

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 May 29 2026 at 2:00 pm
PK608 + Videoconference**

**OPEN SESSION
MINUTES**

Present in Person: D. Amundsen, J. Armstrong, S. Blanchard, A. Bordeleau, A. Bowker, J. P. Corriveau, R. Dansereau (Clerk), M. DeRosa, J. Drake, S. Duncan, M. Francoli, R. Goubran, K. Graham, J. Greenberg, M. Heroux, D. Hornsby, A. Hurrelmann, N. Laporte, B. MacLeod, L. Madokoro, D. Mendeloff, L. N. Miller (acting for A. Butler) H. Nemiroff, A. Patrick, P. Rankin, C. Ruiz-Martin, B. Tackaberry, N. Tait, W. Tettey (Chair), D. Tutkishbayeva, S. Viel, G. Wainer, P. Wilson, W. Ye, F. M. Zamani

Present via Zoom: A. Abdou, J. Brunet, N. Bruni, S. Burges, J. Debanné, A. El-Roby, M. El Sayed, E. Gray, X. Haziza, G. Lacroix, G. Maracle, J. Mason, M. Papineau, M. Rooney, S. Sadaf, R. Tfaily, P. Williams

Regrets: M. Bahran, F. Brouard, I. Bumagin, J. C. Jimenez-Garcia, I. Knezevic, A. Masoumi, D. McNair, M. Mullally, R. Renfroe, M. Rivers-Moore, A. Shotwell, C. Trudel

Absent: M. Agha, I. Alma, A. Arya, T. Davidson, N. Giroux-Laplanche, N. Hagigi, E. Harlan, S. Hawkins, G. Lachance, R. Miller, K. Nyediin Buoy, K. Patel, E. Peirce, M. Vatankhah

Recording Secretary: K. McKinley

1. Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 pm. The Chair welcomed the following new student leaders to Senate:

- CASG President Aidan Patrick
- CUSA President Maxwell Heroux
- GSA President Diana Tutkishbayeva
- GSA Vice-President Academic Fatemeh Mohammad Zamani

The Chair next acknowledged the passing of retired Philosophy Professor Randall Marlin, who joined Carleton in 1966. The Chair offered condolences to family members, friends, former colleagues and students.

After a quick review of procedures, the Chair called for a motion to move into Closed Session to approve the Spring 2026 graduates.

It was **MOVED** (G. Wainer, J. Greenberg) that Senate move into the Closed Session of the meeting.

The motion **PASSED**.

(Minutes for the Closed Session of the meeting are in a separate document.)

Minutes after Open Session resumed:

Approval of Open Agenda:

The Chair requested that Item 9 (Carleton Towards 100) be removed from the agenda as this item has been postponed to the June 19th Senate meeting.

It was **MOVED** (L. Madokoro, D. Mendeloff) that Senate approve the open agenda for the meeting of Senate on May 29, 2026, as amended.

The motion **PASSED**.

2. Minutes: April 24, 2026 (open session)

A Senator noted one error in the attendance record to be corrected.

It was **MOVED** (M. Francoli, B. Tackaberry) that Senate approve the minutes of the open session of the Senate meeting on April 24, 2026, as amended.

The motion **PASSED**.

3. Matters Arising

There were none.

4. Chair's Remarks

The Chair noted the following research achievements within the Carleton community:

- Professor Ahmed Abdulla, from the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, has been named Canada's 2026 National champion by the Frontiers Planet Prize. This is the world's largest science competition on planetary health, involving over 700 universities and research institutions worldwide. Professor Abdulla's research focusses on direct air capture, a carbon-capture technology designed to address climate change.
- Carleton researcher Thomas Russell has been announced as Carleton's newest Canada Research Chair in Next-Gen Economics. His innovative research focuses on developing advanced economic models that require only limited computing power.
- Allyson Brady and Banu Ormeci have been awarded over \$900,000 from Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada, for their research into plastic science.
- Professor Halim Yanikomeroglu has received the 2026 IEEE Canada R.A. Fessenden Award, for his pioneering research into 4G/5G/6G telecommunications and radio engineering. This prestigious award recognizes a Canadian engineer whose work is shaping the future of wireless communications on a global scale.
- \$1.8M has been awarded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York to Carleton researchers Samuel Ojo Oloruntoba from the Institute of African Studies, and James Milner from the Faculty of Public & Global Affairs, to support their efforts promoting peace and cooperation in border areas and refugee communities across Africa.

