

SECOND REGULAR MEETING OF THE 59TH SENATE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2026 at 2:00 P.M.

LOUIS RIEL ROOM

Present: Christine Bovis-Crossen (Chair); Nora Ahmad; Jonathan Allan; Bernadette Ardelli; Matteo DiMuro (arrived at 3:17); Ravi Dwivedula; Alysha Farrell; Greg Gatien (acting); Marsha Harris; Bryan Hill; Gregory Kennedy; Yvette LaFlamme; Chris Lagimodiere; Andrea McDaniel; Caden Pedlow; Serena Petrella; Amber Robidoux (Admin Support); Linda Ross (acting); Gretta Sayers; Curt Shoultz; Melanie Sucha; Vivian Uwadi; Katie Whelpton; Emmanuella Williams-Joel; Leanne Zacharias.

Regrets: Chris LeMoine.

Absent: Naomi Agboola; Favour Imooje; Samuel Kayode; Mary Jane McCallum; Grant Prairie; Oluwatosin Salau.

1. Welcome, Land Acknowledgement & Opening Remarks

Pres. Bovis-Crossen called the meeting to order, welcomed all Senators, offered a Land Acknowledgement, and provided a basic orientation to the roles and duties of the Brandon University Senate.

2. Approval of Agenda**MOTION 017.SEP26 Whelpton/Ross**

THAT the Senate approves the Open Session agenda of September 15, 2026, as presented.

CARRIED

3. Closed Session**MOTION 018.SEP26 Shoultz/Whelpton**

THAT the Senate move into Closed Session.

CARRIED

4. Open Session

4.1. Approval of Minutes of June 16, 2026

MOTION 021.SEP26 Harris/Ahmad

THAT the Senate approves the Open Session minutes of June 16, 2026, as presented.

CARRIED

4.2. Business Arising

There was no business arising.

4.3. Continuing Business

There was no continuing business.

4.4. New Business

4.4.1. Elections

4.4.1.1. Senate Executive Representatives

- One Senator from the Faculty of Arts (one-year term);

Sen. Jonathan Allan was acclaimed to serve as the Faculty of Arts representative on the Senate Executive Committee.

ACCLAIMED

4.4.1.2. Library Committee

- One member of Senate by and from the Senate (one-year term);

Sen. Ravi Dwivedula volunteered to serve in this position.

ACCLAIMED

- One undergraduate student Senator elected by and from the Senate (one-year term);

Sen. Emmanuella Williams-Joel volunteered to serve in this position.

ACCLAIMED

4.4.1.3. Senate Research Committee

- One research-active Senator elected by the Senate (one-year term);

No nominations or volunteers came forward. This election will be added to the October agenda.

4.4.1.4. Scholarships & Awards Committee

- One member elected by and from the Senate (one-year term);

Sen. Katie Whelpton volunteered to serve in this position.

ACCLAIMED

4.4.1.5. Dean of Health Studies Search

- Two Faculty Senators elected by Senate who are not members of the Faculty/School concerned;

Sen. Jonathan Allan volunteered to serve in this position.

Sen. Curt Shoultz volunteered to serve in this position.

ACCLAIMED

- One student Senator elected by Senate normally from the Faculty/School concerned;

No nominations or volunteers came forward. This election will be added to the October agenda.

4.4.2. Strategic Academic Plan 2026-2034 (Sen. Gatien)

4.4.2.1. Faculty/Unit Plan – Due Date Variance

MOTION 022.SEP26 Gatien/Shoultz

THAT the Senate approves a Faculty/Unit academic plan submission due date extension to September 30, 2027.

CARRIED

Discussion on this motion included the following:

- Sen. Sucha shared that the Library has developed their own strategic plan in parallel with the Strategic Academic Plan, as this was needed by the unit in response to upcoming retirements and other disciplinary changes and developments. The Library Strategic Plan is not directly aligned to the Strategic Academic Plan, but has also been verified that it does not conflict with the Strategic Academic Plan. The Library intends to adopt its plan this month and begin working to it, but will prepare a Strategic Academic Plan response in line with the timelines set out by Senate. Sen. Sucha asked if there were any concerns from Senate with this approach. No concerns were raised.

