

682ND MEETING OF SENATE
FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2026, 1:30 P.M.
IN PERSON AND BY VIDEOCONFERENCE

MINUTES

Chair: Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier

Present: Dr. Eva Bures, Grace Cordeiro Ferrigno, 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, Dr. Matthew Peros, Dr. John Ruan, Hans Rouleau, Dr. Jade Savage, Dr. Margaret B.K. Shepherd, Liam Stewart, Dr. Maxime Trempe, Dr. Calin Valsan, Dr. Dawn Wiseman, Dr. Steven Woodward

Regrets: Sonoma Brawley, Julien Collin, Dr. Bruno Courtemanche, Emily Miller, Dr. Linda Morra, Dr. Cranmer Rutihinda, Vivienne Webster

Secretary: Geneviève Gagné

682/1 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

Moved by: Adrianna Mendrek

Seconded by: Margaret Shepherd

Motion carried.

682/2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the 681st Senate meeting held on March 13, 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.

Moved by: Catherine Lavallée-Welch

Seconded by: Jade Savage

Motion carried.

Classroom Recording by Students

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier noted that the item regarding classroom recording – March 13, 2026, meeting (Minutes p. 1) – was deferred to a future Senate meeting to allow more consultation and review of the existing guidelines.

Decolonization Circle Consultation and Representation

The proposal regarding representation from the Decolonization Circle to Senate Committees – March 13, 2026, meeting (Minutes p.2) – will be presented at a future meeting. The Decolonization Circle has been contacted to schedule a meeting.

Men's Basketball Team

Following the National finals, the University's men's basketball team has been invited, as silver medallists, to represent Canada at the World University Games (FISU) 3-on-3 World Championships, as the gold medal team declined participation. With external financial support, the team will compete in the international event scheduled from May 25 to 28, 2026.

Government Relations

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier noted that the announcement referenced at the meeting of March 13, 2026, will be addressed under item 6.2, *Research and Graduate Studies Report*.

Provincial and University Budgets

The provincial budget, tabled at the end of March, is overall better than anticipated. While it does not provide indexation sufficient to cover cost increases, it nonetheless signals the government's intention to prioritize continued access to higher education.

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier indicated that the projected 1.7% indexation, though higher than last year, will not fully cover the University's expenses. He also reported the renewal of several funding envelopes, including PARES funding, supporting student services and key initiatives, while significant cuts to other envelopes are expected to impact universities. The University continues to anticipate a deficit budget for the 2026–2027 academic year. Additional details will be confirmed following the release of the draft budget rules expected in May.

It was reported that retroactive adjustments to government funding for the 2022–2023 to 2025–2026 fiscal years will improve the University's financial position for 2025–2026. Combined with ongoing savings and revenue generating measures, the University is currently projecting a balanced budget for 2025–2026, subject to confirmation following the audited financial statements. This would prevent further growth of the accumulated deficit. Despite this positive development, continued efforts to align the cost structure with the funding formula remain necessary.

Given the ongoing uncertainty surrounding the provincial budget, a provisional University budget will be tabled at the April 24 meeting of the Board of Governors. The final version of the budget will be submitted for approval at the June Board of Governors meeting.

Bill 9 – Reinforcement of Secularism in Quebec

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier reported that *Bill 9* has been adopted and is now in force. As St. Mark's Chapel has been exempted from the tabled Bill, it will remain a place of worship. Overall, the Bill is expected to have limited impact with the most significant one being moving the existing campus multifaith prayer room to McKinnon Residence. A communication will be issued to the community in the coming week.

A question was raised regarding the implications of the Bill 9 on food choices on campus. It was clarified that the legislation does not prohibit offering religious-based food options as part of a broader range of choices. As such, no significant impact on current food service practices is anticipated.

Bill 1 – Proposed Quebec Constitution

It was reported that *Bill 1*, the proposed Quebec Constitution, is unlikely to be adopted in the current session of the National Assembly. With the prorogation of the current session, any bills not passed will expire. As such, *Bill 1* is not expected to proceed, although no outcome has been confirmed.

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier concluded his report by noting that the review of the Vice-Principal Academic and Research structure is currently underway. He also indicated that the selection process for the position of Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, to succeed Dr. Kerry Hull, is nearing completion. A recommendation is expected to be presented at the Board of Governors meeting scheduled for April 24, 2026. Updates on both matters are expected to be shared with the community in the coming weeks.

682/5 COMMITTEE ITEMS

5.1 SENATE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Vice-Principal Academic and Research Dr. Kerry Hull reported that the resourcing and viability reviews will be brought forward to the May Senate meeting to allow additional time for consultation, with feedback expected to conclude by the end of April. She noted that the reviews are intended to support, not direct, departmental decisions, and clarified that Senate will be asked to endorse the reviews—not to approve specific recommendations—but to confirm that the report provides a useful summary to support departmental and divisional decision-making. She added that the reviews are intended as an assessment and that consideration is being given to developing them into an iterative tool, including refining how supporting data is provided to improve efficiency and reduce workload for the Institutional Data team.