The Chair next shared that the Black Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub (BEKH) has received renewed federal support through 2028. BEKH 2.0 will deepen national research, strengthen and expand partnerships, and advance practical solutions that help Black businesses scale and thrive.

Also on the topic of supporting the Black community, the Chair noted that Carleton along with the University of Ottawa, recently co-hosted the 3rd Inter-Institutional Forum of the Scarborough Charter on May 14 and 15. The forum, held every two years, provides an important platform for dialogue, knowledge-sharing, and collective reflection on progress in addressing anti-Black racism and advancing Black inclusion in Canadian higher education. Co-hosting this event reflects Carleton's leadership role in advancing the Charter's objectives and our ongoing commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion in

both Carleton's academic mission and institutional practices.

There were no questions or follow-up comments from Senators on these remarks.

5. Question Period

Three questions from two Senators were submitted in advance.

Question from Senator Gabriel Wainer:

The current deferred exam period has once again exposed critical flaws in the self-declaration process. We are seeing a significant surge in deferral requests, with some Engineering courses exceeding 50 deferred students, resulting in an unsustainable work overload for faculty and staff.

According to a recent Registrar's Office report to Senate, deferral cases have risen from 1,000 during the pandemic to 3,000 in the most recent period. There are growing concerns that the system is being exploited to move exams to sessions managed solely by proctors, where the absence of the presiding professor increases the risk of academic misconduct.

In light of this, I would like to know:

- Why are deferrals three times higher now than during the pandemic, and what immediate measures are being currently taken to prevent the misuse of the self-declaration form?
- What happened to the original motion to Senate that included investigation of the root causes of deferral requests and follow up on potential misuse of the form? What is the strategy to ensure this exploitation and to reduce the current burden on faculty and staff?

Response from VPSE Blanchard: This is a topic of concern across the sector, and not just at Carleton. The increased number of deferrals since the pandemic can be partially explained by the fact that during the pandemic compassionate grading options reduced the need and demand for formal exam deferrals. Also, post-pandemic there have been fewer online exams, more assessments as a result of AI, and an increase in general anxiety of students. These factors all have contributed to a larger number of deferrals.

There is no single solution to this issue, and resolving it will take time.

Carleton is taking the following steps to address this issue:

- *Meeting with students who have requested several deferrals to determine if there are underlying issues, thereby looking at the root cause of these requests.*
- *Updating calendar language to make rules clearer*
- *Meeting with Associate Deans regarding statistics and how to mitigate cases*
- *Scheduling examination spots on evenings and weekends*
- *Implementing an annual survey to track numbers*
- *Implementing a \$75 no-show fee for deferred exams*

- *Creating a Faculty Advising Group to improve efficacy of processes*

The VPSE clarified in response to a follow-up question that medical documentation is no longer required for deferred final exams; the self-declaration form is now used instead. She also confirmed that distance deferrals are allowed for in-person courses when warranted, and that this is not a new option.

The discussion concluded with Senator Wainer reiterating his concern that the current process is flawed, and that it puts an extra burden of work on faculty members who need to accommodate these deferrals.

The Chair thanked all for the rich discussion and suggested that it may be helpful to bring the matter to the attention of the Dean of FED since it appears to be related to Faculty level processes and procedures, and requested that the Provost follow up with the Dean.

Questions from Senator Jody Mason:

- We have been discussing Schools and Institutes at Senate. There is no definition for these bodies, or for Departments, in the University Act (though other key terms are defined). Would it not be helpful to have these terms defined? How are Senators to distinguish their meanings? Are they identical?

Response from Provost Rankin: The nomenclature for academic units can be confusing and terms have evolved in their use and definition over time. In previous years, “Institute” has been used to describe organizational structures that group interdisciplinary programs that do not fit within the confines of a traditional department. The term “School” as in the School for Studies in Art & Culture, was used for a structure that traditionally housed several programs in multiple subject areas. Over the years, these terms have taken on other meanings. For example, Carleton’s business Faculty is called a school (Sprott School of Business), and there sometimes we use the term “institute” to describe entities devoted solely to research activities.