4.4.3. Registrar's Office (Sen. McDaniel)

4.4.3.1. Student Chosen/Affirmed Name Policy (*for information*)

Discussion on this item included the following:

- There were questions related to the policy addressing only the first and middle names. This is a starting point with first name being the area where individuals have expressed greatest concern to date. Also, there are current limitations of system design with first and middle names grouped together.
- The Registrar confirmed that the legal name will appear on the parchment; however, students can indicate chosen name on their student ID cards. There was some concern for students that the use of both will cause confusion. The Registrar assured that access to a student's legal name will be restricted to a limited group.
- Members of Senate wished to commend the group that worked on this policy.
- The use of appropriate/inappropriate words submitted as a chosen name will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

4.4.4. Undergraduate Studies Committee (Sen. Gatien)

4.4.4.1. Faculty of Arts

Economics

4.4.4.1.1. Economics Course Deletions

MOTION 023.SEP26 Kennedy/Petrella

THAT the Senate approves the following course deletions, as submitted by the Department of Economics, Faculty of Arts:

- 22:271 Economics of Education
- 22:272 Economics of Human Resources
- 22:274 Regional Economic Development
- 22.376 Fiscal Policy

CARRIED

Discussion on this motion included the following:

- There was a suggestion made that courses that have not been offered after a certain number of years should be deleted automatically.

4.4.5. Graduate Studies Committee (Sen. Ardelli)

4.4.5.1. Faculty of Health Studies – Master of Psychiatric Nursing

4.4.5.1.1. Policy Revisions

MOTION 024.SEP26 Ross/Kennedy

THAT the Senate approves the following policy revision, as submitted by the Department of Psychiatric Nursing, Faculty of Health Studies:

- Master of Psychiatric Nursing Admission Policy

CARRIED

4.4.6. Undergraduate Studies Committee & Graduate Studies Committee (Sen. Gatien)

4.4.6.1. Posthumous Degree Policy

MOTION 025.SEP26 Gatien/Ardelli

THAT the Senate approves the following new policy, as submitted by the Undergraduate Studies Committee and Graduate Studies Committee:

- Posthumous Degree Policy

CARRIED

Discussion on this motion included the following:

- Completion of 75% was determined for eligibility due to the likelihood of completion had the student not passed; however, if the student had completed less than 75% then there are alternative recognition options.
- There is a possibility of expanding this concept to grant certificates or diplomas to students who cannot continue on to complete their full degree and must leave at the end of 2 or 3 years.
- Aegrotat Degrees:
 - There may be an opportunity to expand this policy to grant aegrotat degrees to students who are unable to complete their full program due to serious or terminal illness.
 - The Registrar committed to completing further research to possibly establish a new policy, rather than include it as part of the Posthumous Degree Policy.
- Policy is the rule and if there is exception being made to it, it needs to be transparent.
- The Registrar committed to confirming whether students have a way to update their next of kin easily after they are admitted.
- One senator expressed that more support should be provided to the faculty and students who have experienced loss of a student.

4.4.7. Scholarships & Awards Committee

4.4.7.1. New Awards

MOTION 026.SEP26 Gatien/Zacharias

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

- Shirley Syslak Piano Scholarship
- Grace Agnes Maillet Memorial Scholarship Bursary

CARRIED

4.4.7.2. Award Revisions

MOTION 027.SEP26 Gatien/Hill

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

- Manitoba Co-operative/Rural/Economic Development Education Bursary

CARRIED

4.4.8. Senate Bylaws Revision Committee

4.4.8.1. Senate Bylaws Revision

MOTION 028.SEP26 Williams-Joel/Shoultz

THAT the Senate approves the changes to the Senate Bylaws, as submitted by the Senate Bylaws Revision Committee.

CARRIED AS AMENDED

Friendly amendments:

- Native Studies Department should be changed to Turtle Island Studies.
- In the Indigenous Curricular Content Committee composition, the student representative should be changed from “undergraduate” to “undergraduate or graduate.”
- In section 6 item 9, electronic recording of the proceedings of a Faculty/School Council is prohibited, “without the express consent of the Faculty Council.”

Discussion on this motion included the following:

- The new Bylaws will take effect immediately wherever possible to do so. All other revisions will take effect on September 1, 2027.
- General Faculty Council has been removed as it was not serving its function as it was. Instead, there will be several town halls per year open to everyone, not only faculty. Pres. Bovis-Crossen can also be invited to individual Faculty Council meetings as needed.
- A senator recommended that the Senate include more Indigenous representation. Pres. Bovis-Crossen indicated that Senate composition is determined by the provincial government through the BU Act and that the University has communicated to the government the need for greater Indigenous representation.

4.4.9. Provost & Vice President (Academic)'s Office (Sen. Gatien)

4.4.9.1. Creation of Department of Learning & Teaching

MOTION 029.SEP26 Gatien/Whelpton

THAT Senate recommends to the Board of Governors the creation of a new Department of Learning and Teaching that will be composed of members of the faculty whose roles serve the broader University community (rather than a single faculty or unit) and who otherwise work in relative isolation.

