

**CURA Annual General Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 1, 2026, 11:30am -1:30pm**

Welcoming Remarks by Provost and VP (Academic)

Shibu Pal introduced Pauline Rankin, Provost & Vice-President (Academic).

1. Provost's Update – Pauline Rankin

Strategic Planning Process

- As part of Carleton's long-term planning, March saw the launch of our strategic visioning process, "***Towards Carleton @ 100: From Promise to Inclusive Impact and Prominence***". The vision will guide as Carleton approaches its centennial in 2042. The planning will continue over next several months and will include opportunities for members to provide their insights into what Carleton should strive to achieve in the next 16 years.
- We have been paying attention to the realities facing campuses due to the global and local tensions. This has renewed a commitment to equity, inclusion and respectful dialogue. This has led to the establishment of the "***Presidential and Provostial Task Force on Community Healing, Rebuilding and Belonging***". The task force will begin consultations next month to identify how Carleton can strengthen a collegial and inclusive campus culture.

Executive Appointments

- Suzanne Blanchard's term will be ending as Vice-President (Students & Enrolment) in January 2027. Carleton will move toward a fully Provostial model that integrates student and enrolment functions into the provost's portfolio. The phased transition will begin July 2026 and end February 2027 to ensure clarity, collaboration and long-term success as we align academic and student focused priorities.
- This position will be used for a new VP of Advancement. The VP complement will remain at 4 but in a slightly different configuration.
- Dr. Mary Francoli from Journalism & Communications was appointed interim Dean of the Faculty of Public and Global Affairs in January.
- Dr. Matthias Neufang from Math & Stats will begin a 5-year term as Deputy Provost on July 1.
- Edward Bilodeau will serve as Interim University Librarian for 12 months, beginning July 1, during Amber Butler's administrative leave.

Academics/Research

- We have received \$1M from Ontario's Training Equipment and Renewal Fund to modernize classrooms and expand educational technology, including AI-enabled tools that support hands-on learning and AI literacy across the campus.

Complementing this investment, Carleton released its AI Framework which guides responsible, ethical and effective use of AI in teaching, research and administration. AI continues to be an incredibly complex challenge for us to contemplate with significant opportunities and challenges that will test our ability to adapt to the impact of this new technology.

- This past September we welcomed the first cohorts in several new academic programs, including Nursing, Data Science, Cybersecurity, Mechatronics Engineering, Accounting, the on-line BA in General Studies and the Certificate in Journalism in Indigenous Communities.
- Graduate Studies has introduced Carleton's first direct-from-bachelor pathway to Ph.D. for exceptional students in a few selected programs. The School of Nursing is offering the world's first undergraduate nursing degree with RN prescribing embedded in the curriculum, a key step forward in preparing graduates for evolving health-care needs.
- This year, Carleton's annual research funding reached \$115M, a 37% increase from the previous year. We are equally pleased that 121 Carleton researchers, past and present, have been recognized among the world's most cited scholars. The Stanford Elsevier rankings assess those researchers who are among the top 2% most cited globally.

Finances/Non-Academics

- Carleton's focus has been on the financial situation for the last several years. We are trending in the right direction following the changes to the provincial funding formula and the end of the freeze of tuition. We still anticipate a deficit in 2026-27 with an end by 2028-29.
- The men's basketball team captured its 18th University Sports National Championship. The women's and men's Nordic ski teams won OUA gold, marking the fourth straight women's title and the tenth men's title. The men's curling team won Silver at the national championships.
- Once again, Carleton has been named as one of the National Capital Region's Top Employers for a 12th consecutive year.

2. President's Report – Shibu Pal

- The Executive Committee was introduced.
Vice-President – Andrew Brook Past President – Peter Watson
Treasurer – Irwin Reichstein Secretary – Susan Jameson
Members-at-large: Bruce Winer (CURAC Rep), Susan Nesrallah (Web Manager)
Wendy Wynne-Jones
Ela Kesik our member-at-large had to step down and later in the meeting her replacement will be announced.

- Twelve new retirees have joined CURA this year. Our new year membership campaign will begin in September 2026. Please speak with your colleagues about joining, and think about what we can do to increase levels of interest for retirees to join.
- Last years' May AGM was attended by 27 members.
- **Dinner talks** – On October 30th, Peter Fried gave a talk on “Aging and Memory” which was attended by 43 members. On April 15 a panel consisting of Josh Beer, Gail Larose, Andy Brook and Peter Watson spoke on their memories of Carleton. The topic was “An Evening of Taste and Thought” and was attended by 42 people.
- The September 18, 2025 Welcome Meeting had an attendance of 33 members. The Minutes have been posted on the CURA website.
- Events – The trip to Upper Canada Village in the fall was only attended by the Executive Committee consisting of 8 individuals. The April 1 trip to the Sugar Shack was attended by 13 participants.
- The 2025 CURAC Conference was held in Montreal and was attended by Ela Kesik and Shibu. This year's Conference was held in Vancouver and attended by Peter Watson and Shibu.
- The coming year's membership fee will remain at \$50. Starting this September new retirees can join CURA for half the fee (\$25). Anyone sending their fees after December 31 will pay \$25 for the rest of the year. If \$50 is sent, the fee will be applied toward full membership for the coming year.

3. Treasurer's Report - Irwin Reichstein

Irwin reported the current balance in the account is \$11,359. We are also exploring whether we require insurance for our outings. \$1,000 was donated to the CURA Scholarship. The major expenses coming out of this account are to cover the expenses of catering for our two annual meetings. Many of our funds are a result of Carleton hosting the CURAC Conference several years ago and is a one-time deposit. There has been some discussion about whether we should be charging GST on our membership fee, but at this point we won't explore any further.

4. CURA Entrance Scholarship – Andrew & Wendy

Mike Brklacich unfortunately was unable to attend this meeting. Andrew & Wendy stated that \$25,000 is required and we currently have \$23,000. Wendy also noted that some individuals have made commitments but have not yet made their donation. Another e-mail will be sent to all retirees outlining this scholarship.

5. Life Long Learning (LLL) – Peter Watson

Peter announced that the LLL program was cancelled over a year ago by the University. As a result, an Ad Hoc Committee was established consisting of Andrew Brook, David Holmes, Elliott Tepper, Peter and others. The Ad Hoc Committee is putting together a plan and will present it to the Provost. The University will provide space, and a review would be done by the Provost's Office a year after the program has been in operation.

6. Nominations

- Michael MacNeil has agreed to join the Executive Committee as a Member-at-Large, replacing Ela Kesik.
- The position for a CURA representative to the Selection Committee for Honorary Ph.D.'s conferred by the university has become open as Peter Watson's service came to an end this year. Thank you, Peter for your work on this committee. Lynn Campbell has nominated himself to take the position. Therefore, he is acclaimed to be our representative for the next 3 years.

7. Other Business

Randal Marlin – Andrew announced the recent passing of Randal Marlin, a long-time active member of CURA. Randal wrote the Constitution for CURA. His obituary will be circulated to all members.

Thank you everyone for attending!