

**678TH MEETING OF SENATE
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2025, 1:30 P.M.
IN PERSON AND BY VIDEOCONFERENCE**

MINUTES

Chair: Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier

Present: Sonoma Brawley, Dr. Eva Bures, Julien Collin, Grace Cordeiro Ferrigno, Dr. Julie Desjardins, Dr. Valerio Faraoni, Rosalyn French, Dr. Jonas Goliash, Dr. Kerry Hull, Mirana Iliza Catherine Lavallée-Welch, Dr. Heather Lawford, Dr. Jean Manore, Dr. Adrianna Mendrek, Emily Miller, Dr. Matthew Peros, Hans Rouleau, Dr. Jade Savage, Dr. Margaret BK Shepherd, Liam Stewart, Dr. Maxime Trempe, Dr. Calin Valsan, Dr. Dawn Wiseman, Dr. Steven Woodward

Regrets: Dr. Bruno Courtemanche, Dr. Anthony Di Mascio, Dr. Linda Morra, Dr. John Ruan, Dr. Cranmer Rutihinda, Vivienne Webster

Secretary: Geneviève Gagné

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier formally opened the 678th meeting at 1:36 p.m. and welcomed Grace Cordeiro Ferrigno as the new Graduate Student Representative, replacing Mathieu Garceau-Tremblay.

678/1 AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

Moved by: Margaret BK Shepherd

Seconded by: Dawn Wiseman

Motion carried.

678/2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the 676th meeting of Senate, held on October 24, 2025, were submitted for approval.

Moved by: Jean Manore

Seconded by: Jonas Goliasch

Abstention: 1

Motion carried.

678/3 BUSINESS ARISING

There were no items for discussion under Business Arising.

678/4 COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

Government Relations

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier reported no provincial developments regarding international students. He noted positive discussions with the newly appointed *Ministre de l'Enseignement supérieur*, Martine Biron, although no additional funding was anticipated. He also referenced provincial economic updates announcing the creation of ten (10) research chairs to attract U.S. talent to Québec (\$10 M) and reminded Senators that graduate students are exempt from the federal study permit allocation quotas introduced under the recently tabled federal budget.

Bill No.1 - Québec Constitution Act, 2025

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier noted the submission of a brief to the National Assembly of Quebec and confirmed his appearance on December 11, 2025. He also advised that the brief would be made available shortly.

In response to a question regarding the potential impact of the Bill on universities' access to federal research funding and whether provincial funding agencies would be able to offset any resulting gap, Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier noted that the Bill would tighten existing restrictions on interactions between provincially funded institutions and the federal government, including with respect to research funding, and that the implications are under review.

Bill No.9 - Act respecting the reinforcement of laicity in Quebec

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier reported on proposed measures affecting prayer spaces on university campuses, full face coverings, religious accommodation standards, and religious symbols, noting potential implications for Bishop's University's capacity to accommodate religious practices. He noted that the University is working collaboratively with stakeholders and that a brief and testimony may be required.

Questions were raised regarding the implications of the Bill for religious accommodations at the University. Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier advised that the intent of the Bill remains unclear and requires further analysis, while noting that the proposed measures appear to limit the presence of religious expression within public institutions.

Dr. Eva Bures arrived at 2: 10 p.m.

5.1 SENATE PLANNING COMMITTEE (SPC)

Interim Vice-Principal Academic and Research Dr. Kerry Hull reported on the review of tenure-stream positions, noting that the review process was adjusted to reflect enhance staffing analysis and departmental viability reviews. She noted that Tenure-Stream requests were assessed based on institutional and departmental need and risk, including elements such as enrolment potential, program deliverability, and the institutional Tenure-Stream Faculty threshold.

Based on this analysis, the Senate Planning Committee recommended four (4) tenure-stream positions and five (5) limited-term appointments. The tenure-stream appointments reflect areas of high need and relatively low risk and were therefore considered appropriate long-term investments. Limited-Term appointments, are intended as interim alternatives to tenure-stream positions in areas with demonstrable need but higher risk. Dr. Hull also noted that, if these positions were all approved, we would still have fewer full-time faculty members than in 2024-2025, thus supporting the financial case for these appointments.

