

**SIXTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE 58TH SENATE**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026 at 2:00 P.M.

LOUIS RIEL ROOM

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**Present:** Christine Bovis-Crossen (Chair); Charles Adamu; Nora Ahmad; Bernadette Ardelli; Rick Baker Matteo DiMuro; Ravi Dwivedula; Alysha Farrell; Greg Gatien (acting for Kofi Campbell); JT Godin (acting for Leanne Zacharias); Marsha Harris; Dominique Hétu; Peter Hickey; Bryan Hill; Gregory Kennedy; Chris Lagimodière; Chris LeMoine; Katheryne Lumgair; Andrea McDaniel; Curt Shoultz; Melanie Sucha (arrived at 2:06 pm); Andrea Thomson (Guest); Katie Whelpton; Pete Whittington; Dion Wiseman; Etsuko Yasui.

**Regrets:** Kofi Campbell; Danil Buzhor; Ariane Hanemaayer; Linda Ross; Leanne Zacharias (Acting for Greg Gatien).

**Absent:** Cory Dysart-Moody; Rebecca Jimoh; Mary Jane McCallum; Grant Prairie; Michael Uwa-Omoregha; Michelle Williams-Joel.

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**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****MOTION 114.JAN26 Whelpton/Whittington**

THAT the Senate approves the Open Session agenda of January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026, as presented.

**CARRIED****3. Closed Session****MOTION 115.JAN26 Shoultz/Lumgair**

THAT the Senate move into Closed Session.

**CARRIED**

**4. Motion(s) Raised from Closed Session**

No motions were raised from Closed Session.

**5. Open Session**

5.1. Approval of Minutes of December 16, 2025

**MOTION 119.JAN26 LeMoine/DiMuro**

THAT the Senate approves the Open Session minutes of December 16, 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. Creation of New Ad-Hoc Committee

**MOTION 120.JAN26 Shoultz/DiMuro**

THAT the Senate constitute an Artificial Intelligence Ad-Hoc Committee to research and develop an overarching Artificial Intelligence Framework for Brandon University;

AND

THAT the ad-hoc committee have membership as follows:

- One academic Dean, elected by the Deans' Council;
- One faculty representative from each Faculty/School;
- Two student Senators;
- One representative from Libraries & Archives;
- Vice President, Research & Graduate Studies; and
- Director of the Centre for Teaching and Learning Technology.

AND

THAT the Committee provide a final report to the Senate in May, 2026

- Artificial Intelligence Ad-Hoc Committee

## **CARRIED AS AMENDED**

Discussion on this subject included the following questions regarding committee membership and timelines:

- One member asked if IT should be included on the committee and what role they would fulfill.
  - Sen. Sucha replied that currently there is a very strong appetite for a campus wide strategy and that having library involvement on the committee would be ideal. There is already research underway regarding the use of AI in research and AI use with Library vendors.
  - IT involvement would only be required if technical/operational issues were identified, however, Senate represents academic endeavors, operational issues would need to be addressed by a standing committee that is not associated with this ad hoc committee of Senate.
- Another member inquired about having MGEU representation on the committee as they would provide a different perspective.
  - It was clarified that this would not be a regular occurrence.
  - Other subject matter experts can be invited to attend committee meetings to provide advice or to consult on the project as a guest.
- A member raised that April was a tight timeline for a final report as the committee has just been approved and that filling the required positions and electing a chair may delay work on the committee.
  - It was agreed that the final report would be due at the last session of the 2025-2026 Senate in May, and that if needed, the chair can request an extension.

### **Amendments to Motion 120.JAN26**

- Updated membership: One representative from Libraries & Archives.
- Updated Deadline: The Committee provide a final report to the Senate in May, 2026

#### 5.4.2. Undergraduate Studies Committee (Sen. Gatien)

##### 5.4.2.1. Faculty of Health Studies

##### Nursing & Psychiatric Nursing

##### 5.4.2.1.1. Faculty of Health Studies Policy Changes

### **MOTION 121.JAN26 Ahmad/Shoultz**

THAT the Senate approves of the following policy changes, as submitted by the Department of Nursing & Psychiatric Nursing, Faculty of Health Studies.

- Admission Appeal Policy

**CARRIED**

5.4.2.2. Faculty of Science

Biology

5.4.2.2.1. Biology Course Revisions

**MOTION 122.JAN26 LeMoine/Kennedy**

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

- 15:280 Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy

**CARRIED**

Non-Departmental Courses

5.4.2.2.2. Non-Departmental Course Revisions

**MOTION 123.JAN26 LeMoine/Hill**

THAT the Senate approves the Non-Departmental course revisions, as submitted by the Department of Biology, Faculty of Science.

- 99:101 Writing and Communications in the Sciences
- 99:102 Introduction to Indigenous Sciences

**CARRIED**

### 5.4.2.3. Registrar's Office

#### 5.4.2.3.1. Academic Dates for Approval

##### **MOTION 124.JAN26 Whelpton/LeMoine**

THAT the Senate approves the following academic date revisions, as submitted by the Registrar's Office:

- Undergraduate Academic Dates 2026-2028

**CARRIED**

A question was raised regarding using the week of Thanksgiving to offset calendar make up days.

