



ACADEMIC COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

JANUARY 22, 2025

The meeting was held at 2:34 p.m. in South Annex, Room 060, and via Zoom.

COUNCILORS:

Laura Béres	Joe Henry	Pat Ryan
Nonie Brennan	Peter Ibbott	Jane Sanders
Graham Broad *	Jen Jeffrey	Steve Shajimon
Claudia Clausius	Liam Kennedy	Jennifer Silcox *
Adrienne Co-Dyre	Allyson Larkin	Ridley Smith
Tracy Cunningham	Miriam Love	Ricardo Soto
John Dool *	Kristin Lozanski *	Natalie Spruce
Russell Duvernoy *	Donna Maynard	Thomas Tiekou
Jeannette Eberhard	Alison Meek	Joseph Turnbull
Jordan Fairbairn *	Laura Melnyk Gribble	Robert Ventresca
Josephine Gemson	Jacquie Newman	Corinne Walsh *
Eunice Gorman (for CT)	Loretta Norton (for MP)	Paul Wilton
Chaya Halberstam	Brian Patton	Mark Yenson
Erin Hannah	Jeff Preston	

OBSERVER(S): Vishal Kothari, Karen Thomson

MINUTE TAKER: Ann Hoffer

R. Ventresca, Chair, called the meeting to order.

1.0 Land Acknowledgment

A. Larkin offered a land acknowledgement.

2.0 Opening Prayer

A. Larkin opened with a prayer.

3.0 Committee Reports

3.1 Planning and Priorities Committee

M. Yenson, Vice-President Academic Dean, provided a high-level review of the report (*circulated with the agenda*). A 29-minute discussion ensued.

- Mark explained that the hiring plan, endorsed by EPC and Academic Council, prioritizes LTAs for program sustainability. With PPC support, he returned the plan to Chairs and Directors before proceeding with postings, noting hires are subject to budgetary approval.

- A three-year budget forecast model, developed over the holidays, is being verified. It will be reviewed by the PPC, AC, and the Board. R. Ventresca noted that a monthly change report will be implemented, with more frequent updates after Monday's PPC meeting.
- A newly constituted drafting committee, including Associate Deans, J. Eastabrook, I. Rae, and A. Larkin, is working on the Academic Plan, incorporating earlier consultation and drafting and the new strategic framework. No official report yet. A curricular planning framework and academic program evaluation framework will be presented to EPC next week.
- The curricular planning framework helps AUHs in course planning, offerings and optimization. Mark noted that PPC will explore growth vs non-growth strategies, both of which will be presented at next week's EPC meeting.
- The SEM group will forecast enrolments targets for submission to Western. Emphasizing the need for better data to support projections, V. Kothari shared that a more accurate forecast can be made after the November 1st Ministry registration freeze.
- Revenue is budgeted on the assumption that all international students will pay full tuition. Since 2016, the provincial government classified students taking 3.5 courses as full-time, but universities must pro-rate fees.
- Various scenarios - pessimistic, realistic, optimistic - are being considered. K. Thomson added that three scenarios for each of the next three years will be planned, and this work will continue in the coming weeks.

3.2 Strategic Enrolment Management Committee

M. Yenson, Vice-President Academic Dean, clarified that the report (*circulated with the agenda*) includes very conservative projections for international students based on as-yet unknown Provincial Attestation Letter allocations. He stated that he had also reached out to Western to emphasize that the projections were conservative and that King's was working with the strong hope of a higher allocation. Mark provided a verbal update, noting that K. Thomson has joined the committee and that three task forces have been formed to focus on student attraction, conversion, and retention. These task forces, with both internal and external SEM members, have a quick turnaround for both immediate and long-term strategies. A 19-minute discussion ensued.

**J. Newman moved, R. Soto seconded,
Academic Council approve the 2025-2026 enrolment targets recommended by the
Strategic Enrolment Management Committee.
CARRIED (1 abstention)**

- Last year's target for domestic students was 600, and we exceeded it with 678. T. Cunningham added that while we have internal stretch goals, we must ensure our projections are accurate to secure grant funding from Western. Tracy also discussed how upper-year student transfers will be counted going forward.
- With graduate programs now included, Western must factor them into their PAL allotment. Given budget challenges, we need to adopt a realistic, cautious approach.

