

FIFTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE 58TH SENATE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2025 at 2:00 P.M.

LOUIS RIEL ROOM

Present: Christine Bovis-Crossen (Chair); Charles Adamu; Nora Ahmad; Bernadette Ardelli; Matteo DiMuro; Ravi Dwivedula; Alysha Farrell; Greg Gatién (acting for Kofi Campbell); JT Godin (acting for Leanne Zacharias); Peter Hickey; Bryan Hill; Gregory Kennedy; Chris Lagimodière; Chris LeMoine; Chris Malcolm; Andrea McDaniel; Linda Ross; Curt Shoultz; Melanie Sucha; Katie Whelpton (arrived at 2:07 pm); Pete Whittington; Michelle Williams-Joel; Dion Wiseman; Etsuko Yasui; Leanne Zacharias.

Regrets: Rick Baker; Kofi Campbell; Ariane Hanemaayer; Marsha Harris; Dominique Héту; Katheryne Lumgair; Michael Uwa-Omoregha.

Absent: Danil Buzhor; Cory Dysart-Moody; Rebecca Jimoh, Mary Jane McCallum; Grant Prairie

1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Pres. Bovis-Crossen called the meeting to order, welcomed all Senators, and offered a Land Acknowledgement.

2. Approval of Agenda

Agenda amendment: Move the discussion item regarding AI Policy at BU to after Ad-Hoc reports.

MOTION 082.DEC25 Shoultz/LeMoine

THAT the Senate approves the Open Session agenda of December 16th, 2025, as presented.

CARRIED AS AMENDED**3. Closed Session****MOTION 083.DEC25 Farrell/Zacharias**

THAT the Senate move into Closed Session.

CARRIED

4. Motion(s) Raised from Closed Session

Motion 086.DEC25 – THAT the Senate approves of granting Isabelle Verna DeMontigny the Honorary Degree for a Doctor of Laws.

5. Open Session

5.1. Approval of Minutes of November 18, 2025

MOTION 088.DEC25 Farrell/DiMuro

THAT the Senate approves the Open Session minutes of November 18, 2025, as presented.

CARRIED

5.2. Business Arising

There was no business arising.

5.3. Continuing Business

There was no continuing business.

5.4. New Business

5.4.1. Undergraduate Studies Committee (Sen. Gatien)

5.4.1.1. Faculty of Arts

History

OMNIBUS MOTION Kennedy/Whelpton

THAT the Senate approves motions 089 through 090.DEC25, as submitted by the Department of History, Faculty of Arts.

CARRIED

5.4.1.1.1. History Course Revisions

MOTION 089.DEC25

THAT the Senate approves of the following course revisions, as submitted by the Department of History, Faculty of Arts.

- 54:437 Historical Methods and Historiography

5.4.1.1.2. History Curriculum & Course Revisions

MOTION 090.DEC25

THAT the Senate approves of the following curriculum and program revisions, as submitted by the Department of History, Faculty of Arts.

- History Honours Major Curriculum Table Revision
- Public History 4-Year (Honours) and Minor Revisions
- Certificate in Public History Revisions

5.4.1.2. Faculty of Health Studies

Nursing & Psychiatric Nursing

5.4.1.2.1. Faculty of Health Studies Policy Changes

MOTION 091.DEC25 Ross/Shoultz

THAT the Senate accepts the deletion of the Faculty of Health Studies English Proficiency Policy, as submitted by the Faculty of Health Studies.

- Faculty of Health Studies English Proficiency Policy

CARRIED

Psychiatric Nursing

5.4.1.2.2. Psychiatric Nursing Curriculum & Program Revisions

MOTION 092.DEC25 Ross/Ahmad

THAT the Senate accepts the proposal for an Early Start Date for Year 2 BScPN, as submitted by the Department of Psychiatric Nursing, Faculty of Health Studies.

- Proposal: Request for Early Start Date for Year 2 BScPN Students – Winnipeg Campus (2026-2027 Academic Year)

CARRIED

5.4.1.3. Faculty of Science

Applied Disaster and Emergency Studies (ADES)

OMNIBUS MOTION LeMoine/Adamu

THAT the Senate approves motions 093 through 096.DEC25, as submitted by the Department of Applied Disaster and Emergency Studies, Faculty of Science.

CARRIED

5.4.1.3.1. ADES New Courses

MOTION 093.DEC25

THAT the Senate approves of the following new courses, as submitted by the Department of Applied Disaster and Emergency Studies, Faculty of Science.

