

679TH MEETING OF SENATE
FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2026, 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. Bruno Courtemanche, Dr. Julie Desjardins, Dr. Anthony Di Mascio, 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, Dr. John Ruan, Hans Rouleau, Dr. Cranmer Rutihinda, Dr. Margaret BK Shepherd, Dr. Maxime Trempe, Dr. Calin Valsan, Vivienne Webster, Dr. Dawn Wiseman, Dr. Steven Woodward

Regrets: Dr. Linda Morra, Dr. Jade Savage

Secretary: Geneviève Gagné

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier formally opened the 679th meeting at 1:33 p.m. and invited Dr. Kerry Hull and Catherine Lavallée-Welch to present In Memoriam remarks for Dr. Keith Moore and Mrs. Janet Draper, respectively.

679/1 AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

Moved by: Valerio Faraoni

Seconded by: Heather Lawford

Motion carried.

679/2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the 677th meeting held on November 14th, 2025, and the 678th meeting held on December 5th, 2025, were presented for approval en bloc.

Moved by: Catherine Lavallée-Welch

Seconded by: Calin Valsan

Motion carried.

679/3 BUSINESS ARISING

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier noted that the matter of representation of the Decolonization Circle on Senate committees, discussed at the 677th meeting of Senate held on November 14, 2025, remains outstanding and will be brought back to Senate at a later date.

679/4 COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier reported that the Board of Governors approved Senate's recommendation for four (4) tenure-stream positions, recognizing their strategic importance for the University.

Government Relations

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier noted the resignation of Premier Legault and indicated that no immediate impact is anticipated. He further indicated that the resignation may influence the provincial budget. A provisional provincial budget is expected in March and is anticipated to maintain constraints on funding for universities.

In response to a question regarding the Québec government's research chair funding program, Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier clarified that the program is not currently at risk and remains included in the provincial budget.

Bill 9

With respect to Bill 9, it was reported that the legislation is proceeding and is expected to be adopted in the spring. The Principal indicated that advocacy efforts are continuing in collaboration with partner organisations, including the BCI, to limit the scope and impact of the bill, notably with respect to the continued use of St-Mark's chapel as a place of worship.

Following a question on St-Mark's Chapel, Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier clarified that Bishop's University is the only university with a consecrated chapel not located within a residence and that St-Mark's Chapel therefore falls within the scope of Bill 9.

Canada Excellence Research Chairs

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier reported that the University is actively pursuing opportunities under the *Canada Excellence Research Chairs* program and related federal and Quebec talent attraction initiatives.

September Events on Reed Street

Following the events that occurred in September on Reed Street, an investigation is underway. Stakeholders will be consulted and recommendations developed to mitigate the risk of similar incidents in the future.

When asked about the status of the Sherbrooke Police investigation into the September events, it was confirmed that the investigation remains ongoing. It was noted that any potential disciplinary proceedings would commence after the conclusion of the police investigation and any decision regarding charges. The Students' Representative Council is also cooperating in the process.

Special Advisory on Athletics Operations Sustainability Committee

Senators were informed that the work of the Special Advisory Committee on Athletics Operations Sustainability, established by the Board of Governors, has commenced. Consultations and surveys will be conducted to inform the Committee's review and recommendations.

679/5 COMMITTEE ITEMS

5.1 SENATE PLANNING COMMITTEE (SPC)

Interim Vice-Principal Academic and Research Dr. Kerry Hull reported on the December 5, 2025, recommendation for a Tenure-Stream position in Drama (Playwriting), contingent upon the creation of a new academic unit consolidating Drama, Music, Arts Administration, and Musical Theatre. As the Board of Governors has approved the position, Senate was asked to confirm that the signed memorandum constitutes sufficient authorization to initiate the recruitment process.

Several questions were raised regarding the rationale for making the position conditional upon the formation of the new academic unit. It was explained that discussions concerning closer collaboration among the performing arts programs have been ongoing for many years and that the proposed restructuring is intended to enhance coordination, reduce overlap, and create academic and administrative cooperation.

Questions were also raised regarding the timing of the hire in relation to the formal approval of the merger. It was clarified that, for recruitment timelines, the search must proceed in advance of the formal establishment of the unit and that the posting will clearly situate the position within Drama in the context of the broader restructuring.

