



SENATE
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Monday, April 27, 2026
4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m
MS Teams Online

Present:

Voting Members

Alia Somji
Allyson Rozell
Andhra Goundrey
Brett Favaro
Catherine Schwichtenberg (Vice-Chair)
Celia Brinkerhoff
David Burns
Diane Purvey (Chair)
Diane Van der Gucht
Gurnoor Kaur
Jenna Smith
Landon Kleis
Laura Del Rio Torres
Laura McDonald

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

Non-Voting Members

Amy Jeon
Nadia Henwood

Administrative Resources

Michelle Molnar
Sonia Orlu

Guests and Presenters

Josephine Chan

Ex-Officio

Diane Purvey, President and Vice-Chancellor, *pro tem*
Kwuntiltunaat (Kim Baird), Chancellor

Not Present:

Voting Members

Harkomalpreet Gill
Michael Cober
Mike Mann
Ulrich Paschen

Non-Voting Members

1. Call to Order and Territorial Acknowledgement

The Chair, Diane Purvey, 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, March 30, 2026

Leland Dieno moved the minutes be approved as circulated.

The motion carried.

4. Chair's Report

4.1. President and Provost's Report to Senate

Diane Purvey, President and Vice-Chancellor *pro tem*, presented her written report and introduced a revised format that opens with a brief message, provides a short summary of presidential activity, and incorporates contributions from Vice-Presidents as required. The President thanked Senate members for their support during the leadership transition and invited feedback on the new format.

4.1.1 Academic Plan 2027 Implementation Highlights

Diane Purvey presented highlights of implementation progress on the Academic Plan, noting substantial activity across the University and acknowledging that some areas of work will continue under the incoming Provost.

4.2. Provost's Report to Senate

Provost *pro tem* David Burns outlined his interim approach, emphasizing consultation, transparency, and Senate engagement. Key areas discussed included:

- The importance of defining and communicating KPU's distinct institutional differentiators
- Targeted marketing and website revitalization to support program visibility
- Preliminary consultation regarding governance structures under Policy GV9, particularly within the Faculty of Academic and Career Preparation
- Extended consultation timelines to allow meaningful engagement before formal proposals
- Anticipated need for Senate deliberation on complex, non-binary decisions
- Opportunities arising from federal investments in the Canadian Armed Forces, particularly dual-use training and applied programming
- The need to re-examine undergraduate pathways and their effectiveness in supporting student progression

The Provost invited Senate members to contribute ideas and feedback directly.

5. Senate Standing Committee on Curriculum

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

5.1 April 2026 New and Revised Course Submissions

Catherine Schwichtenberg explained that the list predominantly consists of prerequisite revisions, with one new course, Work Smarter with Artificial Intelligence, developed through the Melville School of Business.

Mike Larsen moved that Senate approve the attached list of new and revised courses.

The motion carried.

5.2 Graduate Studies General Regulation 4: Academic Progress

Catherine Schwichtenberg explained that the regulation supports graduate student progress by establishing standards, identifying the role of the graduate advisor, and providing a process for situations where a student may not be progressing as required.

Josephine Chan, Special Assistant to the Provost on Policy and Academic Affairs, added that the revised regulation provides a clearer structure and process to ensure opportunities for faculties and academic departments to provide early support, identify risks and challenges, and establish parameters to prevent early withdrawal and degree completion delays.

Leland Dieno moved that Senate approve Graduate Studies General Regulation 4: Academic Progress, effective September 1, 2026.

The motion carried.

5.3 Program Revisions

5.3.1 Minor in Music

The revision addresses two courses, Music 1113 and Music 3512, that had been advertised as part of the minor but were not included in the original requirements, and updates prerequisites affected by the discontinuation of the Bachelor of Music in Musical Arts.

Richard Popoff moved that Senate approve the changes to the Minor in Music program and associated courses, effective September 1, 2026.

The motion carried.

5.3.2 Minor in Economics

The revision modernizes the minor by reducing the upper-level requirement from 15 to 12 credits, supporting on-time graduation, retention, and scheduling.

Richard Popoff moved that Senate approve the changes to the Minor in Economics program, effective September 1, 2026.

The motion carried.

5.3.3 Diploma in Brewing and Brewery Operations

The revision removes unnecessarily restrictive and inconsistent requirements to provide students with flexibility across the diploma and micro-credentials.

Brett Favaro moved that Senate approve the admissions changes to the Diploma in Brewing and Brewery Operations program, effective September 1, 2027.

The motion carried.

5.3.4 Diploma in Engineering Physics

The revision adds missing declaration requirements, reserves seats for certificate and declared diploma students to address overlap with the limited-intake certificate, and updates mathematics requirements to remove duplication. A typographical amendment was accepted to capitalize “Diploma” in the new declaration requirements for consistency.

Richard Popoff moved that Senate approve the changes to the Diploma in Engineering Physics program, effective September 1, 2026.

The motion carried.

5.3.5 Bachelor of Science Programs in Biology and Health Science

Catherine Schwichtenberg explained that the revisions arise from a Quality Assurance Plan initiated in October 2022. The revisions update learning outcomes, align course outlines, and clarify the honours programs by introducing specific entry requirements, including a grade of B or higher in BIOL 3180 and a CGPA of 3.2, or a letter of explanation. Students in the BSc major may use BIOL/HSCI 4990 and 4995 in place of two other courses, so that coursework can still count toward graduation if honours eligibility is not maintained.

