



OPEN SENATE MEETING MINUTES

Date:	Monday, September 29, 2025
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. Linda Rodenburg
Dr. Gillian Balfour, Vice-Chair	Dr. Les Fleischer	Dr. Langis Roy
Jason Lisi, Secretary	Dr. Christine Gottardo	Dr. Sam Salem
Trudy McKinnon, Recording Secretary	Dr. Douglas Hayes	Dr. Pauline Sameshima
Dr. Olakunle Akingbola	Dr. Kristy Holmes	Dr. Chris Sanders
Dr. Asad Aman	Dr. Douglas Ivison	Dr. Kathy Sanderson
Dr. Dzhamal Amishev	Dr. Sarah Jacoba	Gisella Scalese
Denise Baxter	Ms. Sara Janes	Dr. Chander Shahi
Dr. Betsy Birmingham	Dr. Jennifer Jarman	Sana Sharif
Dr. Glenda Bonifacio	Dr. Kristen Jones-Bonofiglio	Dr. Sultan Siddiqui
Dr. Mariette Brennan	Dr. Rupert Klein	Dr. Kathryn Sinden
Dr. Kristin Burnett	Dr. Rhonda Koster	Dr. Subramanian Sivaramakrishnan
Dr. Michael Campbell	Dr. Janusz Koziński	Dr. Karl Skogstad
Paul Capon	Dr. Sreekumari Kurissery	Mark Smith
Dr. Aris Carastathis	Colin Kutchyera	Dr. Michael Stevenson
Dr. Carlos Christoffersen	Dr. Brigitte Leblon	Dr. Mirella Stroink

Dr. Evgeny Chugunov	Dr. Isabelle Lemée	Dr. Aamir Taiyeb
Dr. Andrew Conly	Dr. Meredith Lovell-Johnston	Dr. Ali Tarokh
Dr. Paul Cormier	Dr. Debra Mackinnon	Andrea Tarsitano
Dr. Adam Cornwell	Dr. Karen McQueen	Dr. Beatrice Vernier
Dr. Gautam Das	Dr. Wayne Melville	Dr. Rachel Warburton
Dr. Hubert de Guise	Amanda Pacholczak	Dr. Elaine Wiersma
Dr. Andrew Dean	Dr. Leigh Potvin	Dr. Abdulsalam Yassine
Dr. Rhonda Dubec	Dr. Todd Randall	Dr. Wing Him Yeung
Dr. Hosam El-Ocla	Dr. Michael Rennie	

Regrets

Dr. Matthew Boyd	Prof. Daniel Dylan	Dr. Ruizhong Wei
Dr. Lori Chambers	Dr. Leila Pakzad	Dr. Kam Yu
Dr. Amanda Diochon		

Official Observers

Alexandra Korinowsky	Dr. Heather Murchison	Kathy Pozihun
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Regrets

Rosanna Scaffeo		
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The meeting was called to order at 4:01pm.

Traditional Land Acknowledgement

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

In Memoriam - Dr. Alastair Macdonald

Dr. Gillian Balfour, spoke in memory of Dr. Alastair Macdonald, former faculty member in the Department of Biology. During his tenure at Lakehead University, Dr. Macdonald

