

CURA Welcome Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 18, 2025
12:00 – 1:00

1. Welcoming Remarks by Shibu Pal President CURA

Shibu welcomed all members to the meeting, especially new retirees. The purpose of this group is for socialization, and to promote lifelong learning. Recently there was a trip to Upper Canada Village and there is an upcoming dinner with speaker scheduled for the end of October to be given by Dr. Peter Fried.

Those who were affected by the recent change in rules with Microsoft should contact the ITS department who can help you through the process.

The CURA Executive Team was introduced:

Andrew Brook	Vice-President
Peter Watson	Past President
Irwin Reichstein	Treasurer
Susan Jameson	Secretary

Members at Large

- Bruce Winer, Liaison with CURAC, the national group
- Susan Nesrallah, Web Manager, Communications Director & other roles
- Ela Kesik
- Wendy Wynne-Jones

2. Welcoming Remarks by Provost and VP (Academic)

Shibu welcomed Pauline Rankin, Provost & V.P. (Academic) who gave an update on Carleton's current initiatives.

Financial

Carleton is currently participating in an efficiency & accountability review that has been mandated by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. During 2024-2025, the process examined 12 universities. For 2025-26, the reviews are underway at Trent, York, OCAD, Wilfried Laurier, and Carleton. Parallel assessments are also happening across the college sector.

The reviews are conducted by an independent consultant, with each institution receiving \$500K in funding from the Ministry to support the process. The scope of the review includes governance, administrative functions and student services,

academic programming, physical assets and facilities, collaborative procurement, and opportunities for revenue generation.

The final report will include an overview of Carleton's financial situation and present three financial scenarios, one of which will outline a pathway to long-term financial sustainability. Carleton is working with Deloitte to complete the review, and the final report is to be submitted to the Ministry in December.

Academic

This September we welcomed our first cohort of students to our newest programs, including Nursing, Data Science, Cybersecurity, Mechatronics Engineering, Accounting, an on-line BA (General Studies) and a certificate in Journalism in Indigenous Communities.

While continuing to expand academic offerings, we are also celebrating a major recognition: The Faculty of Engineering and Design received global recognition, raking among Canada's best in the Global 2024 Shanghai Rankings, underscoring its growing reputation as a leader in engineering, design education and research.

Our telecommunications engineering profile was ranked 28th in the world, up four spots from last year and third in Canada, behind only the University of Waterloo and the University of British Columbia.

Four outstanding scholars were celebrated this year: Jennifer Evans (History), Elisabeth Gilmore (Civil & Environmental Engineering), Carmen Robertson (Art & Architectural History) and Richard Yu (Systems & Computer Engineering). They have been named to the Royal Society of Canada honoring the significant impact they have made in their respective fields.

Carleton has launched an AI Resource Hub. This centralized platform is designed to provide support to instructors, researchers, staff, and students in understanding and engaging with artificial intelligence. As AI grows and continues to shape how we live, work and learn, the Hub offers a curated collection of resources and professional development opportunities to help our community explore its potential and navigate emerging challenges.

Leadership Update and Milestones

In June we marked a historic moment with the formal installation of Wisdom Tettey as the 17th President and Vice-Chancellor. The ceremony coincided with the graduation of nearly 500 students who received their degrees.

Nik Nanos was appointed Carleton's 13th Chancellor, effective July 1, 2025. He is a distinguished member of the Order of Canada and brings a wealth of experience as adjunct research professor at the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs and an advisory board member of the Canadian Defense and Security Network. He has a longstanding dedication to Carleton while he served on the Board of Governors from 2014 to 2022, playing a pivotal role in guiding the university's strategic vision, promoting academic excellence and deepening community engagement.

Dr. Catherine Khordoc, Deputy Provost (Academic Operations and Planning) and Dr. Kahente Horn-Miller, Associate Vice-President (Indigenous Teaching, Learning and Research) have both accepted one-year extensions to their current terms, which will conclude on June 30, 2026.