- This can be a future discussion but historically it has been considered if there is more than one make up day to account for.

### 5.4.3. Graduate Studies Committee (Sen. Ardelli)

#### 5.4.3.1. Faculty of Graduate Studies

##### 5.4.3.1.1. Faculty of Graduate Studies Policy Changes

##### **MOTION 125.JAN26 Ardelli/LeMoine**

THAT the Senate approves the following Graduate Studies Policy revisions, as submitted by the Graduate Studies Committee.

- Membership in the Faculty of Graduate Studies (Criteria)

**CARRIED**

Discussion on this subject included the following:

- Most changes dealt with altering the Membership criteria to be more inclusive, specifically in the qualifications needed to be a member of the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS).
  - For example, the category for adjunct professors now outlines the scope of work and the limitations of membership in alignment with senate policy.
- Pres. Bovis-Crossen questioned why all faculty aren't included as members. Being hired to work at BU should mean they are automatically presumed to be qualified.

- This question has been raised multiple times and comes down to individual programs.
- Some areas still want an extra layer of scrutiny, as supervision experience might be an issue with some faculty members.
- A member brought up that it is a competitive job market, and expectations of grad work require that the supervisor has extensive knowledge in the field.
  - This included ensuring that the professor is involved in active and ongoing research.
  - It is legitimate to confirm that people are well positioned to meet student success and core program outcomes.
- Another member mentioned that joint publications are a benefit for both students and professors, and having qualified supervisors ensures this outcome.
- A member commented that the language in the qualifications, specifically regarding the terms “must” and “terminal degree”, would restrict inclusivity.
  - This topic was discussed extensively by the committee. The committee increased inclusivity by moving away from “doctorate language” to include more non-traditional pathways of learning.
  - A terminal degree can change from department to department. In some cases, a Masters or an MBA etc. are considered terminal degrees. The language in the new policy roughly parallels the collective agreement.
- Another member brought up the 3-year renewal requirement for student representatives on FGS, and why there is an added administrative requirement for student representatives.
  - A typical grad program takes 2-years to complete, the max is 5-years
  - This is an operational requirement as there is currently no trigger to shut down a student’s membership after they graduate and/or their thesis finishes.

#### 5.4.3.2. Faculty of Health Studies – Master of Psychiatric Nursing

##### 5.4.3.2.1. Graduate Psychiatric Nursing New Courses

#### **OMNIBUS MOTION Shoultz/Farrell**

THAT the Senate approves motions 126 through 128.JAN26, as submitted by the Department of Graduate Psychiatric Nursing, Faculty of Health Studies.

**CARRIED**

### **MOTION 126.JAN26**

THAT the Senate approves the following new courses, as submitted by the Department of Graduate Psychiatric Nursing, Faculty of Health Studies:

- 75:635/ GRHS 6013 Indigenous Wellness, Resilience, Advocacy and Allyship
- 75:636/ GRHS 6014 Leadership in Advanced Psychiatric Nursing Practice

#### 5.4.3.2.2. Graduate Psychiatric Nursing Course Deletions

### **MOTION 127.JAN26**

THAT the Senate approves the following course deletions, as submitted by the Department of Graduate Psychiatric Nursing, Faculty of Health Studies:

- 75:657 Advanced Clinical Practice in Psychiatric Nursing I
- 75:658 Advanced Clinical Practice in Psychiatric Nursing II
- 75:659 Health Services Leadership & Administration I
- 75:660 Health Services Leadership & Administration II

#### 5.4.3.2.3. Graduate Psychiatric Nursing Course Revisions

### **MOTION 128.JAN26**

THAT the Senate approves the following course revisions, as submitted by the Department of Graduate Psychiatric Nursing, Faculty of Health Studies.

- 75:655 Seminar Topics in Psychiatric Nursing

5.4.3.2.4. Graduate Psychiatric Nursing Curriculum & Program Changes

**MOTION 129.JAN26 Harris/Hétu**

THAT the Senate approves of the Curriculum & Program changes, as submitted by the Department of Graduate Psychiatric Nursing, Faculty of Health Studies.

- MPN Calendar Revisions

**CARRIED**

5.4.3.2.5. Graduate Psychiatric Nursing Policy Changes

**MOTION 130.JAN26 Farrell/Hétu**

THAT the Senate approves of the Graduate Psychiatric Nursing Policy changes, as submitted by the Department of Graduate Psychiatric Nursing, Faculty of Health Studies.

