KWANTLEN POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY
Senate

SENATE - REGULAR MEETING
Monday, September 28, 2026
4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Cedar 1205, Surrey Campus & MS Teams

PRESENT:

Voting Members

Allyson Rozell
Brett Favaro
Bryan Webber
Carlo Tala
Catherine Schwichtenberg, **Vice-Chair**
Celia Brinkerhoff
Christina Neigel
David Burns
Diane Purvey, **Chair**
Jenna Smith
Jessica Bayntun
Landon Kleis
Laura Del Rio Torres
Laura McDonald
Leland Dieno
Michael Cober
Melissa Cuthill
Mike Larsen
Navnoor Singh
Rob McTavish
Shelley Boyd
Tara Lyons
Winston Sayson
Zena Mitchell

Non-Voting Members

Anson Fong, Board Member
Amy Jeon
Nadia Henwood

Administrative Resources

Michelle Molnar
Nancy Train
Ruby Gupta

Presenters

Lori McLroy
Meredith Haaf

NOT PRESENT:

Carley Hodgkinson
Mike Mann
Rajbir Gahir
Richard Popoff
Rishi Taneja

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

The chair called the meeting to order at 4.02PM.

The Chair acknowledged KPU's commitment to reconciliation and recognition that we live, work and study in a region that overlaps with the unceded traditional and ancestral First Nations territories of the Kwantlen First Nation, which gifted its name to this university and the Musqueam, Katzie, Semiahmoo, Tsawwassen, Qayqayt, and Kwikwetlem.

1.1. Welcome from Lekeyten

Elder Lekeyten was unable to join the meeting.

1.2. Introduction of New Senators

The chair welcomed the new senators, Jessica Bayntun, Faculty Senator, Wilson School of Design, Mike Mann, Faculty Senator, Faculty of Trades and Technology and the new Student Senators, Navnoor Singh, Rajbir Gahir, and Rishi Taneja.

1.3. Student Satisfaction Survey Results

Meredith Haaf, Director, Office of Planning and Accountability and Lori Mc Elroy, Associate Vice-President, Planning & Accountability, presented the Fall 2025 student satisfaction survey results. They highlighted the retention risks, financial and mental health pressures, food and housing insecurity, and modality preferences. They explained that some units use the findings to prioritize initiatives, while survey invitations increasingly describe actions taken from prior feedback.

Senators discussed how KPU can utilize the findings and improve student awareness of available supports by suggesting more direct classroom communication by instructors and coordinated resource information.

2. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION #S01-26/27

MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED that Senate adopt the agenda as circulated.

3. Adoption of Minutes June 22,2026

MOTION #S02 -26/27

MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED that Senate adopt the minutes as circulated.

4. Reports of Officers

4.1. President and Vice-Chancellor Report to Senate

Diane Purvey, President and Vice-Chancellor, pro tem, referred to the report as attached.

4.1.1 President’s Address

The President that new domestic and international student enrolment had increased; however, continuing international enrolment remained below forecast. As a result, overall revenue was lower than projected. She advised senators that the University's financial circumstances would require challenging discussions and encouraged members to engage respectfully, grounding deliberations and decisions in policy, Senate-approved plans, and Senate's mandate.

She reported that writs had been issued for a provincial election, placing the Province in a caretaker period. She noted that government actions would be limited during the election period and subsequent cabinet formation, creating uncertainty regarding ministerial appointments and the timing of the post-secondary sector review, which could be delayed into the following year.

She noted discussions at a recent Polytechnics Canada meeting in Ottawa, where federal ministers and deputy ministers expressed interest in partnering with polytechnic institutions to strengthen workforce capacity. Potential areas of collaboration included defense-related training, co-operative education and internships, health care, food security, housing, infrastructure, accounting, human resources, geography, and GIS. Diane noted that a dean from the Trades faculty was exploring opportunities relevant to KPU.

She also provided an update on the University's strategic planning process. Following employee feedback collected through a Thought Exchange exercise in May and June, work was underway to

develop a preliminary strategic plan. Student input would be gathered during the fall term, followed by an employee survey. The resulting draft plan would be presented to the appropriate governance bodies, including Senate, for discussion prior to the new year.

4.2. Provost and Vice-President, Academic Report to Senate

David Burns, Provost and Vice-president Academic, pro tem referred to his attached report. He clarified the policy distinctions and governance requirements for intake cancellations, program suspensions, discontinuances, and faculty or department changes, emphasizing teach-out obligations, Senate transparency, and the need to align academic complexity with KPU's smaller resource base.

4.2.1 Structural Academic Changes

The Provost explained the policy distinctions and governance requirements of AC10 – Development and Change of Senate-Approved Programs, for intake cancellations, program suspensions, discontinuances, and faculty or department changes, emphasizing teach-out obligations, Senate transparency, and the need to align academic complexity with KPU's smaller resource base.