- Due to the government's new reporting process, we must now track every offer letter sent to international students and obtain a copy of their visas. Enrolment Services is working closely with International Services to gather this information from students already here.
- It was noted that we will have clarity before finalizing our budget, unlike last year.
- It was proposed that we develop/create standard historical data (2-3 pages) for Academic Council members to better assess projections, including bounce and boundary conditions. This would help address the need for higher domestic yields, despite uncertainty around boundary conditions (program capacity plus residence).

V. Kothari departed at 3:38 pm.

3.3 Governance and Nominations Committee (Chair, M. Yenson)

Referring to the report (*circulated with the agenda*), M. Yenson, Vice-President Academic Dean, shared his hope to soon propose the name of the Indigenous community member to be appointed to Academic Council.

C. Clausius moved, B. Patton seconded

That Academic Council direct the Governance and Nominating Committee to consult with the College's faculty and academic librarians regarding the creation of an inclusive Faculty Assembly at King's and bring forward its recommendations regarding such an assembly to Academic Council.

CARRIED (14 in favour; 7 opposed; 8 abstentions)

The new governance structure shifted to a representative model, leaving many academic members without a forum to raise issues with the VPAD. It was proposed that faculty meet with the VPAD once or twice per term. GNC was asked to initiate discussions on this proposal. An 18-minute discussion followed.

- Concerns were raised about empowering members not on Academic Council, given the Faculty Assembly's lack of decision-making authority
- Elected representatives relay information between the Council and constituencies. The proposal suggests GNC consult with faculty and librarians to assess interest and explore solutions, noting inconsistent broader academic community meetings, with the Faculty Association as the primary discussion
- The Community Assembly and what is being proposed for the Faculty Assembly serve different purposes.
- A friendly amendment was proposed to have the GNC investigate unit issues before establishing the Faculty Assembly. However, the amendment was not supported by the mover and seconder.
- Discussion on whether GNC should prioritize ensuring the consultation process reflects faculty and librarian views. Concerns were raised about creating the proposed entity before addressing foundational issues, such as operational challenges faced by small units.

3.4 Educational Policy Committee

Referring to the report (*circulated with the agenda*) and noting the SOC/SUPR-U course and program proposals come moved and seconded, M. Yenson, Vice-President Academic Dean, open the floor for discussion.

Education Policy Committee moved and seconded

That Academic Council approve the following course and program proposals, as amended.

1. ASL 2030A/B
2. SJPS 3363F/G
3. THAN 2206F/G, 2606A/B, ~~2204F/G~~
4. TNLA 3907A/B/Y
5. POL-SJPS 3320E
6. PSYCH – Module revisions
7. SOCI-DS 3339F/G
8. WRITING 1002F/G

CARRIED

The following amendments were requested:

- **THAN 2204F/G** should be removed as the modular revisions were tabled for further discussion.
- **ASL 2030A/B** should include the breakdown of weights when percentage values are provided.
- **TNLA 3907A/B/Y** update the position for the Experiential Learning Coordinator as that position no longer exists. Mark noted that EPC considered using the current Social Science and Interdisciplinary course codes for internships, but these codes require payment, which is why alternative codes were proposed.

An 8-minute discussion followed:

- The proposed interdisciplinary courses would allow students to complete internships alongside classes 1-2 days per week. Currently, internships must occur during breaks, such as the summer term, when students have no other coursework.
- Mark noted that we have an informal process for interdisciplinary courses (with 1-2 students in summer and the VPAD advising them) and no resource implications at the moment. If enrollment increases, faculty overload may be needed.
- Clarification was sought on the time sensitive MOS program proposals which are current being reviewed by EPC virtually.