- 40:350/ADES 3009 Hazard Mitigation and Adaptation
- 40:351/ADES 3010 Disaster Recovery

5.4.1.3.2. ADES Course Deletions

MOTION 094.DEC25

THAT the Senate approves of the following course deletions, as submitted by the Department of Applied Disaster and Emergency Studies, Faculty of Science.

- 40:355 Disaster Recovery and Mitigation

5.4.1.3.3. ADES Course Revisions

MOTION 095.DEC25

THAT the Senate approves of the following course revisions, as submitted by the Department of Applied Disaster and Emergency Studies, Faculty of Science.

- 40:356 Social Vulnerability in Disaster Management

5.4.1.3.4. ADES Curriculum & Program Revisions

MOTION 096.DEC25

THAT the Senate approves of the following curriculum and program revisions, as submitted by the Department of Applied Disaster and Emergency Studies, Faculty of Science.

- ADES 4-Year (Honours) and 4-Year Major Revisions

Biology (BIOL)

OMNIBUS MOTION LeMoine/Shoultz

THAT the Senate approves motions 097 through 098.DEC25, as submitted by the Department Biology, Faculty of Science.

CARRIED

5.4.1.3.5. Biology New Courses

MOTION 097.DEC25

THAT the Senate approves of the following new courses, as submitted by the Department of Biology, Faculty of Science.

- 15:301 /BIOL 3022 Scientific Methods in Biology

5.4.1.3.6. Biology Course Revisions

MOTION 098.DEC25

THAT the Senate approves of the following course revisions, as submitted by the Department of Biology, Faculty of Science

- 15:282 Principles of Genetics

5.4.1.3.7. Biology Curriculum & Program Revisions

MOTION 099.DEC25 LeMoine/Malcolm

THAT the Senate approves of the following curriculum and program revisions, as submitted by the Department of Biology, Faculty of Science.

- Biology 4-Year (Honours), 4-Year, and 3-Year Major Revisions (Biomedical and Biological Sciences Streams)

CARRIED

Chemistry (CHEM)

OMNIBUS MOTION LeMoine/Hill

THAT the Senate approves motions 100 through 101.DEC25, as submitted by the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science.

CARRIED

5.4.1.3.8. Chemistry New Courses

MOTION 100.DEC25

THAT the Senate approves of the following new courses, as submitted by the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science.

- 18:214/CHEM 2009 Environmental Chemistry

5.4.1.3.9. Chemistry Course Deletions

MOTION 101.DEC25

THAT the Senate approves of the following course deletions, as submitted by the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science.

- 18:451 Environmental Chemistry

Environmental Science

5.4.1.3.10. Environmental Science Curriculum & Program Revisions

MOTION 102.DEC25 LeMoine/Kennedy

THAT the Senate approves of the following curriculum and program revisions, as submitted by the Department of Environmental Science, Faculty of Science.

- Environmental Science 4-Year; and Land and Water 4-Year Revisions

CARRIED

Geography & Environment (G&E)

OMNIBUS MOTION LeMoine/Whittington

THAT the Senate approves motions 103 through 106.DEC25, as submitted by the Department of Geography & Environment, Faculty of Science.

CARRIED

5.4.1.3.11. G&E New Courses

MOTION 103.DEC25

THAT the Senate approves of the following new courses, as submitted by the Department of Geography & Environment, Faculty of Science.

- 38:301/GEOG 3016 Community Mapping: Participatory Research in Practice
- 38:302/GEOG 3017 Conservation of Ocean Resources
- 38:435/GEOG 4013 Soils and Prairie Landscapes
- 38:436/GEOG 4014 Political Ecologies of a Changing Planet: Power, Nature, and Justice

5.4.1.3.12. G&E Course Deletions

MOTION 104.DEC25

THAT the Senate approves of the following course deletions, as submitted by the Department of Geography & Environment, Faculty of Science.

- 38.273 General Ecology (deletion of cross-listing with Biology 15:273)
- 38.494 Limnology: The Science of Inland Waters

5.4.1.3.13. G&E Course Revisions

MOTION 105.DEC25

THAT the Senate approves of the following course revisions, as submitted by the Department of Geography & Environment, Faculty of Science

- 38.358 Field Studies in Geography
- 38.360 Rural and Small Town Canada

5.4.1.3.14. G&E Curriculum & Program Revisions

MOTION 106.DEC25

THAT the Senate approves of the following curriculum and program revisions, as submitted by the Department of Geography & Environment, Faculty of Science

- Geography 4-Year (Honours), 4-Year, and 3-Year Major Revisions (All Streams)