Additional concerns were expressed regarding the theoretical teaching capacity and future resource commitments. Interim Vice-Principal Academic and Research Dr. Kerry Hull clarified that approval of the memorandum does not guarantee future part-time resources and that alignment with teaching capacity forms part of an ongoing viability review. A preliminary report is expected at the March Senate meeting. The merged performing arts unit will bring forward a formal proposal, including its name, at a future meeting.

Motion

That Senate accept that the signed Memo is sufficient to authorize the Dean of Humanities to initiate the recruitment process for a tenure-stream position in Drama (Playwriting).

Moved by: Eva Bures

Seconded by: Steven Woodward

Against: Valerio Faraoni

Abstention: Mirana Iliza, Margaret BK Shepherd

Motion carried.

679/6 OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 ACADEMIC REPORT

Academic planning exercise

Interim Vice-Principal Academic and Research Kerry Hull reported that delays in the population of the Senate Academic and Curriculum Committee (SACC) have resulted in review and program changes being assumed by SPC, as in previous years. Outstanding approvals will be brought forward at a later meeting.

The resourcing and viability review, three (3) year course delivery plan, and long-term staffing plans are underway. Further updates will be presented at the March and April Senate meetings.

A draft document addressing degree and academic regulations is under development, with particular focus on breadth and depth requirements. The document will be presented at the March meeting. Discussion will also take place at a future Academic Sphere meeting.

Letters for periodic evaluations have been issued without numerical rankings. The same approach is expected to apply to Reappointment, Promotion, and Tenure evaluations, with numerical rankings provided only upon request.

6.2 RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES REPORT

Interim Associate Vice-Principal Research and Graduate Studies Dr. Matthew Peros provided an update on the work of the Senate Research Committee, noting that assessments of Research Centre proposals are nearing completion, with decisions expected in the coming weeks. He also indicated that the Senate Research Space Committee will shortly issue a call for the renewal of existing research space allocations.

Dr. Matthew Peros also reported that the application deadline for the Canada Excellence Research Chairs program has passed. Review processes are underway, with recommendations expected to be submitted by the March 18 deadline. He further noted that recruitment efforts are ongoing for the Canada Impact + Research Chair program, and that several expressions of interest have been received to date. Faculty members are encouraged to identify and nominate potential candidates for this program.

The March Research Week planning is progressing well, with external guests expected to participate.

Questions were raised regarding inclusivity in Research Week programming, including the presence of alcohol at certain events and the incorporation of Indigenous perspectives. Dr. Matthew Peros indicated that follow up would be done with the organizers to ensure that events are promoted and structured in an inclusive manner and that appropriate consultation takes place.

6.3 LEARNING AND TEACHING REPORT

Interim Associate Vice-Principal Learning and Teaching Dr. Jean Manore updated Senators on the Senate Academic and Curriculum Committee (SACC), noting that the process to populate the committee is underway. She also reported that the Teaching and Learning Centre Initiative (TLCI) has launched the Bishop's University Teaching Talks (BUTTs), with a session led by Dr. Collette Yellow Robe on Indigenous Methodology and Relationality on January 19, 2026 that was attended by approximately 40 participants.

Dr. Jean Manore further reported on ongoing discussions regarding competencies across universities. Some academic units are examining competency frameworks within their programs, reflecting increased emphasis from government and industry sectors. Discussions are underway with Cégeps and other stakeholders to support smoother student transitions and greater alignment across institutions, with the aim of strengthening program development, student recruitment, and student success by clarifying expectations throughout the student's academic progression.

Questions were raised regarding the development and implementation of competencies at the University, including whether a university-wide, program-specific, or hybrid approach would be appropriate, as well as outreach and partnership considerations in relation to regional stakeholders. Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier noted that the work remains at an early stage and that Senate will undertake a formal discussion at a future meeting to determine the appropriate approach.

6.4 APPROVAL OF DEGREES, DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES

The Registrar and Director of Admissions, Hans Rouleau presented the names of students who completed their programs and had their transcript reviewed by the Deans, Chairpersons and the Registrar's Office to ensure compliance with the requirements for graduation.

