



**681<sup>ST</sup> MEETING OF SENATE**  
**FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2026, 1:30 P.M.**  
**IN PERSON AND BY VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**MINUTES**

**Chair:** Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier

**Present:** 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 Goliasch, 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, Dr. John Ruan, Hans Rouleau, Dr. Cranmer Rutihinda, Dr. Jade Savage, Dr. Margaret B.K. Shepherd, Dr. Maxime Trempe, Dr. Calin Valsan, Vivienne Webster, Dr. Steven Woodward

**Regrets:** Sonoma Brawley, Liam Stewart, Dr. Dawn Wiseman

**Secretary:** Geneviève Gagné

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier formally opened the 681<sup>st</sup> meeting at 1:34 p.m. and congratulated Dr. Kerry Hull on her nomination as Vice-Principal Academic and Research, and Grace Cordeiro Ferrigno on her nomination as President of the Students' Representative Council for the 2026–2027 academic year.

It was noted that an item concerning classroom recording by students had been proposed for addition to the agenda prior to the meeting and will be addressed at a future meeting.

681/1 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

**Moved by:** Grace Cordeiro Ferrigno

**Seconded by:** Calin Valsan

**Motion carried.**

681/2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### **Minutes of the 679<sup>th</sup> Senate meeting**

The Minutes of the 679<sup>th</sup> Senate meeting held on January 23, 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.

### **Minutes of the 680<sup>th</sup> Special Senate meeting**

The Minutes of the 680<sup>th</sup> Special Senate Meeting held on February 20, 2026, were presented for approval. Following a point of order concerning the past recording of closed sessions, it was agreed that such sessions will no longer be recorded.

**Moved by:** Grace Cordeiro Ferrigno

**Seconded by:** Calin Valsan

**Motion carried.**

681/3 BUSINESS ARISING

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier mentioned that a proposal regarding the Senate Committee on Decolonisation will be presented at a future meeting.

681/4 COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

### **Staff Collective Agreement**

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier reported that the Staff Collective Agreement was ratified. He noted that the Board had previously approved the agreement and that the process will now proceed to formal signatures.

### **University Sports Teams**

The strong performance of the University's men's basketball team at the national championship in Calgary, where the team earned a silver medal, was highlighted. Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier noted the team's positive representation on and off the court, reflecting the University's values. He acknowledged the team's disappointment in narrowly missing the championship.

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier reported that the men's hockey club competed in the North American collegiate league finals, involving over 50 teams, and also earned a silver medal.

### **WinterFest**

WinterFest was successful despite initial challenges. The strong collaboration with the Students' Representative Council and stakeholders was noted with the confirmation that the event will proceed next year with the same collaborative approach to ensure sustainability.

### **Government Relations**

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier reported having a positive meeting with Minister Biron noting her openness and commitment to supporting the higher education sector. He indicated that an announcement is expected in the coming weeks and highlighted progress on multiple fronts, contributing to an overall positive outlook.

## **Provincial and University Budget**

It was reported that the upcoming provincial budget is expected to be comparable to the previous one and remains challenging, although some targeted positive measures may be announced. The University's budget process is underway, with initial figures to be reviewed shortly and a clearer financial outlook expected in the coming weeks. Updates on the budget and the recovery plan will be shared with the community.

## **Special Advisory Committee on Athletics Operations Sustainability**

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier reported that the work of the ad hoc committee on athletics operations sustainability is progressing as planned. Consultations have been completed, and the committee is now in the analysis phase, with recommendations expected by the end of May and to be reviewed at the Board retreat in June.

## **Bill 9 - Secularism**

An exemption for St. Mark's Chapel has been secured through amendments to Bill 9, allowing it to continue as a place of worship. Final adoption is pending but expected. While other impacts of the Bill may arise, these are expected to be manageable.

### ITEM 5 COMMITTEE ITEMS

#### 5.1 SENATE PLANNING COMMITTEE (SPC)

Vice-Principal Academic and Research Dr. Kerry Hull presented the report, which comprised two (2) sections. The first section proposed that Senate delegate authority to the Senate Planning Committee (SPC) and/or the Senate Academic and Curriculum Committee (SACC) to approve minor course and program changes approved at the divisional level, with the objective of reducing the administrative burden on Senate and enabling timelier implementation between meetings. Minor changes were defined to include course processing, course archiving or deactivation, minor calendar description updates, changes to course offerings within existing teaching capacity, and minor program changes without resource implications. It was noted that items of uncertainty may be referred to Senate and that all approved changes would be reported at a subsequent meeting.

Questions were raised regarding the identification of impacted departments. It was noted that such identification occurs at multiple levels, including the Registrar's Office, divisions, and committees. It was emphasized that no decision on course changes would be taken by SPC or SACC without prior consultation with all relevant divisions, ensuring that impacted departments are identified and consulted.

Senate agreed to reverse the order of the motion so that the broader, longer-term framework outlined in motion 2 could be addressed prior to returning to the more specific provisions in motion 1.