The following recommendations regarding new Tenure-Stream appointments, commencing from July 2026, were presented in ranked order:

1. Williams School of Business (Accounting)
2. Sports Studies
3. Drama (Contingent upon the proposed merger of Drama, Music and Arts Administration)
4. Psychology (Quantitative Methods)

The following recommendations regarding Limited-Term Appointments were presented in alphabetical order:

- Computer Science (two (2) years)
- Economics (two (2) years)
- School of Education (Curriculum; two (2) years)
- Sociology (two (2) years)
- Williams School of Business (Entrepreneurship): ten (10) months

In response to concerns about the application of needs-versus-risk criteria, Dr. Kerry Hull clarified that the inclusion of viability reviews reflects Senate-mandated requirements and current financial constraints, noting that viability reviews function as a form of risk assessment. It was acknowledged that this represents a change from prior practice.

Following a question on the possibility that the Board of Governors might approve or reject the tenure-stream recommendations in their entirety, Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier clarified the approval process, noting that Senate's role is to consider and forward recommendations, while the Board focuses primarily on financial and strategic implications. He further indicated that the Board recognizes the importance of tenure-stream appointments in maintaining program quality and institutional capacity.

In response to a question as to whether the tenure-stream hiring recommendations align with longer-term planning, Principal Lebel-Grenier noted that the Board of Governors prioritizes long-term institutional viability and explained that, unlike the previous year, the current recommendations are supported by data arising from Senate-mandated planning and program viability work.

Dr. Kerry Hull presented the report on part-time credit allocations, noting that a total of 22 courses were removed from departmental requests. She explained that allocations were determined through a department-by-department review, considering factors such as theoretical teaching capacity, program viability, prior reductions, and the need to ensure a sufficient number of courses to support viable programs.

MOTION 1

That Senate recommend to the Board of Governors approval of the following four (4) Tenure-Stream appointments in ranked order:

1. Williams School of Business (Accounting)
2. Sports Studies
3. Drama (Contingent upon the proposed merger of Drama, Music and Arts Administration)
4. Psychology (Quantitative Methods)

Moved by: Grace Cordeiro Ferrigno

Seconded by: Dawn Wiseman

Motion carried.

MOTION 2

That Senate approve the following five (5) Limited-Term appointments, in alphabetical order, of equal priority:

- Computer Science (two (2) years)
- Economics (two (2) years)
- School of Education (Curriculum; two (2) years)
- Sociology (two (2) years)
- Williams School of Business (Entrepreneurship): ten (10) months

Moved by: Kerry Hull

Seconded by: Jade Savage

Motion carried.

MOTION 2b

If the case arises that financial constraints require the conversion of the recommended two (2) year Limited-Term appointments to ten (10) month appointments, Senate approve the strong recommendation that a two (2) year Limited-Term appointment be granted to Economics.

Moved by: Kerry Hull

Seconded by: Matthew Peros

Motion carried.

MOTION 3

That Senate approve the allocation of 137.1 courses from the part-time course budget and 67 courses funded by other sources as indicated in Table 3 of *Item 4.2.ii_SPC report_PT course recommendations*.

Moved by: Kerry Hull

Seconded by: Grace Cordeiro Ferrigno

Motion carried.

5.2 SENATE LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Catherine Lavallée-Welch provided an informational update on electronic resource licensing, open-access publishing models, and related budgetary pressures. She noted that major licensing agreements will be coming through the Canadian Research and Knowledge Network (CRKN) consortia. The Library is working on reaching budget goals which means electronic resources renewals are analyzed based on criteria for retention. Some electronic resources will be cut to reach the goals.

5.3 SENATE PROGRAM ACADEMIC REVIEW COMMITTEE

Dr. Jean Manore provided an update on program review noting that the Arts Administration review is proceeding as planned. She mentioned that the reviewers for the School of Education requested and were granted additional time to complete their report and reported that the Politics and International Studies final report had been submitted.

MOTION

That Senate approve the acceptance of the Final Report from Politics and International Studies.

Moved by: Jean Manore

Seconded by: Margaret BK Shepherd

Motion carried.