3.5 Research Committee

E. Hannah, Associate Dean (Research), provided the context for introduction of the subcommittee, referencing the report (*circulated with the agenda*). Given the motion comes moved and seconded, the floor was opened for discussion. A 5-minute discussion followed.

Research Committee has moved and seconded

That Academic Council accept the new Terms of Reference for the Research Grants and Awards Subcommittee of the Research Committee

CARRIED

- The Research Committee collaborated with Paul Werstine to maintain continuity, effectively grandfathering members under the old governance structure to ensure work begins on May 1st
- King’s internal research grants involves the collective agreement, which references a research grants committee. J. Newman offered to present this to KUCFA and the Executive to draft a letter of understanding.
- The Subcommittee has 12 faculty members. A research faculty member will chair, supported by Rodney Parker and Ramanpreet Grewal, instead of the Associate Dean Research.

4.0 Reports

4.1. President (Interim)

R. Ventresca, President (Interim), provided a verbal update, referencing his December 17, 2024 report to Academic Council, on the new budget model, discussions with external relations, and an upcoming alumni virtual event. Rob commended the Planning and Priorities Committee and Strategic Enrolment Committee for the quality of discussions and thanked members for their time and commitment.

An update on the classroom modernization initiative was provided, reporting that W147 and W148 will be merged into a modernized space with flexible layouts, advanced technology, accessibility, and Indigenous learning elements. A RFP is being prepared for the 2025 proof of concept, incorporating survey results into the design.

A 4-minute discussion followed.

- The potential use of Kenny theatre for teaching was raised, considering budget constraints and the need for space optimization. R. Ventresca reminded members that the campus development plan has been paused. M. Yenson shared that the classroom modernization working group is seeking external funding for this initiative.
- K. Thomson noted that a strategic initiatives process, focusing on attraction, conversion, and cost reduction, will be implemented and shared alongside budget planning information.

Rob acknowledged the difficult times, emphasizing the need for faith and representing King’s well, assuring that we will navigate these challenges together.

4.2. Vice-President and Academic Dean (Interim)

M. Yenson, Vice-President and Academic Dean (Interim), provided a verbal update on a few notable achievements which were followed by a round of applause:

- Thomas Tieku was elected Vice President of the International Studies Association
- Graham Broad, Principal Investigator, and Amy Shaw (University of Lethbridge), have been awarded a SSHRC Connection grant to host the workshop “Canada in the Second World War: New Directions in Scholarship” in March 2025 at King’s, bringing emerging scholars and engaging King’s students in academic conference planning.

Mark presented OUAC enrolment data (PALs/applications), highlighting the percentage change from last year. He thanked those involved in IQAP Cyclical reviews, mentioned

no new affiliation discussions, and announced the Open House on March 22, encouraging faculty to attend and welcome students.

4.3. King's University College Students' Council Report

R. Soto, President of King's University College Students' Council, verbally highlighted key points from his written report (*appended as Appendix A*).

R. Smith announced 24 clubs attending next week's event in the Garron Lounge, noting information is on the KUCSC website, and event details are on the whiteboard in the lounge.

5.0 THE UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA

J. Jeffrey moved, B. Patton seconded

That Academic Council receive the updated Appointments Promotion and Tenure Committee Report on the Consent Agenda as amended and approve the Minutes of Meeting of November 20, 2024.

CARRIED

The P&T Report will be updated to list Stephanie Baird in place of Laura Beres and note the vacant seat previously held by Carrie Traher, who is no longer at King's.

6.0 ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

No items were removed.

6.0 New Business

It was noted that the Mission Integration and Inclusion Committee had yet met.

ACTION: P. Wilton to confirm the administrative support to the Mission, Integration, and Inclusion Committee, including polling members and booking the first meeting, and providing ongoing support.

Loretta Norton will fill Marcie Penner's seat on Academic Council until July 2025 during her Sabbatical Leave.

7.0 Adjournment

L. Melnyk Gribble moved, and C. Clausius seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 4:41 p.m.



Robert Ventresca,
Chair



Paul Wilton,
University Secretary