A total of 117 students has 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	58
BBA	29
BED	3
BSC	7
CER	3
MA	2
MED	2
MSC	12
MPG	1
Grand Total	117

MOTIONS

1. Undergraduate Degrees

It is moved by Dean Shepherd 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: Margaret BK Shepherd

Seconded by: Dawn Wiseman

Motion carried.

2. Graduate Degrees

It is moved by Dean Desjardins 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(s).

Moved by: Julie Desjardins

Seconded by: Jean Manore

Motion carried.

3. Micro-Certificates, Certificates, and Graduate Certificates

It is moved by Dean Manore that the University Senate receive the list of candidates for Micro-Certificates, Certificates, and Graduate Certificates, as presented by the Registrar, and that these candidates be awarded their certificate(s).

Moved by: Jean Manore

Seconded by: Cranmer Rutihinda

Motion carried.

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

It is moved by Dean Peros that the interim 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 the satisfactory completion of program requirements, or to delete candidates who do not meet their program requirements by the date of Convocation.

Moved by: Matthew Peros

Seconded by: Eva Bures

Motion carried.

Hans Rouleau reminded Senators that Convocation will be held on June 6, 2026, at the Denver Gym and encouraged all members to attend.

679/7 DIVISIONAL ITEMS

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier noted that several curriculum and program changes remain under review and are expected to be finalized for presentation at the March 13, 2026, Senate meeting.

7.2 FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

Dean Dr. Jean Manore reported that the Senate Planning Committee (SPC) approved several proposed curriculum and program changes, while certain proposed changes relating to Arts Administration, History and Global Studies, and Music are pending further review.

A question was raised regarding the designation of the 54-credit Modern Languages major. It was noted that credit requirements for majors are not standardized across the University and that the additional credits reflect program-specific requirements, including the international component.

Clarification was requested regarding the required internship component in the French program, including whether it is unpaid. It was noted that internship practices vary across programs and will form part of a broader University discussion.

MOTION

On behalf of the Faculty of Humanities, that Senate approve curriculum changes included in documents 679/7.2 and 7.2i.

Moved by: Jean Manore

Seconded by: Sonoma Brawley

Abstention: 1

Motion carried.

7.3 FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Dean Dr. Matthew Peros presented the following motion.

MOTION

On behalf of the departments of Economics, Environment, Agriculture and Geography, Politics and International Studies, Psychology, Sociology and Sport Studies, that Senate approve curriculum changes included in documents 679/7.3 and 7.3i through 7.3vi.

Moved by: Matthew Peros

Seconded by: Margaret BK Shepherd

Motion carried.

7.4 FACULTY OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

Interim Dean Dr. Valerio Faraoni noted that references to Chemistry and Pre-Medicine were removed from the motion, as the Chemistry documents had been withdrawn and Pre-Medicine is not a department. The curriculum and program changes for the Chemistry Department will be brought forward at the March 13, 2026, Senate meeting.

He further noted that the proposed revisions from the Department of Biology and Biochemistry reflect recommendations arising from the Senate Program Academic Review Committee (SPARC) review, including restructuring of program concentrations.

A friendly amendment was proposed and accepted to rename the concentration from “Premedicine and Health Sciences” to “Health Sciences and Premedicine” to better reflect the program structure and avoid potential accreditation concerns.

Moved by: Valerio Faraoni

Seconded by: Cranmer Rutihinda

Motion carried.

7.5 SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Dean Dr. Julie Desjardins presented the following motion.

MOTION

On behalf of the School of Education, that Senate approve curriculum changes included in documents 679/7.5 and 7.5i.

Moved by: Julie Desjardins

Seconded by: Dawn Wiseman

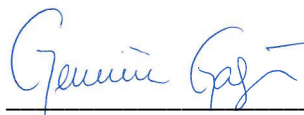
Motion carried.

Interim Vice-Principal Academic and Research Dr. Kerry Hull proposed exploring an expedited administrative review process for minor curriculum and program modifications (e.g., typographical corrections or minor title changes), while maintaining full Senate approval for substantive revisions. The objective would be to improve efficiency and mitigate delays between Senate meetings. A formal proposal will be brought forward for consideration at the March Senate meeting.

The meeting ended at 3:18 p.m.



Sébastien Lebel-Grenier, Chair
Principal and Vice-Chancellor



Geneviève Gagné, Secretary General