## MOTION 1

That Senate mandate SPC and/or SACC to approve the following types of changes that have been approved at a Divisional meeting:

1. Course cross-listings,
2. Archiving courses (removing from academic calendar) /De-archiving courses (adding back to academic calendar) / deactivations of courses (permanent removal),
3. Calendar changes that do not alter prerequisites, credit count, or substantially alter the course content,
4. New courses that will be taught within the department's teaching capacity.
5. Minor changes without capacity requirement

SPC will provide a report at the following Senate meeting summarizing these approvals. Note that SPC and/or SACC are responsible for determining if an academic change meets the criteria for this expedited approval process and may refer some changes to Senate for approval.

**Moved by:** Kerry Hull

**Seconded by:** Valerio Faraoni

**Motion carried.**

## MOTION 2

That Senate mandate SACC and SPC to work together to revise the process for Annual Academic Planning for Fall 2026.

**Moved by:** Kerry Hull

**Seconded by:** Grace Cordeiro Ferrigno

**Motion carried.**

Vice-Principal Academic and Research Dr. Kerry Hull presented the second part of the report related to the viability and resourcing review, noting that it builds on previous discussions and reflects an evolution toward more integrated academic and resource planning. The analysis combines qualitative and quantitative indicators, including financial performance, enrolment, teaching capacity, and other key factors, to support strategic assessment while acknowledging the interdependence of academic units. It was noted that the approach is intended to support informed and strategic decision-making. She further noted that the process remains consultative, with departments encouraged to develop context-specific responses.

Next steps include departmental consultations, with feedback to be submitted by the end of March, followed by a revised report to be presented to Senate at the April meeting for consideration of approval. It was emphasized that approval of the report does not constitute endorsement of specific recommendations, which will be considered separately. The reviews will inform future academic planning, including staffing and resource allocation.

A correction was noted indicating that the next iteration of the 5–10-year staffing plan will be presented in Fall 2026 rather than January 2027.

Questions were raised regarding the extent to which incremental changes will achieve long-term sustainability. It was noted that the review is based on a multi-faceted approach and that progress has been made, with further measures to be considered as needed. Members discussed the interpretation of indicators and the importance of program-specific context. Clarifications were provided, and feedback was invited to support further refinement. Discussion also addressed the balance between financial and academic considerations, noting program interdependence and the limitations of certain metrics.

#### 5.2 SENATE PROGRAM ACADEMIC REVIEW COMMITTEE (SPARC)

Dr. Jean Manore presented the proposed list of external examiners for the Department of History and Global Studies, as approved by the Senate Program Academic Review Committee. A minor correction to one reviewer's name was noted. She also presented the proposed Dean's report template, noting that it standardizes the reporting of recommendations and responses.

A question was raised regarding whether the Dean's report template should include consideration of financial indicators, such as RAM score, in program evaluation. It was noted that this may fall outside the current scope of the template. It was agreed that the matter would be reviewed further and could be brought back for future consideration.

#### **MOTION 1**

That Senate approve the list of external reviewers submitted by the Department of History and Global Studies.

**Moved by:** Jean Manore

**Seconded by:** Steven Woodward

**Motion carried.**

#### **MOTION 2**

That Senate approve the proposed Dean's Report template.

**Moved by:** Jean Manore

**Seconded by:** Grace Cordeiro Ferrigno

**Motion carried.**

#### 5.3 ACADEMIC STANDING AND ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE (ASAP)

Registrar Hans Rouleau presented the report of the Academic Standing Admissions and Policy Committee, noting that it comprised two parts. The proposed 2027–2028 sessional dates were presented for Senate approval, noting that the dates were developed in accordance with Senate guidelines and reviewed by the Executive Committee, Human Resources Office and the Academic Standing and Admissions Committee.

## MOTION

That Senate approve the Academic Standing and Admissions Policy Committee's 2027–28 Sessional Dates as listed in Annex 1.

**Moved by:** Jean Manore

**Seconded by:** Adriana Mendrek

**Motion carried.**

The second part of the report was presented for information. It was noted that work is underway on the development of a leave of absence policy to support alignment between conduct expectations and academic progression requirements, as well as on improving scholarship accessibility for student parents, in collaboration with the Students' Representative Council. An update was also provided on student appeals, noting that volumes remain consistent with previous years and that improvements to the submission process are being implemented.

### 5.4 SENATE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Dr. Heather Lawford presented the updated list of committee nominations. The nomination of Dr. Elisa Gagnon was presented and approved from the floor to replace Dr. Svetlana Davis on the Senate Research Committee during her sabbatical.

## MOTION

That the Senate approve the new membership of Senate Committees for the 2025-2026 academic year as presented in document 5.4i and 5.4ii.

**Moved by:** Heather Lawford

**Seconded by:** Maxime Trempe

**Motion carried.**

### 5.5 SENATE COMMITTEE ON PRIZES

Hans Rouleau presented a motion to disband the Senate Committee on Prizes, noting that its original purpose no longer reflects current practices and that its functions have been assumed by existing units. He indicated that the motion had been tabled previously to allow for clarification on specific prizes, and that these matters have since been addressed.

## MOTION

That the Senate Committee on Prizes be formally disbanded.