A question was raised regarding the Resource Allocation Model score calculation. It was explained that the model uses an average cost per course to provide a consistent basis for comparison across the University, although it does not take into account department-specific details. It was noted that the model continues to be refined, with consideration given to better reflecting departmental differences while maintaining a fair and institution-wide perspective.

A comment was made clarifying that the Resource Allocation Model score reflects the contribution of an academic unit in comparison to others, rather than its direct financial impact. Supplementing the information with dollar values was identified as potentially useful.

5.2 ACADEMIC STANDING AND ADMISSIONS POLICY COMMITTEE

Registrar Hans Rouleau presented the Academic Standing and Admissions Policy Committee report, noting that the first part of the report consists of proposed changes regarding transfers into the School of Education and general program changes.

School of Education

The proposed change to transfers into the School of Education is to increase the minimum cumulative average required for transfer from 70% to 75%, aligning with the School of Education's academic standing requirements.

A question was raised regarding the wording that admission is at the "discretion of the School of Education," suggesting that this could be further defined to clarify expectations for students. It was explained that, while a minimum cumulative average of 75% is required, the School of Education may consider additional elements such as academic record trends and student motivation. It was emphasized, however, that Grade Point Cumulative Average remains the primary factor and that the threshold is intended to support student success while allowing limited flexibility in exceptional cases. Admission is not automatic and remains subject to a formal application and discretionary review.

MOTION 1

That Senate approve the recommendation from the Academic Standing and Admissions Policy Committee to increase the cumulative average to 75% for students transferring from other Bishop's program into any of the four B.Ed. programs.

Moved by: Dawn Wiseman

Seconded by: Julie Desjardins

Motion carried.

Program Change

A proposed revision regarding approval authority was presented. The revision aims to clarify and streamline the process by assigning approval to the department chair, with dean-level approval removed.

Concerns were raised about the clarity and accuracy of the motion terminology. Alternative wording was suggested to better reflect that approval should rest with the chair of the department into which the student is seeking transfer. The motion was modified to reflect this clarification.

MOTION 2 – AMENDED

That Senate approve the Academic Standing and Admissions Policy Committee's recommendation to revise the language to the section on Academic Program Changes/ General Information / Point 2 to read:

2. In the event of an academic program change, the student must notify the Registrar's Office by completing and submitting the appropriate form with the required signatures. The Academic Calendar in effect at the time of the program change will determine the applicable program requirements. Applications for a program change must be submitted on the appropriate form available from the Registrar's Office and must be approved by the department chair of the degree component being added (e.g., Honours, Major, Concentration, Minor).

Moved by: Jade Savage

Seconded by: Margaret B.K. Shepherd

Motion carried.

The second part of the report was presented for information and included a draft of the *International Student Authorized Leave of Absence Policy* intended to ensure compliance with federal study permit requirements. An update was also provided regarding ongoing work on the academic regulations. The objective is to consolidate undergraduate academic policies into a single academic regulations document.

Questions were raised concerning the policy's alignment with immigration-related requirements, including *Certificat d'Acceptation du Québec* (CAQ) requirements, as well as the decision-making process associated with authorized leaves. It was clarified that the policy is intended to ensure compliance with federal study permit requirements and that decisions made under the policy relate to immigration status rather than academic standing.

5.3 SENATE PROGRAM ACADEMIC REVIEW COMMITTEE

Interim Associate Vice-Principal Learning and Teaching Dr. Jean Manore presented proposals from Fine Arts and from Modern Languages, Literature, and Cultures to Senate. The proposals included lists of potential external reviewers for the respective program reviews, as well as the identification of internal reviewers.

MOTION

That Senate approve the Program Review Committee reports from Fine Arts and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures.

Moved by: Jean Manore

Seconded by: Maxime Trempe

Motion carried.

5.4 SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Interim Associate Vice-Principal Research Dr. Matthew Peros introduced recommendations regarding two (2) proposed research centres: *Sport Hub for Innovation and Futures Thinking* (SHIFT) and the *Centre for Community-Engaged Justice* (CCEJ). The first proposal aims to support research and collaboration related to sport futures, health, well-being, and ethical innovation. The second proposal seeks to formalize and expand ongoing work related to community engagement and external partnerships. It was noted that approval of the proposed research centres would be granted for a three (3) year term.

A question was raised concerning the proposed budget, governance and membership process. Clarification was provided that certain elements, such as course releases, would remain subject to separate approval processes. The possibility of approving additional research centres in the future was also discussed.

