



Carleton University acknowledges and respects the Algonquin people, traditional custodian of the land on which the Carleton University campus is situated.

**Carleton University Senate
Meeting of October 18, 2024 at 2:00 pm
PK608 + Zoom Videoconference**

MINUTES – Open Session

Present: M. Abarghouei, M. Bahran, S. Blanchard, A. Bordeleau, A. Bowker, S. Burges, A. Buri, J. Chan, E. Cyr, J. Debanne, M. DeRosa, R. Gorelick, R. Goubran, K. Graham, L. Grant, E. Gray, J. Greenberg, N. Hagigi, M. Haines, X. Haziza, D. Hornsby, D. Howe, L. Kostiuik, P. Kouzovnikov, A. Lannon, A. MacDonald, L. Madokoro, A. Marcotte, J. Mason, A. Masoumi, D. Mendeloff, M. Nadeem, H. Nemiroff, B. O’Neill, M. Pearson, P. Rankin, R. Renfroe, S. Sadaf, O. Saloojee, E. Sloan (Clerk), D. Sprague, R. Tfaily, J. Tomberlin (Chair), R. Treasure, C. Trudel, J. Woldergiorgis (acting for S. El Fitori)

Present via Zoom: F. Brouard, J.P. Corriveau, S. Hawkins, B. Heerspink, K. Hellemans, N. Laporte, B. MacLeod, L. Marshall, D. Maseko, M. Rooney, C. Smelser, C. Viau, G. Wainer, P. Williams

Regrets: J. Armstrong, G. Lacroix, J. Wallace

Absent: M. Barbeau, A. Clarke, S. Everts, J. Garcia, J. Kundu, K. Taylor, R. Teather

Recording Secretary: K. McKinley

1. Welcome & Approval of Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm. The Chair began the meeting by acknowledging the passing of two members of the Carleton community, John Tunbridge, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Geography & Environmental Studies, and Eric Archambault, Adjunct Professor in the Azrieli School of Architecture & Urbanism. The Chair offered sincere condolences to those who knew and loved them.

After reviewing the protocols for online meetings, the Chair reminded Senators that the meeting would begin with a Closed Session to approve the Fall graduation lists.

It was **MOVED** (E. Gray, J. Greenberg) that Senate moved into the Closed Session of the meeting.

The motion **PASSED**.

(See separate document for Closed Session Minutes.)

Continuation of Open Session Minutes, after conclusion of Closed Session:

It was **MOVED** (D. Hornsby, K. Graham) that Senate approve the open agenda for the meeting of Senate on October 18, 2024, as presented.

The motion **PASSED**.

2. Minutes: September 27, 2024

It was **MOVED** (E. Gray, M. Haines) that Senate approve the minutes of the Senate meeting of September 27, 2024, as presented.

The motion **PASSED**.

3. Matters Arising:

There were none.

4. Chair's Remarks

The Chair began his remarks by reporting on the recent success of this year's Throwback celebration, held from September 26 to October 6. He thanked all who attended and contributed to the event.

The Chair next highlighted the following recent academic achievements:

- Sarah Casteel (Department of English Language and Literature) has been named a Royal Society Fellow. She was named to the Royal Society of Canada (RSC) along with other Carleton researchers in early September of this year.
- Carleton University has risen to #4 in the Maclean's 2025 university rankings, securing the #2 spot in Ontario. Additionally, Carleton's Engineering program has risen to #10 nationally.
- Carleton has been ranked first for the second consecutive year as Canada's Best University for 2025 in the field of Social Sciences and Humanities, according to the annual Maclean's ranking.

Finally, the Chair reminded Senators of the upcoming Fall Convocation on Saturday November 9th. Faculty members wishing to join the academic procession for one or more ceremonies were encouraged to register before the deadline.

5. Question Period

Questions were submitted in advance by eight Senators.

Question from Senator Root Gorelick:

This past academic year, there were 2% budget cuts to academic programs. This year, those budget cuts to academic programs are rumoured to be far greater, on the order of an additional 6% cut. What proportion of those academic budget cuts could have been obviated by elimination or deferment of installation of fancy new 'gateway' entrance signs to campus?