4.3. Secretary of Senate

4.3.1 Report of Graduates

MOTION #S03-26/27

MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED THAT Senate approve the conferral of credentials on the students listed in the Graduation Report, subject to final confirmation by the Registrar that all credential requirements have been met.

5. Senate Executive Committee

The Senate Executive Committee approved the September 28, 2026 Regular and Closed Senate agendas on September 18, 2026.

6. Senate Governance and Nominating Committee

6.1. SGNC Chair's Report

Catherine Schwichtenberg, Vice-Chair of Senate, presented her report and highlighted that the committee reviewed and provided feedback on a draft proposal for the merger of the Senate Governance and Nominating Committee with the Senate Standing Committee on Policy.

6.2. September Committee Nominations

The chair thanked faculty councils and nomination committees for their work in filling Senate committee and search advisory committee vacancies.

MOTION #S04-26/27

MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED THAT Senate approve the following nominations:

<u>Senate Standing Committee on the Library</u>

- Dave Lyon, Faculty Representative, Faculty of Arts, Voting, Sept 29, 2026 – Aug 31, 2029

- Amanda Grey, Representative, Open Education, Non-Voting, Sept 29, 2026 – Aug 31, 2029

Senate Standing Committee on Policy

- Rachel Chong, Faculty Representative, Faculty of Educational Support and Development, Voting, Sept 29, 2026 – Aug 31, 2029
- Catherine Chow, Faculty Representative, Faculty of Science, Voting, Sept 29, 2026 – Aug 31, 2029

Senate Standing Committee on Program Review

- Krista Gerlich-Fitzgerald, Representative, Student Services, Voting, Sept 29, 2026 – Aug 31, 2029
- Daniel Benzimra, Representative, Centre for Educational Transformation, Voting, Sept 29, 2026 – Aug 31, 2029
- Heather Clark, Faculty Representative, Wilson School of Design, Voting, Sept 29, 2026 – Aug 31, 2027 (1 year term)

Senate Standing Committee on Teaching and Learning

- Emily Ginter, Faculty Representative, Faculty of Educational Support and Development, Voting, Sept 29, 2026 – Aug 31, 2029
- Charissa Steel, Faculty Representative, Faculty of Science, Voting, Sept 29, 2026 – Aug 31, 2029
- Nishan Perera, Representative, Centre for Educational Transformation, Non-Voting, Sept 29, 2026 – Aug 31, 2029

Senate Standing Committee on Research

- Paul Adams, Faculty Representative, Faculty of Science, Voting, Sept 29, 2026 – Aug 31, 2029

6.3. Faculty BYLAWS Revision: Educational Support and Development

MOTION #S05-26/27

MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED THAT Senate approve the revised Faculty of Educational Support and Development bylaws.

6.4. Search Advisory Committee: Associate Dean, Faculty of Trades and Technology

MOTION #S06-26/27

MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED THAT Senate approve the following member to the Search Advisory Committee for the appointment of the Associate Dean, Faculty of Trades and Technology

Regular faculty members (up to six):

- Collin Warren

6.5. Search Advisory Committee: Provost and Vice-President, Academic

MOTION #S07-26/27

MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED THAT Senate approve the following members to the Search Advisory Committee for the appointment of the Provost and Vice-President:

Regular faculty members (up to three):

- Caja Blomley (Educational Support and Development)

- Catherine Schwichtenberg (Health)
- Mina Sahota (Business)

6.6. JOINT GOVERNANCE RETREAT 2026/2027

Keri Spindler, University Secretary informed senators about the Board of Governors and Senate's annual joint retreat that is organized to discuss topics of mutual interest and importance. The next retreat is scheduled for Friday, March 5th, 2027 at KPU Surrey.

7. Joint Standing Committee on Academic Planning and Priorities and University Budget

7.1. SSCAPP/UB Chair's Report

The Chair, Catherine Schwichtenberg, reported that the Joint Senate Standing Committee on Academic Planning and Priorities and University Budget held its first meeting on September 4,2026. Members reviewed committee policies, membership, and mandates, and engaged in productive discussions. The committee also discussed the proposed merger and reviewed academic schedules. Related items were noted as forthcoming for Senate consideration.

7.2. Program Suspension: Graduate Diploma in Business Management – Global Business Management

The proposals were primarily prompted by enrolment challenges associated with changes in international student enrolment. It was noted that a suspension would provide time to review the curriculum and program structure, explore options for a sustainable offering for working professionals, and assess the program's longer-term viability before considering discontinuance.