Discussion on this subject included the following:

- A question was raised regarding the transparency of costs associated with field school and if this information is communicated to the students; and that costs should not be a barrier to students who want to study.
 - Field trip costs are usually mentioned in the course description
 - Large, higher cost field trips/schools are discussed in advance, and in partnership with the students who will be attending the course. Budget development is part of this discussion.
 - Field trips and field schools are often a crucial component to learn the material in a real-world setting; they provide real life experiences.
 - Courses that include mandatory field trips/field school are not required to complete the degree.
- A member mentioned that it would be nice to get funding from donors that would help cover field school costs, as it would alleviate the financial barrier for students who want to attend these courses.

5.4.2. Graduate Studies Committee (Sen. Ardelli)

5.4.2.1. Faculty of Education – Master of Education

5.4.2.1.1. Ed Psych & Student Services Course Revision

MOTION 107.DEC25 Farrell/DiMuro

THAT the Senate approves of the following course revisions, as submitted by the Department of Educational Psychology & Student Services, Faculty of Education.

- 04:705 Guidance and the Classroom Teacher

CARRIED

5.4.2.1.2. Graduate Education Academic Dates

MOTION 108.DEC25 Farrell/Godin

THAT the Senate approves of the following Academic Dates, as submitted by the Faculty of Education.

- 2026 Summer Session Calendar Revisions

CARRIED

5.4.2.2. Faculty of Science – Master of Environmental & Life Sciences

5.4.2.2.1. Graduate Science New Course

MOTION 109.DEC25 LeMoine/Pete

THAT the Senate approves of the following new courses, as submitted by the Department of Geography, Faculty of Science.

- 38:656/GEOG 6005 Soils and Prairie Landscapes

CARRIED

5.4.3. USC & GSC Joint Recommendations (Sen. Ardelli)

5.4.3.1. USC & GSC Registrar Reports

MOTION 110.DEC25 Gregory/Malcolm

THAT the Senate approves the following report and recommendations, as submitted by the University Registrar:

- Fall Break Report & Recommendations

CARRIED

Discussion on this subject included the following:

- A question was raised asking if the fall/winter/spring breaks are a break from studying or a break to study? This was further explained that there seems to be mixed messaging from professors as some have most assignments due before the break, while others give assignments for students to complete over the break.
- Brandon University implemented the breaks to help students with their mental health. Students can choose to use the break as a break from school, or to catch up with any pending schoolwork.
- A concern was raised over faculty assigning additional projects over the break, but also professors not adhering to regulations about overloading exam times. This topic may need to be a discussion item for the Deans' Council.
- A point was made that the university cannot dictate to students how they use the break, but can communicate different methods of reflection, while providing resources for support if needed. Another member mentioned the importance of clearly communicating to students that even though there are no classes during the fall/spring breaks, the university is still open if they require support.

5.4.4. Scholarships & Awards Committee of Senate (Sen. Gatien)

5.4.4.1. New Awards

MOTION 111.DEC25 Gatien/Kennedy

THAT the Senate approves the following new award, as submitted by the Scholarships & Awards Committee of Senate:

- John K. Collins Memorial Scholarship-Bursary

CARRIED

5.4.4.2. Award Revisions

MOTION 112.DEC25 Gatien/Whelpton

THAT the Senate approves the following award revisions, as submitted by the Scholarships & Awards Committee of Senate:

- Dr. Bruce and Mrs. Jane Forrest Scholarship
- MNP Business Award
- MNP Scholarship
- Pallister ACC/BU Scholarship
- Tire Stewardship in Manitoba – Moe Tresoor Scholarship-Bursary in Environmental Science

CARRIED

5.4.5. Ad-Hoc Committee Reports

5.4.5.1. Grade Appeal Policy Review Committee (Sen. LeMoine)

MOTION 113.DEC25 LeMoine/Ross

THAT the Senate approves the revisions to the Grade Appeal Policy, as submitted by the Ad-Hoc Grade Appeal Policy Committee.

CARRIED

Discussion on this subject included the following:

- During the discussion, sub-motions were raised to amend the policy. However, after additional discussion, in light of past Senate experience and culture, it was decided that an open discussion would take place regarding the policy, instead of making sub-motions for amendments. After the topic was fully discussed with each member who was hoping to speak having had the opportunity to speak at least twice, the debate was exhausted. The original motion to approve the Grade Appeal Policy was passed.
- Concerns that were raised regarding the policy included:
 - Unclear definitions regarding the term “designate”. The policy should include an example or examples for students to refer to.
 - The need for more examples throughout the policy for students to refer to.

