

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2026 at 2:00 P.M.

LOUIS RIEL ROOM

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**Present:** Christine Bovis-Crossen (Chair); Nora Ahmad; Bernadette Ardelli; Danil Buzhor; Matteo DiMuro; Ravi Dwivedula; Alysha Farrell; Greg Gatien (acting for Kofi Campbell; acting Chair); JT Godin (acting for Leanne Zacharias); Marsha Harris; Dominique Héту; Peter Hickey; Rebecca Jimoh; Gregory Kennedy; Chris Lagimodiere; Chris LeMoine; Katheryne Lungair; Andrea McDaniel; Linda Ross; Curt Shoultz; Melanie Sucha; Katie Whelpton; Pete Whittington; Dion Wiseman; Etsuko Yasui; Leanne Zacharias (acting for Greg Gatien).

**Regrets:** Charles Adamu; Rick Baker; Kofi Campbell; Ariane Hanemaayer; Bryan Hill.

**Absent:** Cory Dysart-Moody; 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 153.MAR26 Shoultz/Ardelli**

THAT the Senate approves the Open Session agenda of March 17th, 2026, as presented.

**CARRIED****3. Closed Session****MOTION 154.MAR26 Farrell/Godin**

THAT the Senate move into Closed Session.

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

4.1. Senate Award for Excellence in Research - Tier 1 - 2026

**MOTION 157.MAR26 Adamu/Godin**

THAT the Senate bestow the 2026 Tier 1 Senate Award for Excellence in Research to Dr. Candice Waddell-Henowitch.

**CARRIED**

4.2. Senate Award for Excellence in Teaching - Tier 1 - 2026

**MOTION 158.MAR26 Adamu/Godin**

THAT the Senate bestow the 2026 Tier 1 Senate Award for Excellence in Teaching to Dr. Wendy Zander.

**CARRIED**

**5. Open Session**

5.1. Approval of Minutes of February 24, 2026

**MOTION 161.MAR26 Héту/Godin**

THAT the Senate approves the Open Session minutes of February 24, 2026, as presented.

**CARRIED**

- Pres. Bovis-Crossen would like to thank Greg Gatien for Chairing the February Senate meeting during her absence.

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. Bylaws Review Committee Request for Exception

**MOTION 162.MAR26 Whelpton/Dion**

THAT the Senate approves the request for exception, as submitted by the Bylaws Review Committee:

- Suspend “two Senator” requirement for the 2026 Bylaw Review

**CARRIED**

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

##### 5.4.2.1. Faculty of Arts

###### English, Drama & Creative Writing

###### **OMNIBUS MOTION Kennedy/Hétu**

THAT the Senate approves motions 163 through 164.MAR26, as submitted by the Department of ED&CW, Faculty of Arts.

##### 5.4.2.1.1. ED&CW New Course

###### **MOTION 163.MAR26**

THAT the Senate approves the following new course, as submitted by the Department of ED&CW, Faculty of Arts:

- 20:120/DRAM 1004 Theatre Production I

**CARRIED**

##### 5.4.2.1.2. ED&CW Course Revision

###### **MOTION 164.MAR26**

THAT the Senate approves the following course revisions, as submitted by the Department of ED&CW, Faculty of Arts:

- 20:204 Shakespeare I (cross-listing)

**CARRIED**

5.4.3. Graduate Studies Committee (Sen. Ardelli)

5.4.3.1. Faculty of Education – Graduate Studies Program

5.4.3.1.1. M.Ed Grad Studies & Field Research Course Revision

**MOTION 165.MAR26 Farrell/Hétu**

THAT the Senate approves the following course revisions, as submitted by the Faculty of Education

- 07:754 Practicum in Education

**CARRIED**

5.4.4. Approval of Meeting Dates for the 59<sup>th</sup> Senate (2026 - 2027)

**MOTION 166.MAR26 Shoultz/Harris**

THAT the Senate approves the following Senate meeting dates for the 2026-2027 year:

- June 16, 2026 (First inaugural meeting of the 59<sup>th</sup> Senate)
- September 15, 2026
- October 13, 2026
- November 17, 2026
- December 15, 2026
- January 19, 2027
- February 23, 2027
- March 16, 2027
- May 18, 2027
- June 15, 2027 (First inaugural meeting of the 60<sup>th</sup> Senate)

**CARRIED**

5.4.5. Library Council and Senate Library Committee Policy Revision (Sen. Sucha)

**MOTION 167.MAR26 Hétu/Shoultz**

THAT the Senate approves the following policy revisions, as submitted by the Library Council and Senate Library Committee:

- John E. Robbins Library Collections Policy

**CARRIED**

Discussion on the motion included the following:

- A member inquired about section 2.6 “Types of Material Not Collected” and asked who determines if they are outside the research needs of faculty members.
  - Academic librarians are responsible for determining what types of materials are not collected.
    - The library has designated liaisons for each Faculty and representatives who attend faculty councils, etc.
    - The academic librarians are acquainted with researchers’ needs
    - Sometimes requests are brought forward by staff and students, and in such cases, assessment is completed by academic librarians to determine fit.
- Changes to the policy are for clarification only; there are no significant changes to document.