CARRIED AS AMENDED

Friendly amendment:

- Name revised to: Department of Learning and Teaching Support.

Discussion on this motion included the following:

- A senator inquired whether this new department would be subject to the three-person rule outlined in the BUFA Collective Agreement, and this was confirmed.
- A senator noted that there might be possible confusion for students related to staff within the Student Services team; however, it was decided that there is likely not any risk as

students are not normally aware of the departments of the staff with whom they interact.

- The four impacted faculty members are very much in favour of this change and thankful.
- This department is not part of a faculty as they serve all faculties, reporting to the Provost's Office.

4.4.10. Ad-Hoc Committee Reports

4.4.10.1. Artificial Intelligence Committee (Sen. Di Muro)

MOTION 030.SEP26 DiMuro/Sucha

THAT the Senate adopts the broad guiding principles for Artificial Intelligence, as presented by the Artificial Intelligence Ad-Hoc Committee.

CARRIED AS AMENDED

Friendly amendments:

- Change sentence: "Faculty, staff, students will not use or input information into insecure, open-access tools where personal information can be repurposed to train AI models or disclosed to third parties."
To: "Faculty, staff, students will not use or input personal or sensitive information or data into tools where such information can be repurposed to train AI models, or disclosed to third parties and other users who should not have such access."
- Under Legal Responsibilities: reverse the order of paragraphs 2 and 3 for stronger positioning of the tenet that personal data must not be entered into AI tools unless explicitly approved through privacy regulations.
- In the EDIDIRA section: the sentence beginning with "When used ethically" should begin a new paragraph and the words "when used ethically" should be deleted.

Discussion on this motion included the following:

- "Ethical use" is an aspiration that the University has, and the University's position is not necessarily that AI is ethical in and of itself.
- Students and faculty are subject to the guidelines.
- Thanks were expressed to the committee for their very hard work.

- Specific AI detection tools for faculty have not been approved by this committee. It may be a future task of a committee.

MOTION 031.SEP26 Kennedy/Whelpton

THAT the Senate receives the final report of the Artificial Intelligence Ad-Hoc Committee for information and approves forwarding the final report to the Board of Governors for information.

CARRIED AS AMENDED

Friendly amendment:

- In the spring survey of AI use by faculty, School of Music participation was not reported. The report should state that there were 69 respondents, six of whom were from Music.

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

Written report submitted.

4.4.11. Individual Reports

4.4.11.1. Brandon University Students' Union (BUSU) President (Sen. Salau)

Written report submitted.

4.4.11.2. Board of Governors Representative (Position Currently Vacant)

No written report was submitted.

4.4.11.3. Members of Deans' Council

- Dean of the Faculty of Arts (Sen. Kennedy)

No written report was submitted.

- Dean of the Faculty of Education (Sen. Farrell)

No written report was submitted.

- Acting Dean of the Faculty of Health Studies (Sen. Ross)

No written report was submitted.

- Dean of the School of Music (Sen. Zacharias)

Written report submitted.

- Dean of the Faculty of Science (Sen. LeMoine)

Written report submitted.

- Dean of Students (Sen. Whelpton)

Written report submitted.

- Chief Information Officer (Sen. Sucha)

Written report submitted.

- University Registrar (Sen. McDaniel)

Written report submitted.

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

No written report was submitted.

4.4.11.5. Acting Vice-President (Administration & Finance) (Sen. LaFlamme)

No written report was submitted.

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

Written report submitted.

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

Written report submitted.

4.4.11.8. President (Pres. Bovis-Crossen)

No written report was submitted but Pres. Bovis-Crossen provided the following oral notes:

- Homecoming, held September 11-13, 2026, was a success.
- Thanks were expressed for all those involved in creating a smooth experience for students at the start of term amid significant infrastructure disruptions.
- The Provost search is underway, with long-listing taking place next week and interview dates set.
- The President's listening tour will be starting up again shortly.
- CCAA Men's National Soccer Championships will be hosted by BU in 2027.

5. Other Business

There was no other business.

6. Correspondence

6.1. Brandon University Government Mandate Letter

The Senate received the government mandate letter for information.

Discussion on this item included the following:

- A senator noted the very limited funding allocated to deferred maintenance. Pres. Bovis-Crossen confirmed this pattern is consistent across publicly funded organizations.

7. Adjournment at 4:09 pm