- Response from Provost: Budget cuts in 2024-25 were 3% not 2% and these were applied to all Resource Planning Committees (Deans, Library, 4 VPS and President) so were not targeted to academic programs. No decision has been made on budget cuts for 2025-26, but if cuts are made they will be similarly applied to all RPCs. The new gateway sign project was initiated in 2022 as part of the overall rebranding initiative, and the funds for it were earmarked from the Capital Projects envelope. It is worth noting that the project has been substantially scaled back and the cost is 60% less than originally estimated. The installation of all but the Bronson Street sign will commence this month (October) and the Bronson Street sign will be installed after Convocation and before December.

Question from Senator Morgan Rooney (Responses from the VP Students & Enrolment were provided in advance and were circulated in the binder with the questions)

Could we have an update on following matters related to the implementation of the *Academic Considerations Policy*?:

- Is there a plan to issue messaging to students/instructors clarifying the difference between the "[Self-Declaration Form](#)" (which appears to be required only for deferring final exams) and new "[Academic Considerations for Coursework](#)" form (which students use to seek accommodations for all other term work)? Anecdotally, I know a number of instructors who are still using the old self-declaration form.
 - We are continuously working with the Associate Deans to ensure the website is clarified for students. We have developed a communications plan for students and instructors regarding policy and when to use the various forms.

- What statistics do we have regarding the use/uptake of the new “Academic Considerations for Coursework” form? What percentage of our undergraduate students have used it, for instance, and in what percentage of courses?
 - As this is a new process, this is being discussed regularly with the Associate Deans. Currently, the applications are low as not all instructors are requesting the academic consideration for coursework form. The numbers are too low to start making a statistical analysis.

- What does the RO’s/Deans’ oversight of these submissions look like, exactly? How frequently do we do outreach to individual students as a result of what is submitted? What criteria trigger such outreach?
 - As this is still a new process, the numbers are too low to conduct a full assessment. Short-term requests that require follow-up from the Registrar’s Office consist of incorrect or missing information.

- Have we identified any cases where students are suspected of abusing this system (e.g., multiple submissions from one student for multiple months in a term)? If so, how many and what actions did we take?
 - So far, with the data that we have, we have not seen students misuse the process.

- How many appeals have there been? How many were resolved at the level of the chair / the department, and what were the outcomes of those appeals? How many were escalated to the Faculty Dean, on what basis, and what were the outcomes of those appeals? Have there been cases where the instructor’s decision not to accommodate was overturned and some mandate to accommodate the student was imposed, and if so, how many instances? And if so, what criteria trigger such decisions?
 - The Registrar’s Office does not have this data as it is managed individually by academic departments.

- Can Senate have a regular report-back on these matters (number of applications, number of outreaches triggered by those applications, number of appeals granted or denied, and so on)?
 - We can add this data to our yearly report from Petitions and Appeals that we submit yearly to Senate.

Follow-up questions from Senator Rooney: The policy was voted in almost a year ago; when will the communication plan mentioned above be activated? Is it possible to have some numbers/data as requested? It appears that appeals are possible, but there are no guidelines regarding the process. Can we have updates from the Deans on how they are handling appeals?

- Response from VPSE: The Registrar's Office will work with the Associate Deans on the appeals question.

Question from Senator Allan Buri

The academic withdrawal date from full-term courses in Fall 2024 is November 15th, 2024. This is three weeks before the final day of classes. CASG recognizes that this is standard practice in Ontario. However, CASG considers this date premature. It places unfair barriers on students who experience unforeseen barriers to their academic success in the last three weeks of the semester. Can the University explain its reasons for not placing the academic withdrawal date on December 6th, 2024, and why those reasons outweigh the benefits to students of this alternative withdrawal date?

- Response from VPSE: Historically, the academic withdrawal date was in mid-November. Approximately 10 years ago, a decision was made to bring the withdrawal date to the last day of classes as it was thought that it would help to minimize the occurrence of DFWs (i.e. Ds, Fs and Withdrawals). Analysis of the data showed that the rates did not change significantly as a result of this later withdrawal date. Consequently, in Fall of 2022 the withdrawal date was changed back to mid-November. Over the past 2 years retention rates, graduation rates and DFW rates have been improving, but the Registrar's Office will continue to monitor the situation.
- It was also noted that there are other options via the petitions and appeals process for students who experience unforeseen barriers in the last 3 weeks of the semester.