Because our governing documents do not include definitions of these terms, the University Secretary and Chief Governance Officer, Amanda Goth, has agreed to review Carleton’s past and current practice, and will perform a benchmarking study of the use of these terms across the university sector. A report will be provided to Senators in the fall, along with a suggested path forward.

- Many program reviews that go the SQAPC mention how increasing budget constraints lead to pedagogical issues (i.e., units are reporting resource problems and documenting how they impact curriculum). Senate has no power to do anything about this. Are these budgetary concerns reported to the Board of Governors? Are members of the Board of Governors made aware of the pedagogical repercussions of their budget decisions?

Response from Provost Rankin: Two Board members sit on Senate and, likewise, there are two seats for Senators on the Board. Therefore, any perceived issues related to academic changes can easily be communicated to the full Board. The Board also receives an annual report on changes to academic programs and has an opportunity to discuss the impacts of such changes at that time.

6. Administration (Clerk)

a. Membership Ratification

The Clerk presented a revised memo to ratify four faculty members and one graduate student for terms on Senate to begin on July 1, 2026. He noted that the memo had been updated to remove Tim Haats, who is no longer available to serve on Senate next year, and to add the newly elected graduate student.

Faculty Member Representatives 5

- John Anderson – FASS
- Frenand Leger – FASS
- Shoeleh Shams – FED
- Sarah Todd – FPGA (Faculty Board Secretary)

Graduate Student Representative

- Rezda Rezal - FPGA

It was **MOVED** (R. Dansereau, A. Bowker) that Senate ratify the following Senate appointments, for service beginning July 1, 2026.

The motion **PASSED**.

b. Senate Meeting Date Change – April 2027

The Clerk informed Senate of a change in the date of the Senate meeting from April 30, 2027 to April 23, 2027, to allow Senators to review and endorse the new Strategic Plan before it is sent to the Board for final approval. There was no motion for Senate.

7. Reports:

a. Senate Committee on Curriculum Admission and Studies Policy (SCCASP)

Committee Chair David Mendeloff presented two items for Senate approval and one item for information. Senators requested that these motions be presented separately, instead of combined into the omnibus that was included in the memo.

It was **MOVED** (D. Mendeloff, D. Hornsby) that Senate approve the revisions to

Regulations R-UG-4.3 Deferred Final Examinations, effective for the 2026/27 Undergraduate Calendar, as presented.

Discussion:

The committee chair noted that two sections of the undergraduate calendar were revised to clarify the assignment of grades in cases of missed deferred final examinations, and to clarify the circumstances under which a student may be granted a deferral following early departure from a final examination.

A Senator asked why the paragraph at the end of section 4.3.2 in the calendar regarding access to course materials was deleted. In response, a representative from the Registrar's Office noted that this is consistent with the implementation of a new approach to gradually remove advice from the calendar and include only the regulations.

In response to another question, the VP Students & Enrolment noted that an ongoing medical condition on its own is not automatically grounds for a deferral, as it is expected that these chronic conditions are being managed. The deferral request must relate to something specific occurring on the day in question.

The motion **PASSED**.

It was **MOVED** (D. Mendeloff, J. Greenberg) that Senate approve the revisions to Regulations R-GR-7 Registration and Course Selection effective for the 2026/27 Graduate Calendar as presented.

Section 7.9 was updated to specify that part-time graduate students will now be limited to registering in fewer than 1.0 credit per term. The change was prompted in part by the introduction of a new per-course tuition framework.

Discussion:

A Senator asked for the rationale for this change and for comparison data from other universities. The Chair recognized Vice-Provost Nadeem Siddiqi, who responded that the change was motivated by the new course-based tuition framework, and that for most students the difference would translate to one course per term. A benchmarking study was completed and demonstrated that for the university sector, 1.0 is the normal cut-off for full-time/part-time designation, although universities varied on which side students with exactly 1.0

credits fall.

For students, the advantage of a full-time designation is greater access to OSAP funding, but also results in an increase in ancillary fees of between \$50 and \$200 per term.

Vice-Provost Siddiqi also noted that for many 4.0 credit programs, students had been able to declare as part time even while moving through the program full time. The adjustment will allow for more accurate reporting of those programs.

