



OPEN SENATE MEETING

MINUTES

Date:	Tuesday, February 17, 2026
Time:	4:00pm - 6:00pm (ET)
Location:	Thunder Bay Campus: Senate Chambers (UC 1001) Orillia Campus: OA3041 Zoom

In attendance		
Dr. Gillian Siddall, Chair	Dr. Ahmed Elshaer	Dr. Michael Rennie
Dr. Gillian Balfour, Vice-Chair	Dr. Les Fleischer	Dr. Linda Rodenburg
Marcie Morrison, Acting Secretary Recording Secretary	Dr. Kristy Holmes	Dr. Langis Roy
Dr. Olakunle Akingbola	Dr. Douglas Ivison	Dr. Chris Sanders
Dr. David Barnett	Dr. Sarah Jacoba	Gisella Scalese
Dr. Betsy Birmingham	Dr. Jennifer Jarman	Dr. Chander Shahi
Dr. Glenda Bonifacio	Dr. Muhammad Khalid	Sana Sharif
Dr. Matthew Boyd	Dr. Rupert Klein	Dr. Sultan Siddiqui
Dr. Kristin Burnett	Dr. Sreekumari Kurissery	Dr. Kathryn Sinden
Dr. Michael Campbell	Dr. Brigitte Leblon	Dr. Subramanian Sivaramakrishnan
Paul Capon	Dr. Isabelle Lemée	Mark Smith
Dr. Lori Chambers	Dr. Jianye Liu	Dr. Michael Stevenson
Dr. Carlos Christoffersen	Dr. Craig MacKinnon	Dr. Mirella Stroink
Dr. Evgeny Chugunov	Dr. Debra Mackinnon	Dr. Aamir Taiyeb
Dr. Paul Cormier	Dr. Richard Maundrell	Dr. Ali Tarokh
Dr. Adam Cornwell	Dr. Karen McQueen	Andrea Tarsitano

Dr. Gautam Das	Dr. Sarah Olutola	Dr. Wilson Wang
Dr. Hubert de Guise	Dr. Leila Pakzad	Dr. Rachel Warburton
Dr. Andrew Dean	Dr. Claudio Pousa	Yaphet Yosief
Dr. Rhonda Dubec	Dr. Todd Randall	Dr. Kam Yu
Dr. Hosam El-Ocla		
Regrets		
Dr. Ruth Beatty	Dr. Jason Lisi	Dr. Scott Pound
Dr. Aris Carastathis	Dr. Meridith Lovell-Johnston	Dr. Karl Skogstad
Dr. Amanda Diochon	Dr. Wayne Melville	Dr. Elaine Wiersma
Sara Janes	Dr. Leigh Potvin	Dr. Wing Him Yeung
Dr. Rhonda Koster		
Official Observers		
Dr. Heather Murchison	Rosanna Scaffeo	Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux
Regrets		
Michael den Haan	Dylan Mazur	Kathy Pozihun

The meeting was called to order at 4:02pm.

Traditional Land Acknowledgement

The Chair opened the meeting by acknowledging the Indigenous territories of Thunder Bay and Orillia.

1. Approval of Agenda

MOVED (T. Randall) that the agenda be approved.

A question arose regarding the inclusion of Item 8 after the Senate Executive Committee's approval of the agenda. The President offered a rationale for the late addition. No opposition was raised to the addition of Item 8.

CARRIED

2.	<p>Consent Agenda</p> <p>Supporting documentation for the items in the Consent Agenda was circulated in advance of the meeting</p> <p>MOVED (C. Sanders) that the Consent Agenda be approved, with the following items moved to the regular agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2C-2.b. Senate Budget Committee (SBC) Report ● 2C-2.d. Senate Research Committee (SRC) Report ● 2C-2.f. Senate Undergraduate Scholarships and Bursaries Committee (SUSBC) Report <p>CARRIED</p>
2C-1.	<p>Approval of the Previous Senate Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● January 19, 2026 OPEN Senate Meeting Minutes <p>MOVED that the January 19, 2026 Open Senate meeting minutes be approved. CARRIED</p>
2C-2.	<p>Senate Standing Committee Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Senate Academic Committee (SAC) Report b. Senate Budget Committee (SBC) Report - Item moved to regular agenda. c. Senate Organization Committee (SOC) Report d. Senate Research Committee (SRC) Report - Item moved to regular agenda. e. Senate Teaching and Learning Committee (STLC) Report f. Senate Undergraduate Scholarships and Bursaries Committee (SUSBC) Report - Item moved to regular agenda. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Major Medal Changes (with mark-ups) g. Faculty of Graduate Studies Council (FGSC) Report
2C-3.	<p>Adjunct Professor Recommendations</p> <p>MOVED that the attached Adjunct Professor recommendations be approved. CARRIED</p>