<p>served as Chair of the Department of Biology, as Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Science. The Senate observed a moment of silence for Dr. Alastair Macdonald.</p>	
<p>Introductions - Provost & Vice-President (Academic) and Vice-President, Research & Innovation</p>	
	<p>The Chair introduced and shared a short biography of the following newly appointed Executive Team members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Gillian Balfour - Provost & Vice-President (Academic) and Vice-Chair of Senate• Dr. Langis Roy - Vice-President, Research & Innovation
1.	<p>Approval of Agenda</p> <p>MOVED (K. Skogstad) that the agenda be approved.</p> <p>CARRIED</p> <p>The Chair provided an overview of the newly implemented consent agenda, and answered questions from the floor regarding the process of moving items out of the consent agenda and/or discussing items that appear in the consent agenda.</p>
2.	<p>Consent Agenda</p> <p>MOVED (T. Randall) that the Consent Agenda be approved, as amended, with the following items moved to the regular agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2C-1. b. Approval of June 19, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes• 2C-2. a. Senate Academic Committee (SAC) Report• 2C-2. b. Senate Budget Committee (SBC) Report• 2C-2. d. Senate Teaching and Learning Committee (STLC) Report <p>CARRIED</p>
	<p>2C-1. Previous Senate Minutes</p> <p>a. Approval of May 12, 2025 OPEN Minutes</p> <p>b. Approval of June 19, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes - Item moved to regular agenda</p>
	<p>2C-2. Senate Standing Committee Reports</p> <p>a. Senate Academic Committee (SAC) Report - Item moved to regular agenda</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">b. Senate Budget Committee (SBC) Report - Item moved to regular agendac. Senate Organization Committee (SOC) Reportd. Senate Teaching and Learning Committee (STLC) Report - Item moved to regular agenda
	2C-3.	<p>Adjunct Professor Recommendations</p> <p>MOVED that the attached Adjunct Professor recommendations be approved.</p> <p>CARRIED</p>
	2C-4.	<p>Informational Items</p> <p>The following items were circulated in advance of the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Late Additions to the List of Graduandsb. Undergrad Cal Change approval (2025-HBS-8823) - Email electronic votec. Calendar Change Deadlines Reminderd. Adjunct Professor Renewals
		<p>Item Moved to Regular Agenda - Previous Senate Minutes</p> <p>Approval of June 19, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes</p> <p>MOVED (R. Warburton) the June 19, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes be approved, as amended.</p> <p>CARRIED</p> <p>Concerns were raised that the minutes did not accurately reflect the President's comments at the Special Senate Meeting. The minutes will be amended to clarify further the President's commitment that changes that fall under the purview of Senate will come to Senate for approval.</p>
3.	Professor Emeritus Recognition	<p>Dr. Balfour spoke to the accomplishments of Dr. Michael Wesner, Department of Psychology who was being honoured with the title of Professor Emeritus in recognition of long and distinguished service to Lakehead University.</p>

4.	<p>Contribution to Teaching Awards</p> <p>Dr. Balfour spoke to the accomplishments of each of the following Contribution to Teaching Award recipients being honoured at the Senate meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Kaitlin Adduono, Lecturer, Nursing• Dr. Davut Akca, Assistant Professor, Interdisciplinary Studies• Ms. Tenille Brown, Assistant Professor, Law• Dr. Ahmed Elshaer, Associate Professor, Civil Engineering• Dr. Kathryn Walton, Assistant Professor, English• Mr. Brian Weishar, Contract Lecturer, Education
5.	<p>Graduands List - Fall 2025</p> <p>The Approval of Degree and Diploma Recipients 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>
6.	<p>Calendar Change Reviews</p> <p>The Calendar Changes Referral Memo - September 2025 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>
7.	<p>Items for Discussion from Committee Reports</p> <p>7.1 Senate Teaching and Learning Committee (STLC)</p> <p>Policy Review</p> <p>The following resources were circulated in advance of the meeting:</p> <p>a. Current Policy: Examinations - Past Finals (Available to Students)</p>

		<p>b. Proposed Policy: Preparing Students for Examinations Policy Draft</p> <p>MOVED (S. Jacoba) that Senate approve the Preparing Students for Examinations Policy to supersede the Examinations: Past Finals (Available to Students) Policy.</p> <p>Senators brought forth concerns about the wording of the new policy. Following discussing the mover and seconder agreed to withdraw the motion and refer this item back to the Senate Teaching and Learning Committee.</p>
Items Moved to Regular Agenda - Previous Senate Minutes		
		<p>Senate Academic Committee (SAC) Report</p> <p>Senators sought clarification on the motion regarding the new Department of Veterinary Medicine. The University Secretary clarified that this item will be brought to Senate for approval when the identified Standing Committees have completed their review of the proposal.</p>
		<p>Senate Budget Committee (SBC) Report</p> <p>Concerns regarding the SBC report were addressed with Senate Academic Committee Report.</p>
		<p>Senate Teaching and Learning Committee (STLC) Report</p> <p>The Committee Chair was asked for an update of the Student Evaluation of Teaching survey discussions. The Chair will be looking into this item.</p>
8.	Calendar Change Approvals	
	8.1	<p>Approval of Undergraduate Calendar Changes</p> <p>MOVED (S. Siddiqui) that the following Undergraduate Academic Calendar change be approved:</p> <p>Faculty of Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2025-EDU-8827 - Updating course description for EDUC 3510 Religious Education in Catholic District School Board in Ontario