MOTION

That Senate approve the following two research centre proposals as recommended by the Senate Research Committee (SRC) for a period of three years:

1. SHIFT – Sport Hub for Innovation and Future Thinking (Item 5.4i)
2. Centre for Community-Engaged Justices (Item 5.4ii)

Moved by: Matthew Peros

Seconded by: Eva Bures

Abstention: Maxime Trempe

Motion carried.

682/6 OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 ACADEMIC REPORT

Vice-Principal Academic and Research Dr. Kerry Hull provided an update on progress related to the resourcing and viability reviews, staffing plans, organizational structure reviews and competency frameworks. It was noted that timelines have been adjusted to allow for additional consultation and refinement. An overview was also provided of the preparatory work underway regarding breadth requirements and undergraduate degree regulations. It was explained that discussions concerning depth and breadth requirements remain ongoing, and that Motion 6 related to depth requirements would be withdrawn to allow for better alignment with those discussions. It was further noted that the first motion was presented for discussion purposes only.

Questions were raised regarding the implementation of team-taught courses and the coordination of divisional discussions concerning breadth and depth requirements. Vice-Principal Academic and Research Dr. Kerry Hull mentioned that discussions are being coordinated through the Deans and that workload considerations related to team teaching continue to be examined.

Discussion took place regarding the timeline, scope, and expectations associated with divisional discussions on breadth and depth requirements. Concerns were raised about the workload associated with the proposed timelines, the level of guidance and the clarity of expectations regarding what would be brought forward to Senate for approval. It was clarified that the objective is to establish a framework to support future development, while allowing divisions and programs to retain autonomy in how breadth requirements are implemented.

Discussion on Motion 1 – For Discussion Only

Vice-Principal Academic and Research Dr. Kerry Hull continued by presenting terminology and definitions associated with degree structures, including primary degree components, breadth requirements, electives, required courses, option courses, cognates, and core courses.

Questions and comments were raised regarding the interpretation of breadth requirements within specific programs, as well as the distinction between required, core, and option courses. Discussion also addressed the potential need for flexibility across different degree structures while maintaining a common institutional framework.

Discussion on Motion 2- For Approval (AMENDED)

The presentation also included a proposed definition of a minor within the undergraduate degree regulations, including requirements related to credit ranges, collegial equivalent courses, and upper-year courses. It was noted that the proposed definition would generally require all courses necessary to complete a minor to be included within the minor requirements, with exceptions remaining subject to Senate approval.

Questions were raised regarding the interpretation of upper-year courses, the impact of the proposed definition on existing minors, and the treatment of collegial equivalent courses within degree structures. Some concerns were expressed regarding the language related to learning progression in the proposed definition. Vice-Principal Academic and Research Dr. Kerry Hull reiterated that the proposed definition aims to ensure that minors be generally completed without prerequisites external to the minor requirements, while allowing exceptions to be brought to Senate for approval when appropriate.

An amendment was brought forward to remove the last sentence of Motion 2 to avoid ambiguities.

MOTION 2 - AMENDED

That Senate approve the following terminology to describe a Minor. This definition can be found in the first section (Academic Definitions) of *Item 6.1ii_ Undergraduate Degree Regulations*.

Minor

A secondary component of a bachelor's degree comprising a minimum of 18 credits and a maximum of 24 credits in a defined area of study or discipline. A Minor must:

1. Exclude Collegial-equivalent (CEGEP-level) courses.
2. Be self-contained, such that students can complete all requirements without needing prerequisites outside the Minor (except for Collegial-equivalent courses).

Moved by: Kerry Hull

Seconded by: Jean Manore

Motion carried.

Discussion on Motion 3 – For Approval

Vice-Principal Academic and Research Dr. Kerry Hull introduced a proposed revision to degree designation to allow students meeting the requirements of more than one (1) degree to choose the degree designation under which they graduate, provided all requirements of the selected degree are fulfilled.

Questions and comments were made on student choice in degree designation, the rationale for replacing the current hierarchy used by the Registrar's Office, and the implications of finalizing degree designation at graduation. It was clarified that students would still be required to fulfil all requirements associated with the selected degree and that the degree designation would be finalized at the time of graduation.

MOTION 3

That Senate approve the following regulation for students who complete the requirements for primary degree components attached to two different bachelor's degrees. This regulation can be found in the second section (General Degree Regulations, 2.1 Determination of degrees) of *Item 6.1ii_ Undergraduate Degree Regulations*.

2.1.1ii : The undergraduate bachelor's degree to be awarded to a student completing primary degree components attached to different undergraduate bachelor's degrees will be selected by the student when they complete the request for graduation. A student must have completed all degree requirements for the selected degree.

Moved by: Kerry Hull

Seconded by: Jean Manore

Motion carried.

Discussion on Motion 4 – Withdrawn

Motion 4, concerning the possibility of graduating with a double minor, was withdrawn, pending further discussion of depth requirements.

