forward: Dr. Maxime Trempe and Dr. Linda Morra. As Dr. Trempe was appointed through the Faculty Council process, Dr. Morra, the remaining nominee, is now presented to Senate for appointment.

MOTION

That Senate approve the nomination of Dr. Linda Morra as the Senate representative on the Ad hoc Search Committee for the Vice-Principal Academic and Research.

Moved by: Mathieu Garceau-Tremblay

Seconded by: Heather Lawford

Motion carried.

6.6 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 thirty-nine (39) students have met graduation and 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	12
BBA	8
BSC	4
GCE	1
MED	1
MSC	13
Grand Total	39

1- Undergraduate degrees

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

Seconded by: Calin Valsan

Motion carried.

2- Graduate degrees

It is moved by Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier 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.

Seconded by: Mathieu Garceau-Tremblay

Motion carried.

3- Micro-Certificates, Certificates, Graduate Certificates

It is moved by Dean Jean Manore that Senate receive the candidate's name for the Graduate Certificate as presented by the Registrar, and that this candidate be awarded their certificate.

Seconded by: Heather Lawford

Motion carried.

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

It is moved by Interim Dean Valerio Faraoni, 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.

Seconded by: Dawn Wiseman

Motion carried.

6.7 2025-2026 SENATE HANDBOOK

Secretary General Geneviève Gagné communicated the updates to the 2025-2026 Senate Handbook, noting that a correction will be made to Dr. Jean Manore's title to reflect her new Interim Associate Vice-Principal Learning and Teaching role.

A concern was raised about the receiving documents too close to the meetings and suggested enforcing the five (5) day submission deadline outlined in the handbook. Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier acknowledged that while the timeline is challenging to meet due to coordination efforts and demands, the Secretary General's Office is doing everything to publish documents ahead of time.

MOTION

That Senate approve the 2025-2026 Handbook, as presented.

Moved by: Geneviève Gagné

Seconded by: Dawn Wiseman

Motion carried.

675/7 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 WILLIAMS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Registrar Hans Rouleau informed Senators of an administrative change to align the coding of BBA honours programs with other programs. It was noted that this change does not affect degree requirements.

7.4 FACULTY OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

Dr. Valerio Faraoni presented the recommendation to suspend admissions to the Chemistry Major and Honours programs starting at the Winter 2026 semester, and to suspend program transfers after Fall 2025 add/drop deadline, stating that the proposal responds to sustained enrolment decline and staffing challenges.

A concern was brought forward on the risks and impacts of related programs and institutional reputation. It was noted that Chemistry will continue offering service courses for other programs, including Biochemistry and Education. The decision aims to ensure program integrity and transparency for prospective students.

MOTION

That Senate approve the suspension of new admissions into the Chemistry Major and Honours program beginning in the Winter 2026 semester and the suspension of program transfers into the Chemistry Major and Honours effective after the add/drop deadline of the Fall 2025 semester.

Moved by: Valerio Faraoni

Seconded by: Jade Savage

Abstention: 1

Motion carried.

The meeting ended at 6:28 p.m.



Sébastien Lebel-Grenier, Chair
Principal and Vice-Chancellor



Geneviève Gagné, Secretary General