#### 5.4.6. Ad-Hoc Committee Reports

##### 5.4.6.1. Artificial Intelligence Committee (Sen. Di Muro)

- In addition to the written report submitted, Sen. Di Muro noted that an 11 question survey was distributed to staff this morning. The survey should take 5 minutes to complete. Sen. Di Muro encouraged Senators to fill out the survey and share it with other faculty members as it will help the committee to gather data.

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

- In addition to the written report submitted, Sen. Gatien noted that the committee is currently in the information gathering stage and is determining how to organize work and reviewing experience of others who have gone through external reviews.

#### 5.4.7. Individual Reports

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

No written report submitted.

##### 5.4.7.2. Board of Governors Representative (Sen. Lumgair)

No written report submitted.

##### 5.4.7.3. Members of Deans’ Council

- Dean of the Faculty of Arts (Sen. Kennedy)  
No written report submitted.
- Dean of the Faculty of Education (Sen. Farrell)  
No written report submitted.
- Acting Dean of the Faculty of Health Studies (Sen. Ross)  
Written report submitted.
- Acting Dean of the School of Music (Sen. Zacharias)  
Written report submitted.

In addition to the written report submitted, Sen. Zacharias noted the following:

- This year’s Jazz Festival had more student attendees than last year.
- It was an amazing experience for everyone. Students were really engaged and involved in the music.
- Musical guest, Queen Cora, loved the festival, and it was a benefit to the whole city.

**MOTION F008.MAR26 Bovis-Crossen/Godin**

THAT the Senate extends thanks and congratulations to Leanne Zacharias and the School of Music on a great Brandon University Jazz Festival in 2026.

**CARRIED**

- Dean of the Faculty of Science (Sen. LeMoine)  
No written report submitted.
- Dean of Students (Sen. Whelpton)  
Written report submitted.

In addition to the written report submitted, Sen. Whelpton noted the following:

- The Career Symposium will be taking place shortly at the Keystone Centre.
- Returning residence student promotion has resulted in 100 students committed to returning to residence next year (compared with 80 last year).

- Chief Information Officer (Sen. Sucha)

Written report submitted.

In addition to the written report submitted, Sen. Sucha highlighted the upcoming Long Night Against Procrastination (LNAP), which will include Student Services study sessions, music performance practice opportunities with the Music librarian, and BUSU partners offering self-care sessions.

- University Registrar (Sen. McDaniel)

Written report submitted.

- A member asked for more information on the admission application data.
  - Even though applications have increased in comparison to the same time last year, the number is still the second lowest of the last five years. This is due to both COVID and the reduction of international students.
  - At the beginning of the last five years (2019), BU was at an all-time high in applications.
- International students:
  - BU is starting to see a rebound from IRCC's policy changes over the last several years;
  - Nigeria and Ghana continue to be the countries from which BU receives most of its international applications.
- Most other universities will see a dip in international students this year. It is anticipated that BU reached its low point for international admission last year, and numbers now seem to be increasing. BU did not have a large portion of international students prior to IRCC's changes, so the impact of those changes on BU was more limited than on many other institutions.

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

No written report submitted.

Sen. Lagimodiere noted the following:

Our Journey, the city's Indigenous graduation ceremony is scheduled for May 22nd; further communications will come out shortly.

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

No written report submitted.

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

No written report submitted.

Sen. Ardelli noted the following:

- Research and Graduate Studies is looking to apply for a Canada Impact Research Chair (CIRC). She encouraged any Senator who knows of someone living/working in an academic context outside Canada who would like to return to refer those individuals to the Global Affairs information on the CIRC. There are a total of 4 research chairs available this year.
  - A member asked if BU is seeking to apply for all 4 chairs and noted that, if successful, succession planning and resourcing might be difficult for those faculties that acquire a Research Chair.
  - BU will be competing for these chairs; they are not automatically assigned, and the positions will become tenure track positions once the Chair term is complete.

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

No written report submitted.

Sen. Gatien noted the following:

- An email will be sent out shortly sharing a draft of the Academic Plan. Sen Gatien encouraged Senators to review and share feedback. The document will be available until April 10th.

5.4.7.8. President (Pres. Bovis-Crossen)

No written report submitted.

Pres. Bovis-Crossen noted the following:

- Senate Bylaws Review Committee continues to meet and work through Senate bylaw revisions; the committee is having brilliant conversations regarding Senate governance.
- Next week is budget week; presidents of post secondaries have been warned that this year's budget will be focused on health and infrastructure which will make a tight budget.
  - Pres. Bovis-Crossen has been emphasizing that building capacity in healthcare also requires teaching, infrastructure, etc. She committed to keeping the university community up to date following her meeting and release of the budget next week.
  - Due to recent events in the community, Pres. Bovis-Crossen requested that Senators continue to be compassionate and empathetic during this time. She encouraged Senators to remember that trauma affects people differently, to be aware that students and staff may be having a difficult time, and to watch out for each other. She expressed hopes and wishes for a speedy recovery to the affected family.

## **6. Other Business**

There was no other business.

## **7. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

## **8. Adjournment at 3:05 pm**