In response to another question, Vice-Provost Siddiqi noted that specific tuition (per course) varies by program, not by Faculty.

The motion **PASSED**.

Item for Information: Minor modifications

There was no discussion of this item.

b. Senate Quality Assurance and Planning Committee (SQAPC)

Committee Chair David Hornsby presented one new program, 10 major modifications and 2 cyclical program reviews for Senate approval. The major modification included two program closures that were presented separately. The other eight major modifications were combined into an Omnibus motion for efficiency.

New Program: Bachelor of Entrepreneurship (B.Ent)

This is a full-cost recovery undergraduate program for the Sprott School of Business focusing on small and medium-sized enterprises.

It was **MOVED** (H. Nemiroff, J. Greenberg) that Senate approve the proposed Bachelor of Entrepreneurship program as presented, to commence in Fall 2027.

The motion **PASSED**.

Program Closures:

Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Economics

It was **MOVED** (D. Mendeloff, M. Francoli) that Senate approve the closure of the Post-Baccalaureate Diploma as presented with effect from Fall 2027.

The motion **PASSED**.

MA-MBA

It was **MOVED** (D. Mendeloff, L. Madokoro) that Senate approve the closure of the

MA-MBA presented with effect from Fall 2026.
The motion **PASSED**.

Major Modifications (omnibus motion)

It was **MOVED** (D. Mendeloff, K. Graham) that Senate approve the major modifications as presented.
The motion **PASSED**.

Individual motions from the Omnibus:

- THAT Senate approve the major modification to the Master of Accounting program as presented with effect from Fall 2026.
- THAT Senate approve the major modification to the undergraduate programs in Law with a concentration in Business Law as presented with effect from Fall 2027.
- THAT Senate approve the major modification to the undergraduate programs in Political Science as presented with effect from Fall 2027.
- THAT Senate approve the deletion of the BGIInS specialization and stream in Latin American and Caribbean Studies as presented with effect from Fall 2027.
- THAT Senate approve the major modification to the BGIInS program as presented with effect from Fall 2027.
- THAT Senate approve the major modification to the BPAPM programs as presented with effect from Fall 2027.
- THAT Senate approve the major modification to the BEng programs in Sustainable and Renewable Energy Engineering as presented with effect from Fall 2027.
- THAT Senate approve the change in governance for the collaborative specialization in Latin American and Caribbean Studies as presented with effect from Fall 2026.

Cyclical Program Reviews

It was **MOVED** (D. Mendeloff, A. Bowker) that Senate approve the Final Assessment Reports and Executive Summaries arising from the Cyclical Reviews of the programs.
The motion **PASSED**.

Individual Motions from the Omnibus:

- THAT Senate approve the Final Assessment Report and Executive Summary arising from the Cyclical Review of the graduate and undergraduate programs in Anthropology.
- THAT Senate approve the Final Assessment Report and Executive Summary arising from the Cyclical Review of the graduate and undergraduate programs in Law and Legal Studies.

c. Senate Academic Governance Committee (SAGC)

Committee Chair Richard Dansereau presented a memo to ratify 29 nominees for 8 Senate committees, for service beginning July 1, 2026.

- 1) Senate Committee on Curriculum Admissions and Studies Policy
 - Mohammed Mirza (GR Student member)
- 2) Senate Quality Assurance and Planning Committee
 - John Anderson (FASS Faculty member)
 - Jeffrey Erochko (FED Faculty member)
 - Siva Sivathayalan (FED Faculty member)
 - Vandna Bhatia (FPGA Faculty member)
 - Madhav Sewpal (UG Student member)
- 3) Senate Academic Governance Committee
 - Kevin Graham (Science Faculty member)
 - Victoria Andrews (GR student member)
- 4) Senate Student Awards Committee
 - Rodney Nelson (Sprott Faculty member)
 - Jacky Chan (UG Student member)
 - Oluwadamilola Omotuyi (GR Student member)
- 5) Senate Honorary Degrees Committee
 - Nduka Otiono (FASS Faculty member)
 - Shani Pupco (Sprott Faculty member)
 - Jose Galdo (FPGA Faculty member)
 - Seyda Ipek (Science Faculty member)
 - Nazanin Habibpourkouchaki (GR Student member)
- 6) Senate Academic Integrity Appeals Committee
 - Bob Burk (Science Faculty member)
 - Jean Daudelin (FPGA Faculty member)
 - Rob Langlois (FED Faculty member) Chair
 - Rebecca Kempe (GR student member)
 - Elham Rezazadeh (GR student member)
 - Adrian Ponce (UG student member)
- 7) Graduate Student Appeals Committee
 - Jeffrey Erochko (FED Faculty member)
 - Guncha Annayeva (GR Student member)
- 8) Senate Review Committee
 - Gabriel Wainer (FED) Chair
 - Julie Murray (FASS Faculty member)
 - Jeremy Laliberte (FED Faculty member)