		CARRIED
	8.2	<p>Approval of Graduate Calendar Changes</p> <p>MOVED (C. Shahi) that the following Graduate Academic Calendar change be approved:</p> <p>Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2024-SOC-8703 - Course-Modification-GR-Social Justice Studies-SOCJ 5214/ WOME 4214 <p>CARRIED</p>
9.	9.	<p>Lakehead University Student Union (LUSU) Appointment Recommendations</p> <p>The LUSU Recommendations Memo to Senate - 2025-26 was circulated in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>MOVED (A. Tarsitano) that the attached LUSU appointment recommendations be approved.</p> <p>CARRIED</p>
10.	10.	<p>Election Results - For Information</p>
	10.1	<p>The following was circulated in advance of the meeting, for information:</p> <p>Senate/Senate Standing Committee Vacancies 2025-26 - Email electronic vote</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prof. Daniel Dylan - Faculty Member (Faculty of Law) on Senate for the term commencing on July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028• Dr. Naqi Sayed - Lakehead University Faculty Association Member on Senate for the term commencing on July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026• Dr. Brian McLaren - Senate Teaching & Learning Committee (Faculty of Natural Resources Management) for the term commencing on July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028• Senate Executive Committee (Faculty-at-Large Senator) for the term commencing on July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Dr. Karl Skogstad○ Dr. Rachel Warburton

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Senate Executive Committee (Chair/Director of Department/School) for the term commencing on July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026<ul style="list-style-type: none">Dr. Michael StevensonDr. Chris Sanders
	10.2	<p>The following voting results email was circulated in advance of the meeting:</p> <p>Professional Librarian Vacancy on Senate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ms. Sara Janes - Professional Librarian on Senate for the term commencing immediately to February 28, 2026
	10.3	<p>Other Appointments (Senate)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Dr. Jianye Liu - Representative Dept. of Sociology for the term commencing Jul 1/25-Jun 30/26Dr. Mariette Brennan - Faculty of Law Member for the term commencing Jul 1/25-Jun 30/26Dr. Ali Tarokh - Representative Dept. of Engineering-Mechanical and Mechatronics for the term commencing Jul 1/25-Jun 30/26Dr. Rhonda Dubec - Representative Dept. of Languages for the term commencing Aug 28/25-Jun 30/26
11.		<p>Informational Items</p>
	11.1	<p>Board of Governors Report - June 6, 2025</p> <p>The Board of Governors report for the June 6, 2025 meeting was circulated in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>A Senator inquired if there would be an opportunity to form a Board committee on Commercialization. Mark Smith expressed interest in further discussion on this topic. He also corrected an error in Business Arising from the In Camera Session in that the report should say the report was for Promotion to Professor not Renewal and Tenure and Simultaneous Promotion to Associate Professor. The Vice-President, Administration and Finance, suggested clarifying the wording on donations being down the previous year, as well as the funding for the new DVMP from sources outside Lakehead University.</p>

	11.2	<p>Council of Ontario Universities Academic Colleagues Report</p> <p>The Council of Ontario Universities Academic Colleagues Report was circulated in advance of the meeting.</p>
	11.3	<p>President and Vice-Chancellor Report</p> <p>The President's report was circulated in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>a. Report on Student Appeals 2024-2025</p> <p>The annual report on student appeals was circulated in advance of the meeting.</p>
	11.4	<p>Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Report</p> <p>The Provost's report was circulated in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>Discussion ensued. The Provost and Vice-President (Academic) stated that she will be working together with the Vice-President, Research and Innovation to develop the Academic Plan and Research Plan.</p>
12.	Other Business	<p>The Dean of Natural Resources Management informed Senate of the 60th Anniversary Tree Planting and Forestry Awards Ceremony that will take place on Saturday, October 4th at Lakehead University.</p>

The meeting was adjourned at 5:17pm.

Dr. Gillian Siddall, Chair

Jason Lisi, Secretary of Senate