Question from Senator Matthew Pearson

The results of the 2024 Senate Survey were presented at September's Senate meeting. The following were highlighted as "Areas for Improvement/Change":

- Provide more time for questions, debate and engaged discussion
- Ensure that debate and/or disagreement is not shut down
- Fewer presentations in meetings and shorter Chair's Remarks
- Revise voting protocol for online participants

- Revise orientation to include information on Governance, Rules of Order, Committee work
- Improve audio in room
- More support for students

What substantive changes to the operation of Senate, especially meetings, are being undertaken? What is the timeline for these changes?

- Responses from Clerk of Senate and Chair of Senate: The survey was taken in the spring of 2024, and several of the areas for improvement have already been implemented since then. The Chair noted that ample time is provided for discussion and questions, and that the Chair's remarks have been significantly trimmed. Presentations also have been shortened. The Chair clarified the distinction between closing debate, which happens when nothing new has been added to the discussion and it is time to move to a vote, and shutting down debate which is preventing debate and discussion from happening. Closing debate is a regular duty of the Chair.
- The Clerk reported that a motion to change the online voting protocol is on the agenda, and that the Orientation has been revised to include information on governance, Rules of Order and committee work. The audio issues in the room are still a work in progress. Finally, the Assistant University Secretary has set up regular Senate Office Hours on Friday afternoons for students (or other Senators) who would like more support.

Question from Senator Jody Mason

Currently, Carleton's Senate is chaired by the President of the University. We are in a time of transition, as we move from an Interim President to a new President. Could SAGC shed light on the following questions?

- a) How long has the practice of having the University President serve as Chair been in place at Carleton, and what were the reasons for establishing this as our practice?
 - b) What are current practices for chairing Senates at other Ontario universities (do University Presidents typically serve as Chair of Senate)?
 - c) Where this practice is not in place, how is the Senate Chair chosen?
- Response from the Clerk of Senate: The first Carleton Senate meeting occurred in April of 1949, and the minutes of that meeting report that the President was established as Chair. The earliest governing document of Carleton College (An Act Respecting the Ottawa Association for the Advancement of Learning) affirms that the Chair of Senate is the President, and the President has continued to be Chair of Senate since that first Senate meeting in 1949. A current landscape study of 17 Ontario Universities, shows that in all but 4 of the universities surveyed, the President is Chair of Senate. York, Algoma, OCAD, and Brock elect faculty members to act as Chair of their Senate for a

period of 12, 18 or 24 months. It was noted in the response to the landscape survey that the elected Chair requires significant support from governance professionals and staff, and that the President as Chair provides a greater degree of stability, but that an elected Chair also frees up the President to participate in debate.

Follow-up from Senator Mason: According to historical records, in 2013 there was a vote at Senate to establish President Runte as Chair of Senate. Who was the Chair before that vote?

Response from Clerk: The question regarding elected vs ex officio Chair was raised at Senate just before President Runte began her tenure in 2008, and again when she stepped down in 2017, but it doesn't appear that any changes to the established structure were made.

Questions from Senator Laura Madokoro

- The records of Senate are critical not only for our present deliberations but also for future generations of students, staff, faculty, and researchers. At present, any decision to abstain must be introduced following the yes and no votes. The pace of senate means that such decisions are often missed resulting in a misleading account of the final votes. This process also places an unnecessary burden on Senators to interject and disrupt proceedings in order to record an abstention. Given this situation, would it be possible to call for a show of abstentions in the same way that yes votes and no votes are called at Senate?
 - Response from Clerk of Senate: In accordance with parliamentary procedure, there are two types of vote: for and against. Abstentions are not considered votes, and so are not counted. This position was affirmed by the Senate Academic Governance Committee at its recent meeting. Senators can always request that their abstention be recorded in the minutes if, for example, they are in a conflict of interest. The Clerk added that a majority or 2/3 vote is calculated by the total number of people voting; abstentions are not included in the calculation.
- At the last Senate meeting, the need for openness, exchange and dialogue was discussed and affirmed. Shortly after that meeting, and fifteen days before it was set to open, organizers of Silenced by Scholasticide exhibit, which was planned for the ground floor of MacOdrum Library, learned that it was being cancelled. No substantive explanation for the cancellation was provided. Organized by Independent Jewish Voices Carleton, it bears underscoring that this initiative was supported by a number of academic units and organizations at Carleton and that the Provost had previously approved the exhibit. Free Speech Policy approved by Carleton University Senate in 2018 states that the university is committed to the principle "That the University

introduces students to a wide range of ideas and does not attempt to shield students from debates or opinions that they may disagree with or find offensive”.