MOTION #S8-26/27

MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED THAT Senate approve the Suspension of the Graduate Diploma Program in Business Management - Global Business Management for 2 years, effective January 1, 2027.

7.3. Program Suspension: Graduate Diploma in Business Management – Green Business Management and Sustainability

MOTION #S9-26/27

MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED THAT Senate approve the Suspension of the Graduate Diploma Program in Business Management - Green Business Management and Sustainability for 2 years, effective January 1, 2027.

7.4. Program Suspension: Bachelor of Arts, Major in Philosophy; Bachelor of Arts (Honours), Major in Philosophy

Discussion acknowledged the broader institutional and educational value of philosophy alongside enrolment challenges within the major and upper-level courses. Philosophy offerings that support the minor and other programs, including health, business, arts, and technology, are expected to continue. Senators noted that the suspension period would allow time to review the program and explore opportunities for redesign.

MOTION #S10-26/27

MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED THAT Senate approve the suspension of the Bachelor of Arts, Major in Philosophy and the Bachelor of Arts (Honours), Major in Philosophy, effective January 1, 2027.

7.5. Program Suspension: Bachelor of Arts, Major in Policy Studies

MOTION #S11-26/27

MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED THAT Senate approve the suspension of the Bachelor of Arts, Major in Policy Studies, effective September 1, 2026.

7.6. Intake Cancellation Extension – Graduate Certificate in Sustainable Food Systems

Recruitment efforts, including targeted outreach and incentive funding, have not attracted sufficient students, and a discontinuation proposal is in progress. This extension prevents active recruitment and resource allocation to formally complete the program discontinuation.

MOTION #S12-26/27

MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED THAT Senate approve the intake cancellation extension for the Graduate Certificate in Sustainable Food Systems and Security through Fall 2027.

7.7. Intake Cancellation Extension – Diploma in Advanced VFX (Virtual Production)

A program discontinuation proposal is being developed, but the broader Entertainment Arts area has a defined plan to be rejuvenated and refocused, with the VFX change treated as one component of that larger plan.

MOTION #S13-26/27

MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED THAT Senate approve the intake cancellation extension for the Diploma in Advanced VFX (Virtual Production) through Spring 2027.

7.8. Academic Schedules - 2027/28, 2028/29 and 2029/2030

Senate approved the three-year academic schedules after confirming policy compliance, while senators requested a separate policy review to address compressed marking periods and recurring disruptions caused by holidays that create too many Monday class cancellations.

MOTION #S14-26/27

MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED THAT Senate approve the Academic Schedules for 2027/28, 2028/29 and 2029/2030

8. Senate Standing Committee on Curriculum

8.1. SSCC Chair's Report

Catherine Schwichtenberg presented her written report and highlighted that the first meeting of the academic year conducted review of the committee’s mandate and membership, structure, vacancies and coordination with other Senate committees.

8.2. Undergraduate Pathway Course recommendations

MOTION #S15-26/27

MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED THAT Senate recommend that Faculties review the criteria and data, and remove the pathway designation for the listed courses through their usual governance process, that the respective Deans consult with OREG on implications, that plans be put in place to ensure there is course capacity for pathway students once the course list is reduced for Pathway 2 and Pathway 3, and that faculty have the necessary pedagogical supports for pathway courses. These changes should be completed in time for implementation for September 1, 2027.

9. Senate Standing Committee on Policy

9.1. SSCP Chair's Report

The Chair presented the attached report and noted that committee reviewed three policies currently undergoing Phase one review: GV 10, GV 8 and GV2 and members requested that all three return to SSCP for consultations, review and feedback

10. Senate Standing Committee on the Library

10.1. SSCL Chair's Report

The Chair informed the welcoming of the new University Librarian, Christina Neigel.

11. Senate Standing Committee on Program Review

11.1. SSCPR Chair's Report

Catherine Schwichtenberg presented the report on behalf of Fergal Callaghan, Chair of SSCPR. She noted that revisions to program review guides and templates were made by the Office of Planning & Accountability over the summer.

12. Senate Standing Committee on Teaching and Learning

12.1. SSCTL Chair's Report

Mike Larsen reported that the Senate Standing Committee on Teaching and Learning, a working group, and the Centre for Educational Transformation (CET) have developed guidance materials regarding AI-assisted technologies. The guidance has completed legal, privacy, and institutional reviews and is expected to be released the following week. Senators were encouraged to review the forthcoming CET announcement.

13. Items for Information

Landon Kleis, Faculty Senator, Melville School of Business, informed Senate of his resignation from Senate, effective September 29, 2026, noting that his seat has been included in the current election.

14. Any Other Items

None.

15. Adjournment and Next Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 6.45pm. The next Senate meeting is scheduled for October 26, 2026.