- Admissions Policy Revisions
- Leave of Absence Policy
- Scholarly Activities Policy

**CARRIED**

5.4.3.3. Registrar's Office

5.4.3.3.1. Academic Dates for Approval

**MOTION 131.JAN26 Ardelli/Whelpton**

THAT the Senate approve the following Graduate Academic Dates for 2026-2028, as submitted by the Registrar's Office

- Graduate Academic Dates 2026-2028

**CARRIED**

5.4.4. Indigenous Curricular Content Committee (Sen. Lagimodière)

5.4.4.1. New Courses for Indigenous Content Course Requirement List

**MOTION 132.JAN26 Farrell/Kennedy**

THAT the Senate approve of the following courses to be added to the Courses for Indigenous Content Course Requirement List, as submitted by the Indigenous Curricular Content Committee

- 12:290 Archaeology of the Americas
- 68:201 Indigenous Sport, Game & Play
- 68:203 Indigenous Foodways of the Western Hemisphere

**CARRIED**

5.4.5. Registrar's Office: For Information

5.4.5.1. Retroactive Student Record Corrections

**MOTION 133.JAN26 Shoultz/Whelpton**

THAT the Senate receives the retroactive Student Record corrections for information for the following graduated Bachelor of Education Students as described below:

Nigel Tolley	Jeremy Byczkowski	Brenda Richer
Denise Ashcroft	Jamie Irwin	Trent Sloane
Kenneth Bryant	Robert Oliver	Anne Weaver

**CARRIED**

5.4.6. Ad-Hoc Committee Reports

5.4.6.1. Liberal Education Requirement Committee of Senate

**MOTION 134.JAN26 Kennedy/Hétu**

THAT the Senate approves the Liberal Education Requirement Policy revisions, as submitted by the Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Education and the Faculty of Science:

- Liberal Education Requirement

**CARRIED AS AMENDED**

Discussion on this subject included the following:

- A senator mentioned that Psychology has both science and arts degrees as part of their programming but is not included on the course list.

- Psychology was consulted on the course list contents, and they confirmed that they are happy with the current iteration of the list.
- Another member mentioned that the current calendar and conditions/requirements are a barrier to graduation. This is an artificial barrier for students, and we need to add an explanation to state why these areas are needed.
  - Is there data that supports required credit hours?
  - Have we explored if we need this feature in contrast to having always done this traditionally?
  - Should this be suspended until we determine if it is actually required?
    - Sen. Kennedy explained that the ad hoc committee has been working on this project for over 18 months, and these questions were brought up at the beginning of this work.
      - A briefing note was presented to Senate where it was decided that the policy should be revamped instead of cancelled and re-designed.
      - A review of other institutions found that all other institutions in Manitoba have a similar version of this requirement.
      - The new policy proposal resolves a lot of issues that were previously identified. Data requirements are important, and students need a way to guide their learning pathways. The old list restricted this, and the new list is more inclusive.
- Another senator brought up that the old list contained some music courses that are not present on the new list. Was this oversight or a decision made by consultation?
  - The list was brought to both the Dean's Council and the Undergraduate Studies Committee for discussion. It was not identified as a need or admission at that time.
  - It was agreed that the School of Music needs more detailed consultation regarding the course list.
- A senator mentioned that there seemed to be a missing bullet from the clarification section under the heading Double-Counting Multidisciplinary Courses in the proposed policy that is present in the report to Senate, but not listed in the actual policy:
  - Cross-listed courses will count under the department or program number that the student has registered in.

### **Amendments to Motion 134.JAN26**

- Add the following bullet to clarification section: Cross-listed courses will count under the department or program number that the student has registered in.

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

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

#### 5.4.7. Individual Reports

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

5.4.7.2. Board of Governors Representative (Sen. Lumgair)

5.4.7.3. Members of Deans' Council

- Dean of the Faculty of Arts (Sen. Kennedy)
- Dean of the Faculty of Education (Sen. Farrell)
- Acting Dean of the Faculty of Health Studies (Sen. Ross)
- Acting Dean of the School of Music (Sen. Zacharias)
- Dean of the Faculty of Science (Sen. LeMoine)
- Dean of Students (Sen. Whelpton)
  - With the developing issues in Iran & Venezuela, the DoS office is keeping close eye on students from these areas and making sure that support is ready for them if needed.
- Chief Information Officer (Sen. Sucha)
- University Registrar (Sen. McDaniel)

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

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

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

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

- Academic planning committee meeting on Monday and will pick back up on work.

5.4.7.8. President (Pres. Bovis-Crossen)

- Sen. Gatien has kindly agreed to extend his appointment of Acting Provost to the end of May
- Sen. Zacharias has agreed to stay on as the Dean of Music.
- Ag Days begin next week. Multiple members of Cabinet will be in Brandon for the event including Minister Cable (Minister of Advanced Education and Training for Manitoba), Minister MacDonald (Federal Minister of Agriculture) and Premier Kinew.
- Fundraising news: Fundraising is complete for the dome, and we are now focusing on fundraising for the Indigenous Centre. Donations for the Brodie Building project are also starting to come in.

**6. Other Business**

**7. Correspondence**

**8. Adjournment 3:40 pm**