Given this commitment, as well as the discussion at the 27 September 2024 meeting of Senate, could we please be provided with fulsome answers to the following questions:

- Why was the Silenced by Scholasticide exhibit cancelled?
 - Will the decision to cancel be reviewed?
 - What measures will the university take to ensure that it upholds the commitments made in its Free Speech Policy?
- Response from the Chair: The decision on the Scholasticide exhibit was based on the venue rather than the exhibit per se. A risk review ascertained that the Library would not be an appropriate venue for exhibits that would require security, particularly after hours. The decision will not be reviewed. Carleton is committed to free speech but this needs to be balanced by the need to provide a harassment-free and safe work and study space for all students, faculty and staff.
 - There was a follow-up question regarding how decisions are made, based on risk assessments, as to which exhibitions are cancelled while others that also may be considered controversial are allowed to go ahead. The Chair noted the decision is made based on whether security is required. In this specific case, the location chosen would have required security.

Question from Senator Azar Massoumi:

On September 26th we received notice that the next day's Senate meeting will be held virtually due to concerns for safety and security of members. Could you clarify how this decision was made, why the Risk Management Office found the risks to be grave, what the risks were and to whom?

- Response from the Chair: The reasons for moving the meeting online were provided in the opening remarks to that meeting.
- Follow-up question: The minutes indicate that the reason for moving online was that a protest had been planned for that day. Given that peaceful protest is a protected right, was there any indication that the protest was not going to be peaceful? How was that decision made?

- Response from the Chair: The President is required to make judgement calls on the safety and security of the Carleton community. These decisions are made based on the best advice from risk analysis. Senators may disagree with those decisions.
- In response to another follow-up question, the Chair noted that the decision on whether to move the Senate meeting online was made by the Chair, and not by the Office of Risk Management.
- Several Senators noted a lack of transparency in how the risk assessments are made by the Office of Risk Management.

Question from Senator Nir Hagigi:

In recent months, the Office of Risk Management has been utilized by certain groups on this campus to stifle discussions and events that should fall under the protection of academic freedom. Events related to Palestine, for example, are constantly shut down, while card writing campaigns to Israeli soldiers actively involved in the Gaza genocide goes unnoticed. Could the administration clarify its definition of 'safety' and explain how the University plans to prevent discomfort or differing viewpoints from being misrepresented or weaponized as threats to safety?

- Response from the Chair: Many decisions need to be made concerning the safety of the community whether that is due to an exhibit, protest, or a power outage. These decisions are made based on the best information received at the time.

6. Administration (Clerk)

a) Senate Membership Ratification

The Clerk presented a memo to ratify a new graduate student Senator.

It was **MOVED** (E. Sloan, M. Pearson) that Senate ratify the new Senate appointment, as presented.

The motion **PASSED**.

b) Report on Senate Committee Chairs/Secretaries meeting

The Clerk noted that the annual Senate Committee Chairs and Secretaries meeting is an opportunity for committee Chairs and Secretaries to meet as a group to share information and best practices, and to bring any issues to the attention of the Clerk and the Senate Office. This year's meeting was held in person on October 7th and was

attended by representatives from SCCASP, SQAPC, the Undergraduate Student Awards Committee, the Senate Review Committee, the Senate Academic Integrity Appeals Committee, the Senate Undergraduate Studies Committee and the Senate Academic Governance Committee. Topics discussed included succession planning, Orientation best practices, revising Terms of Reference, the development of a potential Code of Conduct and/or Confidentiality Agreement, and aspects of records management.

c) Clerk of Senate – Call for Nominations

The Clerk reminded Senators that the Call for Nominations for the new Clerk of Senate is open until the end of October. She encouraged anyone who might be interested in the position to contact her for more information. The term of service is 3 years and begins on July 1, 2025.