	<p>2C-4. Informational Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Calendar Change Deadlines Reminder b. Annual report on Allegations of Breaches of Academic Integrity
	<p>Items Moved to Regular Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Senate Budget Committee (SBC) Report <p>The SBC report was circulated in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>The Committee Chair addressed a question concerning the information contained in the report related to the current SBC Terms of Reference review.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Senate Research Committee (SRC) Report <p>The SRC report was circulated in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>The Committee Chair responded to an inquiry about the awards application pool.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Senate Undergraduate Scholarships and Bursaries Committee (SUSBC) Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Major Medal Changes (with mark-ups) <p>The SUSBC report and Major Medal Changes (with mark-ups) were circulated in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>The Committee Chair addressed a question concerning the information contained in the report related to the current SUSBC Terms of Reference review.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Approval of Degree and Diploma Recipients - Winter 2026</p> <p>The Graduands List was circulated in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>MOVED (A. Tarsitano) that the candidates on the distributed Graduands List be awarded the undergraduate degrees or diplomas, and graduate degrees indicated.</p> <p>CARRIED</p>

4.	<p>Calendar Change Reviews</p> <p>The February 2026 Calendar Changes Referral Memo was circulated in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>MOVED (C. Sanders) that the appropriate committees continue reviewing the proposed Academic Calendar changes.</p> <p>CARRIED</p>
5.	<p>Items for Discussion from Committee Reports</p>
5.1	<p>Policy Consultation - Preparing Students for Tests, Assignments, and Final Exams Draft Policy</p> <p>The new proposed policy was circulated in advance of the meeting. The STLC is seeking senators' input on a revised draft of the policy intended to replace the "Preparing Students for Examinations" policy. The new proposed policy is tentatively called "Preparing Students for Tests, Assignments, and Final Exams".</p> <p>Feedback was invited in relation to the following guiding questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Is the information that instructors are required to share with students clearly listed? Is that list of required information appropriate? Are these criteria measurable? In turn, would the policy be enforceable?2. Does the new proposed policy sufficiently respect instructors' freedom to conduct their classes and evaluations in the way that they see fit?3. Does the new proposed policy provide information that the students have expressed would be helpful to them, according to LUSU's and Student consultation (ex. exam format, chapters covered), without over-burdening instructors?4. Does the new proposed policy empower students to succeed while sufficiently emphasizing the role that students play in their own success?5. Is it appropriate that the new proposed policy pertain to all forms of evaluation, not only final exams (with a category explicitly made for exceptions)? <p>The floor was opened for discussion. Do. Jacoba, Chair of the STLC, recorded all feedback/recommendations for consideration.</p>

6.	<p>Calendar Change Approvals</p> <p>The Curriculum Change Workflows chart was circulated in advance of the meeting for information.</p>
6.1	<p>Approval of Undergraduate Calendar Changes</p> <p>MOVED (S. Siddiqui) that the following Undergraduate Academic Calendar changes be approved:</p> <p>Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2025-HBS-9030 - KINE changing requisites UG• 2025-HBS-9037 - KINE 1015 & 1017 Course Discontinuation <p>Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2025-SCI-8822-B-B - New ENSU UG course: Environmental Sustainability 2039 Plant and animal form and function with laboratory• 2025-SCI-9021 - GEOG Course Description Updates• 2025-SCI-9022 - GEOG - Course Prerequisite Update• 2025-SCI-9039 - Addition of Lab for ECON 2017• 2025-SCI-9062 - New 0.5 FCE Course to replace half of GSCI 0261 (GSCI-0251)• 2025-SCI-9063 - New 0.5 FCE course to replace the other half of GSCI 0261 - (GSCI-0252)• 2025-SCI-9064 - HBS (Applied Life Sciences major) course list updates• 2025-SCI-9076 - BIOL-2019: Plant & animal form & function: add restrictive notes• 2025-SCI-9081 - Removing Cross Listed Courses - ANTH• 2025-SCI-9088 - Environmental Sustainability programs - course replacement• 2025-SCI-9089 - Discontinuing ENSU 1110 and 1130• 2025-SCI-9094 - Courses-Modifications-UG-Geology-Changes to 4th Field Schools• 2025-SCI-9095 - Courses-Modifications-UG-Geology-4th course prerequisites• 2025-SCI-9096 - Program-Minor Modifications-UG-Geology-Changes due to 4th year course modifications