Dr. Matthew Peros presented the Dean's report on Economics. The program underwent an external review with a site visit in May 2022, followed by the department's response in August 2022 – the Dean's report was subsequently prepared in accordance with Senate Program Academic Review Committee procedures. It was noted that the Department has implemented a significant number of the external review recommendations, particularly with respect to curriculum adjustments and program streamlining in response to current financial and staffing constraints.

A question was raised regarding curriculum changes in the Mathematical Economics program, and it was noted that these changes followed recommendations from external reviewers.

5.4 TASK FORCE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Interim Associate Vice-Principal Learning and Teaching Dr. Jean Manore reported on artificial intelligence noting minor review to the contextual framing and implementation of suggestions from previous discussion into formal recommendations. Key recommendations include improved coordination with Student Accessibility Services and the development of an Artificial Intelligence literacy program for students. She noted that a report will be presented to Senate with recommendations on Artificial Intelligence literacy at the March 2026 Senate meeting.

A comment was raised regarding challenges related to the use of artificial intelligence in online course delivery. It was noted that this issue is under consideration and will be addressed through ongoing discussions with relevant units.

A comment was made highlighting the importance of continued attention to academic integrity and faculty support in relation to artificial intelligence.

A process question was raised concerning changes affecting the academic calendar. It was clarified that approval of the recommendations and any implementation would proceed through the appropriate process and bodies.

MOTION

That Senate accept the report and implementation of the recommendations, and that the Task Force be disbanded.

Moved by: Jean Manore

Seconded by: Sonoma Brawley

Abstention: Dawn Wiseman

Motion carried.

678/6 OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 ACADEMIC REPORT

Interim Vice-Principal Academic and Research Dr. Kerry Hull provided an overview of enrolment statistics, noting that the enrolment recruitment target for Fall 2025 was not met. She further noted that, following discussions at the Academic Sphere meeting of the Evaluation Committee, letters for periodic evaluation will include qualitative comments rather than numerical scores, and that the numerical scores are available upon request.

A question was raised regarding whether the inclusion of qualitative comments contravenes the Collective Agreement. Dr. Kerry Hull noted that the Collective Agreement does not specify what should be included in a periodic evaluation letter and that qualitative comments were included in the previous year.

6.2 RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES REPORT

Interim Associate Vice-Principal Research Dr. Matthew Peros reported on research and graduate studies work. It was noted that information regarding available research space will be communicated to the University community. Updates were also provided on the work of the Graduate Studies Committee, including ongoing discussions related to the Individualized Doctorate program, and accelerated programs in Physics.

An overview was presented of the activities of the ad hoc Research Awards Committee, which supports the nomination of faculty members for external research awards in alignment with the University's strategic and research plans. It was reported that several nominations have been submitted or are in progress for national and international awards, with support provided by the Office of Research and Graduate Studies.

Additional research highlights were noted, including external funding received to support an interdisciplinary event, preparations for Research Week in March 2026, and recent publications, events, and outreach activities.

An update was provided on developments related to a potential application to the Canada Excellence Research Chairs Program. It was noted that recent provincial interest and associated funding opportunities have prompted the University to pursue an application. An international call for candidates is being prepared, and work is underway to meet the program's March 2026 submission deadline.

6.3 LEARNING AND TEACHING REPORT

Interim Associate Vice-Principal Learning and Teaching Dr. Jean Manore reported that work is underway to enhance faculty support for Moodle, including the exploration of a centralized Moodle resource page and consultation. An update was also provided on pathway and partnership agreements, noting that an inventory of existing agreements has been completed and that work will proceed on tracking renewals and establishing renewal criteria.

Dr. Jean Manore noted that the Senate Academic and Curriculum Committee, approved at the previous meeting, is being populated, with a call for members underway.

6.4 2025-2026 SENATE HANDBOOK UPDATE

Secretary General Geneviève Gagné presented the updated version of the Senate Handbook for information. Senators were also informed that the Senate Academic and Curriculum Committee mandate can be found on the University website under the Senate Committee section.

678/7 DIVISIONAL ITEMS

There were no recommendations.

The meeting ended at 4:34 p.m.



Sébastien Lebel-Grenier, Chair
Principal and Vice-Chancellor



Geneviève Gagné, Secretary General