7. Reports:

a) Senate Committee on Curriculum, Admissions and Studies Policy (SCCASP)

There was no report from SCCASP.

b) Senate Quality Assurance and Planning Committee (SQAPC)

Committee Chair David Hornsby presented a motion for one major modification for Senate approval.

It was **MOVED** (B. O’Neill, M. Pearson) that Senate approve the introduction of the Undergraduate Certificate in Journalism in Indigenous Communities as presented to commence in Fall 2025.

The motion **PASSED**.

c) Senate Academic Governance Committee (SAGC) (E. Sloan)

The Clerk presented a motion to approve three new committee nominations:

- Senate Honorary Degrees Committee – Logan Breen (undergraduate student)
- Senate Committee on Curriculum Admissions and Studies Policy – Jacky Chan (undergraduate student)
- Senate Quality Assurance and Planning Committee – Aron Darmody (Spratt faculty member)

It was **MOVED** (E. Sloan, A. Masoumi) that Senate ratify the nominees for Senate committees as presented for service beginning immediately upon approval.

The motion **PASSED**.

The Clerk presented a second motion to approve the membership of two new Ad Hoc Committees of Senate (The Senate Ad Hoc Committee on the Academic Integrity Policy and the Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Petitions & Appeals). The Terms of Reference of these two committees were approved at the September 27th meeting of Senate.

It was **MOVED** (A. Bowker, P. Rankin) that Senate ratify the memberships of the Ad Hoc Committees as presented, for service beginning immediately upon approval.

The motion **PASSED**.

8. New Investment Review & Transparency Motion (Hagigi)

This motion was presented by Senator Nir Hagigi. It is a revised version of a motion that was presented, and then withdrawn during the meeting on September 27, 2024.

MOTION:

WHEREAS [at least](#) 9,839 students and 411 educators have been killed by the Israeli military, and at least 625,000 school-aged children have been denied education for the second year in a row, in an act [described](#) by the United Nations as scholasticide;

WHEREAS [at least](#) 85% (477 out of 564) school buildings have been damaged or destroyed;

WHEREAS on July 19, 2024, the ICJ released its [advisory ruling](#) on the legal implications of Israel's long-term occupation of Palestinian territories, declaring the occupation to be in violation of international law, calling on Israel to stop its unlawful occupation "as rapidly as possible" and make reparations, and calling it unlawful for other States, and by extension State institutions, to ignore Israel's failures to respect international law;

WHEREAS members of the Carleton University community have been personally affected by the ongoing human rights violations perpetrated against Palestinians, partly funded by Carleton University's investments;

WHEREAS the University abides by a public commitment to Responsible Investment principles [which outlines that](#):

“Managers are expected to consider all material environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors and be mindful of the interplay between those factors when analyzing investments. While all relevant ESG factors should be considered in investment decision-making, the following are some of the important strategic priorities for the University:

- Climate Change
- Indigenous Rights
- Human Rights, including Accessibility and LGBTQ2S+ Rights
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Mental Health and Wellness”;

WHEREAS responsible corporate behaviour with respect to environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors can have a positive effect on long-term financial performance, as exemplified by Carleton’s Fossil-Fuel Free Fund;

WHEREAS the [Carleton University Students’ Association](#) (CUSA) and the [Graduate Students’ Association](#) (GSA) have passed motions urging the University to take action regarding the University’s investments;

WHEREAS the [University of Windsor](#), [California State University Sacramento](#), [University of California, Riverside](#), [Northwestern University](#), and [dozens of other institutions](#) around the world have agreed to initiate a process to divest their funds from companies that are profiting from violations of international law;

WHEREAS many members of the Carleton University community, including students, faculty, and staff, have expressed a strong interest in the transparency of the University’s investment practices;

AND WHEREAS the Board of Governors should not maintain investments that expose pension plan members to equities from businesses that derive revenue from the manufacture, sale, or distribution of weapons, armaments, or other military equipment that either are currently or may plausibly be contributing to the commission of war crimes, according to established International Humanitarian Law (hereafter “IHL”).

