
SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON POLICY

Minutes of Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 06, 2026
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
MS Teams Online

Present:

Voting Members

Aimee Begalka
Iryna Karaush
Leland Dieno
Stef Ashton
Shalini Vanan
Kevin Lu
Taiwo Aderemi

Non-Voting Members

Catherine Schwichtenberg
David Burns
Nadia Henwood
Josephine Chan

Administrative Resources

Ruby Gupta
Michelle Molnar

Ex-Officio

Bruce Choy, President and Vice-Chancellor
Kwuntiltunaat (Kim Baird), Chancellor

Presenters

Fiona Whittington-Walsh

Not Present:

Voting Members

Robin Huppmann

Non-Voting Members

Jennifer Jordan

1. Call to Order and Territorial Acknowledgement

The meeting was called to order at 2:01pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Stephanie Ashton, moved the agenda be adopted as amended.

The motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes, Nov 04, 2025

Taiwo Aderemi, moved the minutes be accepted as circulated.

The motion carried.

4. Chair's Report

No Report.

5. New Business

5.1. Election of New Chair

The term of office begins Jan 6, 2026 and ends on the last day of the chair's current term on Senate or the committee that is Aug 31st, 2026.

Catherine Schwichtenberg, Vice-Chair of Senate, thanked Aimee Begalka for her contributions to the committee as the chair. She conducted the election and called for nominations:

First call: Aimee Begalka nominated Catherine Schwichtenberg. Catherine Schwichtenberg, accepted the nomination.

Second call: no nominations

Third call: no nominations

Catherine Schwichtenberg, was acclaimed as the Chair. She will continue as chair until Aug 31st, 2026.

6. Items for Discussion

6.1. AR2 Admission Procedure Amendment

Nadia Henwood, AVP Enrollment Services and Registrar provided rationale to the committee for the AR2 Admission procedure amendment. She invited Fiona Whittington Walsh, Sociology Instructor to provide the background for the same. Fiona explained how the amendment will help remove additional barriers for the students with intellectual developmental disabilities and to bring in more flexibility in the process of admission. Nadia Henwood, informed that these changes will be seen effective September 2026. The committee had a robust discussion around the development criteria and implementation of this amendment and provided constructive feedback to the proponents.

6.2. Student representation

Catherine Schwichtenberg, on behalf of SGNC collected feedback from the committee around the benefits of student representation on the committee, barriers they face to get engaged in the committee and the resources that are available for them. The committee voiced a variety of comments and suggestions to reduce barriers and improve the student voice on Senate committees.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:59 p.m.