Richard Popoff moved that Senate approve the changes to the Bachelor of Science, Major in Biology; Bachelor of Science (Honours), Major in Biology; Bachelor of Science, Major in Health Science; and Bachelor of Science (Honours), Major in Health Science, effective September 1, 2026.

The motion carried.

5.3.6 Associate of Science in Mathematics

The revisions incorporate the new STAT prefix, align courses with associate degree requirements, remove discontinued Geography courses and CPSC 1100, and add program learning outcomes.

Richard Popoff moved that Senate approve the changes to the Associate of Science in Mathematics program, effective September 1, 2026.

The motion carried.

5.3.7 Minor in Mathematics

The revisions parallel those for the Associate of Science in Mathematics, incorporating the new STAT prefix, revising course offerings, and improving clarity.

Richard Popoff moved that Senate approve the changes to the Minor in Mathematics program, effective September 1, 2026.

The motion carried.

5.3.8 Bachelor of Science, Major in Applications of Mathematics; Bachelor of Science (Honours), Major in Applications of Mathematics

The revisions add the new STAT prefix and STAT 1170, revise and reduce elective requirements, update program learning outcomes, reduce general electives, and add an Honours requirement.

Richard Popoff moved that Senate approve the revisions to the Bachelor of Science, Major in Applications of Mathematics and Bachelor of Science (Honours), Major in Applications of Mathematics, effective September 1, 2026.

The motion carried.

6. Senate Executive Committee

The Senate Executive Committee approved this agenda on April 17, 2026.

7. Senate Governance and Nominating Committee

Sharmen Lee, Chair of the SGNC, reported on the ongoing review of the Senate bylaws and consideration of how standing committees can best support Senate's work.

7.1. 2026 Presidential Search Advisory Committee Nominations

Sharmen Lee explained that several expressions of interest were received and that the committee sought representation from more than one faculty. An alternate was recommended to provide coverage in the event that an appointee was unable to participate.

Amendment: Rachel Chong's faculty affiliation was corrected from "Faculty of Educational Support and Design" to "Faculty of Educational Support and Development."

Sharmen Lee moved that Senate appoint the following regular faculty members-at-large to the Presidential Search Advisory Committee:

- **Farhad Dastur (Faculty of Arts)**
- **Paola Gavilanez (Wilson School of Design)**
- **Rachel Chong (Faculty of Educational Support and Development);**

and that Mazen Guirguis (Faculty of Arts) be recommended as an alternate, to be appointed in the event that any of the above-named appointees are unable to fulfill the duties or meet the requirements of the Committee.

The motion carried.

8. Senate Standing Committee on Program Review

Catherine Schwichtenberg presented the written report on behalf of Fergal Callaghan, Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Program Review.

9. Senate Standing Committee on Research

Melissa Cuthill, Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Research, reported that committee identified a gap between its mandate to advise Senate on academic matters related to research and the existing policy approval pathway, and the Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Policy committed to ensuring the committee is consulted on research policies going forward.

The committee also discussed its future relationship with the AVPR and the Office of Research Services, including a proposed recurring AVPR roundtable open to the research community and a possible focused advisory council or board to the AVPR. The committee completed a membership review and agreed to maintain its current composition while other consultation structures are explored.

10. Office of the Registrar

10.1. Election of the Vice-Chair of Senate

Nadia Henwood, University Secretary and Registrar, conducted the election of the Vice-Chair of Senate for a one-year term.

Catherine Schwichtenberg was nominated and accepted the nomination. Two calls for further nominations were made and none were received.

Catherine Schwichtenberg was acclaimed as Vice-Chair of Senate.

11. Search Advisory Committee: Appointment of Chancellor

Catherine Schwichtenberg explained that the previously formed Search Advisory Committee for the Appointment of Chancellor had been paused and that a replacement senator was required following Todd Mundle's announced retirement. A call for expressions of interest was issued, however because of the time-

sensitive nature of the appointment, the item was brought directly to Senate rather than through the Senate Governance and Nominating Committee.

Andhra Goundrey moved that Senate appoint Leland Dieno to the Search Advisory Committee for the Appointment of Chancellor.

The motion carried.

12. Items for Discussion

Catherine Schwichtenberg welcomed Landon Kleis and Ulrich Paschen, the two new senators from the Melville School of Business, as full voting members of Senate.

A question was raised regarding the reference in the President's Report to the student-facing AI chatbot and whether it was the first such deployment at KPU. Zena Mitchell, Associate Vice-President Students, explained that the Ivy chatbot (Ivy) is being deployed in phases, beginning with the IT Service Desk and extending to the Registrar's Office, Student Affairs, KPU International, and Alumni Affairs. Leeann Waddington noted that the Service Desk chatbot also includes teaching and learning resources.

A concern was raised that existing employee guidance on AI use may be inconsistent with the chatbot deployment. Leeann Waddington requested that the specific areas of concern be identified so that they can be addressed through the AI steering committee.

A further question was raised about consultation with other service units maintaining public-facing webpages; Leeann Waddington explained that the initial deployment is intended to test Ivy as an interface and that expansion will depend on resolving outstanding issues and securing additional funding

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.