Discussion on Motion 5 – For Approval

Next, Vice-Principal Academic and Research Dr. Kerry Hull explained the proposed revisions concerning double counting rules within undergraduate degree regulations. It was clarified that, rather than implementing a university-wide rule on double counting, overlap rule would be to the decision of academic units and degree components. This approach would allow programs flexibility to determine appropriate overlap based on disciplinary context and program structure; however, reviews would continue to be part of the program review process.

Concerns were expressed regarding the absence of a university-wide maximum for double counting and the overlap between majors, minors, concentrations, and Bachelor of Education programs. It was clarified that existing degree regulations governing Bachelor of Education programs would continue to apply, including restrictions related to additional primary degree components, while decisions regarding overlap and double counting would remain under the authority of the relevant academic units.

MOTION 5

That Senate approve the following regulation regarding double counting. This regulation can be found in the second section (General Degree Regulations, 2.2.2 Double Counting) of *Item 6.1ii_ Undergraduate Degree Regulations*.

2.2.2i A course that is double counted meets a requirement of more than one degree component in an individual student's degree. Double counting rules will be established at the level of the degree component. The evaluation of course overlap between different degree components should be part of the program review process.

Moved by: Kerry Hull

Seconded by: Valerio Faraoni

Motion carried.

Discussion on Motion 6 – Withdrawn

Motion 6, concerning depth regulations, was withdrawn pending further discussions.

6.2 RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES REPORT

Associate Vice-Principal Research Dr. Matthew Peros provided an update regarding Research Week. Positive feedback was shared regarding the event, while it was also noted that attendance varied throughout the week. Potential adjustments to the events will be considered for future years.

The Impact Plus Chair program, a federal initiative aimed at recruiting internationally recognized research candidates, was discussed. It was noted that a team had been working extensively on the initiative and that a strong application was submitted. In addition to the federal chair application, it was announced that the University had successfully secured one of ten Québec Research Chairs awarded provincially in connection with the program. The award, valued at \$1 million over five years, will support the research activities of the selected candidate. Additional details will be announced publicly at the appropriate time.

Additional updates were provided regarding undergraduate research opportunities, scholarship initiatives, and developments within graduate and master's programs. Highlights also included the recent award of an \$800,000 *Canada Foundation for Innovation* (CFI) grant received by Dr. John Ruan – part of a broader pan-Canadian research collaboration – as well as the publication of a new book by Dr. Patrick McBrine featuring translations of the works of Carmen Paschale.

6.3 LEARNING AND TEACHING REPORT

Associate Vice-Principal Learning and Teaching Dr. Jean Manore gave an overview of the competency frameworks and digital competency initiatives, with particular attention to comparison frameworks previously circulated to Senate and a competency framework developed within the Université du Québec network. It was explained that the framework identifies a broad range of competencies, along with examples and tools supporting their integration into academic programs. She noted that there was a significant student interest for the development of digital literacy. Emphasis was placed on creating opportunities for students to develop critical awareness and responsible use of digital technologies across programs.

Comments were expressed on the relationship between digital literacy and information literacy within the proposed competency frameworks, the relevance of the University's existing competency framework, and the potential value of using validated external frameworks and assessment tools to support competency mapping and evaluation across programs. Discussion also highlighted the importance of aligning competencies with the University's mission, values, and strategic priorities, as well as supporting students in recognizing and articulating competencies developed throughout their studies. It was noted that the framework remains a living document and would continue to evolve over time.

682/7 DIVISIONAL ITEM

7.5 SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

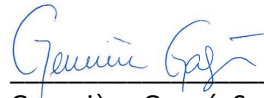
The Dean of the School of Education introduced a memorandum reflecting discussions within the Division surrounding governing structures and decision-making within the institution. It was explained that the memorandum was intended as a constructive contribution aimed at encouraging collective reflection on governance processes, Senate's role within academic governance, and institutional practices related to consultation, transparency, and community engagement.

Comments were made on balancing meaningful consultation processes with the workload generated by ongoing institutional initiatives and documentation. Concerns were also highlighted regarding the volume of documents circulated, the pace of consultations, and the difficulty in identifying revisions and understanding how feedback had been incorporated into subsequent versions of documents. Further comments highlighted the need to balance meaningful consultation with the realities of increasing workloads across the institution. It was noted that sufficient time and support are essential to enable colleagues to participate fully in consultation processes and to ensure that diverse perspectives are meaningfully considered. It was further noted that the Decolonization Circle had been approached and that a meeting would take place in the coming weeks, with information to be shared with Senate at a future meeting.

The meeting ended at 5:50 p.m.



Sébastien Lebel-Grenier, Chair
Vice-Chancellor and Principal



Geneviève Gagné, Secretary General