- In cases where the relationship has broken down between the student and the instructor, there is a risk of the student not appealing the grade because the policy states that the student should consult with the instructor to request an appeal.
 - This might further cause issues between the student and the instructor if the student is in multiple courses being taught by the instructor.
- A point was raised that the reasoning for students to first consult their instructor was that the grade could have been an error and by communicating with the instructor, informal resolution can take place.
- Members agreed that the policy can be amended at a later date if necessary.

5.4.5.2. External Review of Programs & Units Policy Review Committee (Sen. Gatien)

Written report submitted to Senate.

5.4.5.3. Liberal Education Requirement Review Committee (Sen. Kennedy)

Written report submitted to Senate.

5.4.5.4. Senate Awards for Excellence Review Committee (Sen. Gatien)

Written report submitted to Senate.

5.4.6. Discussion: Possible Institutional Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy (Sen. DiMuro)

MOTION F001.DEC25 DiMuro/

THAT the Senate establish an ad-hoc committee to create guidelines or framework regarding Artificial Intelligence at Brandon University.

CARRIED

Summary section of presentation given by Sen. DiMuro:

“Given the speed at which AI is growing and changing, its widespread use, and the lack of clear, consistent policies across the educational sector, I am moving

that BU form a standing Ad Hoc Committee on AI to develop an institutional AI policy. This policy could address:

- General guiding principles for AI use at BU;
- Approved and prohibited uses for students, including protection of instructor autonomy within clear institutional boundaries;
- Policies for the privacy and protection of student and faculty information, including which tools may be used with institutional data;
- Transparency policies around the use of AI for assessment and learning, and how we inform students when AI is used for such;
- Training and AI literacy for staff and students, including emerging good practices for using generative AI; and
- Ethical and pedagogical considerations, so that AI supports, rather than undermines, our mission as an institution of higher learning.”

Discussion on this subject included the following:

- The report from Sen. DiMuro used the term “policy” regarding AI use at BU. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that a policy was not appropriate and that a guideline or framework would be more acceptable due to the following reasons:
 - There is not enough flexibility in a policy to allow for the following:
 - Academic freedom
 - Emerging technological changes
 - Unknown operational and educational decisions
 - Changing definitions/understandings of AI and AI use
 - Communication, implementation and regulation issues
- The members agreed that there needs to be some guiding documentation around AI use at BU and that the new ad-hoc committee should investigate what other institutions have done about this subject.

5.4.7. Individual Reports

5.4.7.1. Brandon University Students’ Union (BUSU) President (Sen. Adamu)

No written report submitted to Senate.

5.4.7.2. Board of Governors Representative (Sen. Lumgair)

No written report submitted to Senate.

5.4.7.3. Members of Deans’ Council

- Dean of the Faculty of Arts (Sen. Kennedy)
No written report submitted to Senate.
- Dean of the Faculty of Education (Sen. Farrell)
No written report submitted to Senate.
- Acting Dean of the Faculty of Health Studies (Sen Ross)
No written report submitted to Senate.
- Acting Dean of the School of Music (Sen. Zacharias)
Written report submitted to Senate.
- Dean of the Faculty of Science (Sen. LeMoine)
No written report submitted to Senate.
- Dean of Students (Sen. Whelpton)
Written report submitted to Senate.
- Chief Information Officer (Sen. Sucha)
No written report submitted to Senate.
- University Registrar (Sen. McDaniel)
Written report submitted to Senate.

5.4.7.4. Associate Vice-President (Indigenous Initiatives) (C. Lagimodiere)

No written report submitted to Senate.

5.4.7.5. Vice-President (Administration & Finance) (Sen. Hickey)

No written report submitted to Senate.

5.4.7.6. Vice-President (Research & Graduate Studies) (Sen. Ardelli)

No written report submitted to Senate.

5.4.7.7. Acting Provost & Vice-President (Academic) (Sen. Gatien)

Written report submitted to Senate.

5.4.7.8. President (Pres. Bovis-Crossen)

Written report submitted to Senate.

6. Other Business

There was no other business.

7. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

8. Adjournment

Pres. Bovis-Crossen gave thanks to all of the committees, A. McDaniel for working as the Senate Secretary, and Megan Wady for taking over the Senate administrative support function. There is an Open house at President's Office on the 17th. Pres. Bovis-Crossen wished everyone a peaceful and restful holiday season.

The Senate adjourned at 4:26 pm.