Dr. Brenda O'Neill and Amber Butler have agreed to extend their terms, Brenda as Dean of the Faculty of Public & Global Affairs and Amber as University Librarian. Their current appointments end June 30, 2026, and the renewals are underway. A Decanal Renewal Advisory Committee has been convened, while nominations are now open to the University Librarian Renewal Advisory Committee.

Research and Strategic Partnerships

Our annual research funding has reached an impressive \$111.5M this year, representing a 108% increase since 2016/17. This remarkable growth reflects the University commitment to innovation, collaboration and global impact.

Carleton is now home to a UNESCO Chair for Digital Twins for World Heritage Conservation which is being officially announced this month. Professor Mario Santana Quintero, from the Faculty of Engineering and Design has been named Canada's first UNESCO Chair supporting World Heritage Conservation.

Carleton has secured more funding for areas including:

- Refugees & Migration – Professor James Milner (Political Science) was awarded one of 17 SSHRC Partnership grants nationwide, receiving \$2,499,826 for his work as Project Director, Local Engagement Refugees Research Network
- Aerospace – Professor Prashant Waghmare (Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering) was awarded a \$1.65M NSERC CREATE grant for his CREATE-CSI (Aerospace Training Program)
- Particle Physics – 38 Carleton physicists involved in the international ATLAS Collaboration have been recognized with the prestigious Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics, celebrating nearly a decade of contributions to the field.

We have quadrupled our corporate research growth since 2017. Recent developments include:

- A new partnership with March Networks, a global leader in AI-powered video surveillance and business intelligence, serving 2,100 plus clients in over 75 countries.
- Extension of our partnership with Ericsson, a leading wireless communications provider with joint initiatives continuing through 2026.

The Campus Master Plan

- Rideau House – This newest residence, welcomes its first students at the end of August. It consists of 450-plus beds, which recognizes the changing needs of the student population including a community kitchen, half-court gym and a sensory-free space.
- Riverbank Social – Is the new full-service dining venue overlooking the Rideau River from the first floor of Richcraft Hall. It opened on September 15, offering breakfast and lunch service, along with 2 private dining spaces that can be reserved.
- Our commitment to sustainability is partnering with EnviroCentre to create a tiny forest on campus near the Tennis Dome. The 200 square metre space will feature approximately 600 native plants designed to mimic a natural forest with benefits to include improved biodiversity, air quality, carbo sequestration and wellbeing. Benches and signage will make it a welcoming space. Student volunteers will begin planting in October.
- Carleton’s swimming pool is coming to the end of its shelf life in 2028. Looking at a possible partnership with the City of Ottawa going forward.

Looking ahead, there is no shortage of exciting initiatives and opportunities on the horizon. Your continued interest, engagement and support are always appreciated.

3. Treasurer’s Report - Irwin Reichstein

- We are in good shape thanks to the one-time event held at Carleton for which we received about \$8,000.
- The current bank balance is approximately \$11,000 but will be reduced by incoming expenses.
- The current membership fee is \$50 and can be paid by cash, cheque, or e-transfer to the treasurer (Irwin). If using e-transfer, the security question is “What is the Capital of Canada”.
- Overall, we are in good shape.

4. CURAC Update

Shibu reported on this item in the absence of Bruce Winer.

CURAC is an umbrella organization of 40 retiree associations of which CURA is a member. It is a non-profit federation of retiree organizations of Colleges and Universities across Canada. CURAC is also linked into its US sister Association, the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE).

While visiting the CURAC site, please click on the “Members’ Benefit” link where you can find several of the Affinity Partners who have discounted deals for us. You can learn more about the benefits by attending the zoom meeting on October 16, which was forwarded. Please RSVP to the individual listed in the e-mail if you are interested.

Please visit the CURA website which is available on Carleton’s main website. There you will find many links to a variety of information. As an example, there is a link Carleton’s HR for information on benefits, etc. Shortly a link to “Connected Canadians” will be available that promises to assist you with technology i.e., computers, cell phones. Thank you to CURA member Elliott Tupper, who brought this to our attention.

5. Adjournment and Informal Conversation

Thank you for attending and hope to see you at upcoming events.