**Moved by:** Grace Cordeiro Ferrigno

**Seconded by:** Steven Woodward

**Motion carried.**

## 5.6 SENATE LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Catherine Lavallée-Welch reported on a recent meeting of the Library Committee convened following the announcement regarding the future use of the old library. The committee raised questions related to environmental conditions, collection preservation, access, and the decision-making process. She also noted that study space availability on campus, particularly in light of reduced library hours, was discussed during the meeting. Temporary reductions in hours had occurred due to staffing constraints, but regular hours have since resumed.

Members expressed interest in receiving additional information regarding the evaluation and future use of the old library. It was noted that the space will be used on an interim basis for study and other academic activities, with further assessment to follow.

## ITEM 6 OTHER BUSINESS

### 6.1 ACADEMIC REPORT

Vice-Principal Academic and Research Dr. Kerry Hull presented her report, which addressed proposed updates to the degree and academic regulations as part of ongoing efforts to clarify and strengthen the academic framework. She outlined proposed changes to the definition of degree requirements, including the introduction of a depth requirement within primary degree components at both the undergraduate and honours levels. This requirement is intended to support progression in learning, informed by analysis of student course patterns and aligned with Senate-approved principles and institutional objectives. The proposed depth requirement will be brought back to Senate in April for consideration and potential adoption.

Members discussed potential challenges related to the implementation of the depth requirement, including implications for teaching capacity, course availability, and program structure. Possible approaches were considered, including course sequencing, program design adjustments, and the balance between flexibility and structured pathways for students. Questions were also raised regarding its application to honours programs and the appropriate level and type of upper-year coursework. Vice-Principal Academic and Research Dr. Kerry Hull indicated that these considerations would inform further refinement of the proposal.

Vice-Principal Academic and Research Dr. Kerry Hull also presented proposed clarifications on double counting, noting that the degree regulations will define the concept, with limits set at the level of individual degree components. Parameters for graduation with a double minor were also presented, including minimum credit requirements and the application of a depth requirement at the degree level.

### 6.2 RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES REPORT

Interim Associate Vice-Principal Dr. Matthew Peros presented his report, providing updates on ongoing research activities and initiatives, noting that processes are underway for PhD research grants, Research Course Release applications, and Community Scholars applications.

In response to questions raised at a previous meeting regarding inclusivity in Research Week programming, he indicated that adjustments are being considered, including changes to event naming and format, as well as the incorporation of Indigenous perspectives in the planning process.

He also announced that Dr. Vicki Chartrand (Department of Sociology) received a \$1.4 million research contract from Public Safety Canada for a project examining community integration models in collaboration with Indigenous communities across Canada.

### 6.3 LEARNING AND TEACHING REPORT

Interim Associate Vice-Principal Learning and Teaching Dr. Jean Manore introduced a discussion paper on a proposed competency framework and digital competencies. She noted that the current framework, developed in 2012, may require review to ensure it remains relevant and aligned with current expectations, including employer needs. It was noted that further consideration will be given to potential frameworks, including the use of established models and assessment tools, as well as how competencies could be integrated within programs. The digital competency, outlining a framework distinguishing between digital proficiency, literacy, and fluency was also presented. Considerations regarding whether digital competency should be mandatory for students, as well as the need to support faculty development was highlighted.

Members discussed the relevance of existing competencies, the distinction between information and digital literacy, and the need for validation mechanisms. Potential approaches, and integration of practical digital skills were also mentioned.

### 6.4 2026-2027 SENATE MEETING DATES PROPOSAL

Secretary General Geneviève Gagné presented the Senate meeting calendar for the academic year 2026-2027 noting a potential scheduling issue with the March Senate meeting and indicated that this will be reviewed, with an update to follow.

Members raised concerns regarding the spacing of meetings, including proximity to academic breaks and uneven intervals. It was indicated that the schedule aligns with institutional processes, and further review will be undertaken.

### ITEM 7 DIVISIONAL ITEMS

#### 7.1 WILLIAMS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Dean Dr. Margaret BK Shepherd presented the following motion.

#### **MOTION**

On behalf of the Williams School of Business, that Senate approve curriculum changes included in documents 681/7.1 and 7.1i.

**Moved by:** Margaret BK Shepherd

**Seconded by:** Calin Valsan

**Motion carried.**

#### 7.4 FACULTY OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

Interim Dean Valerio Faraoni presented the following motion. It was noted that *CS219 General Topics in Computer Applications* will not be inactivated and will remain unchanged (refer to documents 7.4 and Item 7.4i).

## MOTION

On behalf of the departments of Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, that Senate approve curriculum changes included in documents 681/7.4 and 7.4i.

**Moved by:** Valerio Faraoni

**Seconded by:** Adriana Mendrek

**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 681/7.5 and 7.5i.

**Moved by:** Julie Desjardins

**Seconded by:** Anthony Di Mascio

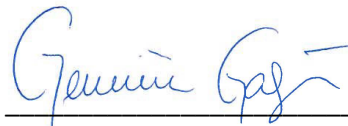
**Motion carried.**

The meeting ended at 6:08 p.m.



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Sébastien Lebel-Grenier, Chair  
Vice-Chancellor and Principal



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Geneviève Gagné, Secretary General