- Chimaobi Amadi (GR Student member)
- Nya Lual (GR Student member)

It was **MOVED** (R. Dansereau, S. Viel) that Senate ratify the nominees for Senate committees, as presented, for service beginning July 1, 2026.

The motion **PASSED**.

8. Operating Budget Report (Provost)

University Provost and Vice-President (Academic) L. Pauline Rankin provided highlights from the consolidated 2026-27 Operating and Ancillary budget, which was approved by the Board of Governors in April. She noted that although the university is still in a deficit, there are reasons to be more optimistic about Carleton's financial situation moving forward.

The Provost began by reviewing positive changes to the funding model that were announced by the Ministry in February:

- \$27M of increased provincial grant funding for 2026-27, including:
 - Adjustments to weighted grant units (per student funding)
 - Increases in program weights across select STEM and health science programs
 - Expansion in enrolment funding for STEM health care and trades programs; Carleton will submit a proposal to receive increased funding spaces for growth in Nursing and Engineering programs
- Modest increases to the domestic tuition framework of 2%, and a previously approved 5% increase in tuition for non-Ontario residents, and up to 7.5% increase for select programs (MBA, B. Commerce and BIB). The Provost reminded Senators that while these increases are welcome, they do not close the gap created by 7 years of cuts and freezes.

For the 2026-27 budget, the combined deficit will be approximately \$32M, with projected revenues at \$614M and expenditures projected to total \$646. The Provost noted that the university has little control over many of these numbers, as 78% of revenue is tied to enrolment levels and provincial policy decisions.

Ancillaries are reporting a small deficit due to capital reinvestments, with healthy operating margins. The Provost reminded Senators that ancillaries do not receive subsidies from the operating fund; they must fund their own operating costs and are important to the university because they contribute to the Operating Budget.

Provost Rankin explained that specific planned investments for 2026-27 are targeted to:

- Re-establish international enrolment and global presence
- Modernize planning and operations, including support for implementing a new budget model

- Protect and strengthen the student experience, and
- Pursue strategic workforce planning.

The Provost noted that a comparison of Ontario universities shows that although financial pressures remain, several universities have moved out of their previous deficit position, which is a positive indication for the sector.

Looking forward, enrolment for 2026-27 is trending well and if Carleton can maintain its current aggressive trend, it is projected that enrolment could recover and exceed 2020/21 levels by 2030. Continuing with aggressive enrolment growth will be key to improving our financial outlook.

Key takeaways:

- The university will continue to make targeted investments to support enrolment recovery.
- The university will strengthen financial stewardship through a new budget model and strengthened financial controls.
- The university will use reserves in a careful and time-limited manner to support stability during transition.
- The university will sequence actions deliberately to align with institutional capacity and minimize risk.

The Provost added that a budget webinar will be scheduled within the next 2 weeks, and will contain more fulsome information on budget numbers. The Chair thanked the Provost for the informative presentation and remarked that notwithstanding the relatively positive picture presented, the budget situation remains challenging, and there is still a lot of work to do to address our structural deficit.

There were no questions from Senators.

9. Reports for Information:

- a. Senate Executive Minutes (April 24, 2026)
- b. COU Academic Colleague Report

A Senator asked why the Senate Executive Committee minutes do not include the list of questions for Senate Question Period that were deemed out of scope by the committee. In response it was noted that the committee agreed that it may not always be appropriate to share all of the questions submitted, and that the decision on how to minute this item was made collectively by the committee. This collegial approach by the committee does not undermine the new process for reviewing questions.

10. Other Business

None was identified.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned (S. Blanchard, D. Hornsby) at 3:50 pm.