



SENATE
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Monday, March 2, 2026
4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m
MS Teams Online

Present:

Voting Members

Aimee Begalka
Alia Somji
Allyson Rozell
Andhra Goundrey
Brett Favaro
Catherine Schwichtenberg, Vice-Chair
Celia Brinkerhoff
Diane Purvey
Diane Van der Gucht
Gurnoor Kaur
Jenna Smith
Laura McDonald

Lindsay Norris
Melissa Cuthill
Michael Cober
Mike Larsen
Raymond Chou
Richard Popoff
Sharmen Lee
Sheena Dela Torre
Shelley Boyd
Tara Lyons
Todd Mundle
Winston Sayson
Zena Mitchell

Non-Voting Members

Nadia Henwood
Dianne Doyle (Board Appointee)

Administrative Resources

Michelle Molnar
Ruby Gupta
Sonia Orlu

Guests and Presenters

Josephine Chan

Ex-Officio

Kwuntiltunaat (Kim Baird), Chancellor

Not Present:

Voting Members

Bruce Choy, Chair
Harkomalpreet Gill
Laura Del Rio Torres
Leland Dieno
Mike Mann

Non-Voting Members

David Burns

1. Call to Order and Territorial Acknowledgement

The Vice-Chair of Senate, Catherine Schwichtenberg, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Todd Mundle moved the agenda be approved as circulated.

The motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes, January 26, 2026

Winston Sayson moved the minutes be approved as circulated.

The motion carried.

4. Chair's Report

Senate Vice-Chair Catherine Schwichtenberg confirmed she is presiding as Chair while the President is on leave. She emphasized the importance of confidentiality around the leave, expressed hopes for the President's well-being, and conveyed strong confidence in KPU's continuity, governance structures, and communications processes. She commended the Acting President for exemplary leadership at Convocation and affirmed that Senate's agenda and business continue effectively.

4.1. Vice-Chancellor's Report to Senate

No report.

4.2. Provost's Report to Senate

Provost Diane Purvey presented her written report, highlighting convocation week. The Provost thanked the Community Engagement and Major Events team, the Convocation Planning team, and all volunteers. She noted that June Convocation is expected to be approximately five ceremonies due to enrolment declines, with potential for further reduction as fewer graduates are being replaced by incoming students.

5. Senate Standing Committee on Curriculum

Catherine Schwichtenberg, Chair of the SSCC, presented her written report.

5.1. Course Outlines

Richard Armitage moved that Senate approve the attached list of new, revised and discontinued course outlines.

The motion carried.

5.2. Graduate Studies General Regulation 3: Admissions Requirements

Catherine Schwichtenberg explained that the regulation establishes institution-wide, high-level admissions parameters for graduate studies while allowing faculties to set program-specific criteria.

Josephine Chan, Special Assistant to the Provost on Policy and Academic Affairs, added that the timing is aligned with the Degree Quality Assessment Board's Stage 2 external panel site visit arrangements for the proposed Master's in Operations and Supply Chain Management and that external reviewers will be looking at KPU's regulatory and administrative readiness for graduate education.

Catherine Schwichtenberg moved that Senate approve the Graduate Studies General Regulation 3: Admission Requirements, effective September 1, 2026.

The motion carried.

6. Senate Executive Committee

The Senate Executive Committee approved the March 2, 2026 Senate agenda on February 27, 2026.

7. Senate Governance and Nominating Committee

Catherine Schwichtenberg presented the report on behalf of Sharmen Lee, Chair of the SGNC.

7.1. Appointments to the Search Advisory Committee for the Appointment of Dean, Melville School of Business

Sharmen Lee moved that Senate appoint the following members to the Search Advisory Committee for the appointment of Dean, Melville School of Business:

Student (One):

- **Sheena Dela Torre**

Regular faculty members (up to six)

- **Wiktor Tutlewski**
- **Landon Kleis**
- **Phaedra Burke**
- **Valerie Warren**
- **Lyndsay Passmore**

The motion carried.

8. Joint Senate Standing Committee on Academic Planning and Priorities and University Budget

Catherine Schwichtenberg presented her written report.

8.1. Graduate Studies General Regulation 2: Leave of Absence for Master's Students

Josephine Chan explained that the regulation formalizes procedures for graduate students who require temporary leave from their programs. Graduate programs generally require continuous registration due to their cohort-based structure and integrated research and partnership components. The regulation ensures that students who require leave can return to their programs with clear procedures and without adverse impacts on program progression or external research funding obligations.

The regulation was developed in consultation with the Office of Research Services, Deans, Student Services, Student Aid and Financial Assistance, KPU International, Legal Counsel, and the Office of the Registrar. The framework aligns with practices at comparable institutions.

Brett Favaro moved that Senate approve the Graduate Studies General Regulation 2: Leave of Absence for Master's Students, effective September 1, 2026.

The motion carried.

8.2. Program and Course Discontinuations: Bachelor of Music in Musical Arts, Major in General Studies

Catherine Schwichtenberg explained that the program had experienced longstanding challenges, including persistent financial losses and declining relevance within the evolving music education landscape. The program had historically served as a feeder program to music programs at other institutions; however, this pathway had not functioned effectively in practice.

Consultations with external stakeholders and faculty indicated that program redesign was necessary. Work is underway to develop a new diploma-level offering better aligned with current industry needs.

The proposal was recommended by the Faculty of Arts and approved by the Joint Senate Standing Committees on Academic Planning and Priorities and on University Budget before being brought to Senate.

Shelley Boyd moved that Senate recommend the Board of Governors approve the discontinuation of the Bachelor of Music in Musical Arts, Major in General Studies program (BMMA) and its associated courses, effective September 1, 2026.

The motion carried.

8.3. Program Suspension: Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Technical Management and Services

Catherine Schwichtenberg explained that the program had relied heavily on international student enrolment and had been affected by recent policy changes related to post-graduate work permits. As a result, enrolment levels had become unsustainable.

The program will be suspended while the faculty undertakes significant redesign to create a version more attractive to domestic students. A transition plan is in place to support currently enrolled students through advising and program completion.

Alia Somji moved that Senate approve the suspension of the Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Technical Management and Services (TMAS), effective May 1, 2026.

The motion carried.

9. Senate Standing Committee on Library

Catherine Schwichtenberg presented the written report on behalf of committee chair Jennifer Williams.

10. Senate Standing Committee on Program Review

Catherine Schwichtenberg presented the written report on behalf of committee chair Fergal Callaghan.

11. Items for Discussion

A question was raised regarding outreach to school districts beyond Districts 42 and 43 concerning KPU trades programs.

Diane Purvey confirmed that university leadership and Deans regularly meet with school districts to build relationships and promote KPU programs. These meetings rotate among districts and have produced productive partnerships and recruitment opportunities.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.