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 2025-SCI-9097 - Program-Minor Modifications-UG-Geology-Changes due to 4th year course modifications● 2025-SCI-9101 - Programs-Minor Modifications-UG-Geology-Changes to upper year course options for Earth Science degree programs● 2025-SCI-9103 - ANTH Program Updates - Removing BUSI 1513● 2025-SCI-9109 - ANTH - Course Description / Title Update● 2025-SCI-9110 - Discontinue General Science 0261 <p>Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 2025-SOC-8842 - Course New UG ENGL Life Writing● 2025-SOC-8843 - Minor Modification x3 <p><i>Note: The above Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities requests were included in error. 2025-SOC-8842 and 2025-SOC-8843 have not been approved by SBC as of Feb 17/26.</i></p> <p>CARRIED</p>
6.2	Approval of Graduate Calendar Changes	<p>MOVED (C. Shahi) that the following Graduate Academic Calendar change be approved:</p> <p>Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 2025-HBS-9068 - Course-Modification-GR-Health Sciences-Must take in first term● 2025-HBS-9129 - Course- minor modification - GR- Psychology <p>Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 2025-SOC-9078 - HIST_New_Grad_Courses History● 2025-SOC-9091 - Course-Modification-GR-Social Justice● 2025-SOC-9092 - Course-New-GR-Social Justice Studies-Crosslisting SJS with History-operated course, History of Neoliberalism HIST-5032/SOCJ-5032● 2025-SOC-9135 - Course-New-GR-Social Justice Studies-Adding/Crosslisting "Resisting Fascism" (operated by History)● 2025-SOC-9140 - Course-Modification-GR-Social Justice Studies-Title change for GWS-operated SOCJ 5214 <p>CARRIED</p>

	<p>6.3 Approval of Graduate Regulations and Admissions Changes</p> <p>MOVED (S. Shahi) that the following Graduate Regulations and Admissions Calendar change be approved: Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2025-HBS-8820 - Admission_Requirement_modification_GR_SocialWork• 2025-HBS-8812 - Regulation Modification- GR- Psychology <p>CARRIED</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Policy Review</p> <p>The following documents were circulated in advance of the meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a. In Memoriams Enduring Resolution (clean version)b. In Memoriams Enduring Resolution (with markups) <p>It was reported that the Senate Organization Committee (SOC) has concluded its review of the policy and recommends that the Senate approve the proposed amendments.</p> <p>MOVED (T. Randall) to that the Senate approve the proposed amendments to the In Memoriams Enduring Resolution.</p> <p>The President and the Chair of SOC provided a rationale for the proposed amendments.</p> <p>CARRIED</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>2026 Research & Innovation Week Highlights</p> <p>The presentation, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, was delivered, showcasing the Research & Innovation Week events, in Thunder Bay and Orillia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thunder Bay: February 23-27, 2026• Orillia: March 3-4, 2026 <p>Following the presentation, the Administration responded to questions.</p> <p>At the request of a senator, Dr. Roy provided an update regarding the applications for research chairs.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Informational Items</p>

	9.1	<p>Board of Governors Report</p> <p>The Board of Governors Report for the February 6, 2026 meeting was circulated in advance of the meeting.</p>
	9.2	<p>Ogimaawin Indigenous Education Council Report</p> <p>The Ogimaawin Indigenous Education Council Report for the February 3, 2026 meeting was circulated in advance of the meeting.</p>
	9.3	<p>President and Vice-Chancellor Report</p> <p>The President’s report was circulated in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>In addition to the information contained in the written report, the President provided a verbal comprehensive, high-level summary of her recent trip to India.</p> <p>Discussion ensued.</p>
	9.4	<p>Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Report</p> <p>The Provost provided a summary of her report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, and addressed questions and provided clarification on information contained in the report.</p>
10.		<p>In Camera Session</p> <p>MOVED (S. Shahi) that the Senate adjourns to an in camera session for a report from the Chair of the Senate Honorary Degrees Committee and that only Senators and those specifically invited by the Chair shall be present.</p> <p>CARRIED</p> <p>An in camera session was called to order at 5:37pm. Only Senators, the Acting Secretary and Recording Secretary were invited to be present.</p> <p>The Senate returned to the open meeting at 5:49pm.</p>
	10.1	<p>Business Arising from the In Camera Meeting</p>

		There was no business arising from the In Camera meeting.
11.	Other Business	There was no other business.
The meeting adjourned at 5:39pm.		

Dr. Gillian Siddall, Chair

Marcie Morrison, Acting Secretary