BE IT THEREFORE MOVED [\(N. Hagigi, A. Masoumi\)](#) that Senate:

1. **Recommends** the Board of Governors, Pension Committee, Pension Fund Management Office, Investment Committee, and all other relevant University committees (hereafter “entities”) amend the existing responsible investment policies, with consultation from the Carleton community, to reflect that Carleton’s investments comply with IHL by excluding stocks from companies that directly contribute to human rights violations in war and armed conflicts, particularly through activities in occupied territories.
2. **Recommends** that Carleton’s responsible investment guidelines and policies reflect a permanent commitment to fully divest, within no more than 2 years, from the following, with ongoing adherence to this standard in all future investments:
 - a) Corporations, institutions, or entities that may derive revenue from activities that benefit from the occupation of any territory recognized as illegally

occupied under international law.

- b) Corporations, institutions, or entities that derive revenue from the manufacture, sale, or distribution of weapons, armaments, or other military equipment used in armed conflict.

3. **Recommends** the immediate disclosure and publication of all the university's financial investments, encompassing both endowed and non-endowed funds, from 2023 onwards, with an annual update on February 1st.

Discussion:

Senators discussed the possibility of embracing a broader definition of fiduciary duty as a statement of trust and standard of care vs. the narrow definition (via Ontario Regulator FSRA) with regards to investments that Senators received in the VPFA presentation.

Senators speaking against the motion noted that:

- Financial matters are subject to very strict financial guidelines.
- From a governance perspective, it is improper for Senate to weigh in on the management of the university's endowment and pension funds, as these matters are not in Senate's purview. Senators should respect the principles of bicameral governance. (It was also noted that General Council was not consulted for a legal opinion on the decision to bring this motion to Senate.)
- Bringing this motion to Senate is troubling and precedent setting.
- The issues involved in the motion are complex and multi-layered, but the motion presents a single narrative.
- Senate should not involve itself in the political arena to endorse political positions.

Senators speaking for the motion remarked that:

- The motion addresses important issues (primarily responsible investment practices) that need to be discussed openly, and Senate appears to be the only place these issues may be addressed.
- As a principled institution, Carleton should not and cannot ignore the human rights violations that have occurred in this area.
- Carleton students and colleagues from the region are being directly affected by this conflict and should be heard and supported.

The discussion concluded with a call to vote.

The motion was **DEFEATED**.

9. Online Voting Protocol Motion (Mason)

Senator Jody Mason presented this item.

Whereas there is currently an established practice of holding Senate meetings in a hybrid (online / in-person) format,

Whereas, since the establishment of hybrid meetings during the pandemic, the program used for the online portion of the meeting has been Zoom,

Whereas the current method of voting online (show of hands) makes it difficult to distinguish between “yes” and “no” votes (because voting happens quickly and the same symbol is used for “yes” and “no”),

It was **MOVED** (J. Mason, E. Gray) that Senate adopt a new voting practice for Zoom users that will clearly distinguish between “yes” and “no” votes—the use of the green button for “yes,” and the use of the red button for “no.”

It was noted that the Senate Office performed a number of trials of the protocol and confirmed that previous issues (disappearing icons) had been resolved. The Senate Academic Governance Committee also reviewed the proposal and did not have any concerns.

The motion **PASSED**.

10. SIP Implementation Report

A report on the progress made over the past academic year on the Strategic Integrated Plan (SIP) was circulated to Senators in advance. The Chair invited questions from Senators on the report.

A Senator asked how many Indigenous faculty and staff have been hired since 2020, when the SIP was created. The Chair noted that there are specific numbers for Indigenous faculty hires, and this information will be presented to Senate at a future meeting. A Senator confirmed that Science has hired one Indigenous faculty member.

A Senator noted that the report indicates that 88% of graduating students are employed in a related field. Is this self-reported data? The VPSE responded that the data comes from the Ontario University Graduate Survey (OUGS) which is run on behalf of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. The OUGS is sent to all graduates of undergraduate programs two years after their graduation date to collect data on employment outcomes.

11. Reports for Information

- a) Senate Executive Minutes

There was no discussion of this item.

12. Other Business

There was none.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned (L. Kostiuk, E. Gray) at 3:43 p.m.