



**ACADEMIC COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
FEBRUARY 11, 2026**

The meeting was held in Labatt Hall, Room 103, and via Zoom.

COUNCILORS:

Aidan Bobkowicz	Lynne Jackson	Jennifer Silcox
Graham Broad	Liam Kennedy	Derek Silva
Arashdeep Chahal	Allyson Larkin	Natalie Spruce
John Dool *	Miriam Love	Karen Thomson *
Russell Duvernoy	Braedan Lovie *	Renfang Tian
Jordan Fairbairn	Krista Lysack	Paul Tufts
Josephine Gemson	Donna Maynard	Joseph Turnbull
Eunice Gorman	Alison Meek	Robert Ventresca
John Grant	Laura Melnyk Gribble	Corinne Walsh
Tom Gray	Eleni Nicolaidis	Ruth Wilson
Chaya Halberstam	Brian Patton	Paul Wilton
Erin Hannah	Jeff Preston	Mark Yenson
Joe Henry	Felipe Rodrigues	
Peter Ibbott	Patrick Ryan	
	Jane Sanders	

* Regrets
 Zoom

OBSERVERS: Cynthia Lessard, Sonya Lobsinger, Danielle Teeter

MINUTE TAKER: Ann Hoffer

R. Ventresca, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

He reminded members of the meeting timeframe (2:30–4:30 p.m.), the expectation to speak once for or against a motion, and the importance of avoiding duplication in discussion.

1.0 Land Acknowledgment

M. Love offered the Land Acknowledgment.

2.0 Opening Prayer

R. Ventresca acknowledged the tragedy in Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia, and invited a moment of quiet reflection. J. Loo provided the opening prayer.

3.0 Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion: That the minutes of the November 19, 2025 meeting be approved, with a friendly amendment to clarify language regarding the security budget.

Moved by: P. Ryan, L. Melnyk Gribble

CARRIED

Motion: That the minutes of the January 28, 2026 meeting be approved.

Moved by: L. Melnyk Gribble, L. Jackson

CARRIED

4.0 Committee Reports

4.1 Educational Policy Committee

M. Yenson presented three items for information and discussion, including updates to Religious Studies courses to increase visibility.

Highlights from discussion:

- Questions were raised regarding inclusion of academic librarians in the Faculty Hiring Plan.
- It was noted that the library remains a priority, and consultation is ongoing regarding leadership and planning.

4.2 Governance and Nominating Committee

Motion 1: To recommend the proposed amendments to the Mission Integration and Inclusion Committee's Terms of Reference to the Board for approval.

Moved by: Governance and Nominating Committee

CARRIED

Motion 2: To approve the draft Academic Council Meetings Policy.

Moved by: Governance and Nominating Committee

CARRIED

Highlights from a 10-minute discussion:

- Clarification was sought regarding the role of Council in voting when items are referred to committee.
- The policy aims to improve equity by ensuring advance notice of motions.
- Members discussed the distinction between new motions and those arising from existing agenda items.

5.0 Reports

5.1 President

R. Ventresca provided updates on:

- Student recruitment and conversion efforts, emphasizing their importance.
- The upcoming search process for the Vice-President Academic Dean (VPAD), including formation of an advisory committee.

Highlights from a 30-minute discussion:

- Members discussed concerns regarding the VPAD hiring process, including deviations from past practice and governance norms.
- Board rationale for a closed search process was presented, including concerns about applicant pool quality, diversity, and confidentiality.
- Differing perspectives were expressed regarding governance, transparency, and faculty representation.

Urgent Business Motion:

Members (C. Halberstam, P. Ryan) gave notice from the floor of an urgent matter regarding the Vice-President, Academic & Dean (VPAD) hiring process. The President ruled the matter urgent, and the assembly agreed to proceed with its consideration at this time.

Motion: Given that transparency, procedural fairness, and collegial governance require that material departures from Academic Council's recommendations concerning academic governance be explained and documented, I move that the Board shall provide a written explanation for rejecting, after a referral for reconsideration, Academic Council's policy recommendations for the VPAD hiring process. The explanation shall address the following:

- The substantive reasons for rejecting AC's policy framework, which were arrived at after extensive consultation and which align with university best practices of shared governance; outlining specifically:
 - the departure from King's longstanding past practice of constituting a search committee fully elected by the democratic academic governing body and with a faculty majority;
 - the departure from King's longstanding past practice of community participation in final round interviews;
 - the departure from the best practice of allowing constituencies to elect their own representatives, having them instead be appointed by the president
- The criteria and evidence relied upon by the Board in reaching its decision;
- The process followed in making the decision, including consultation undertaken and advice received.

Moved by: L. Jackson, L. Melnyk Gribble

CARRIED

Additional highlights:

- Members expressed concern regarding lack of prior Board response to Council recommendations.
- Student representation in governance was raised as an area for improvement.
- Concerns were noted regarding the institutional website and its role in recruitment and public engagement.

5.2 Vice-President Academic Dean (Interim)

M. Yenson and T. Gray provided updates on enrolment, retention, and academic planning.

Key points:

- Student population increased by 1.36%.
- Retention rates improved for both domestic and international students.
- Admission average is approximately 80%.
- International enrolment remains a concern moving forward.

Highlights from a 15-minute discussion:

- Clarification was provided on the student support model, particularly for international students.
- Program changes (e.g., Finance and Wealth Management) were discussed.
- Concerns were raised regarding academic misconduct reporting inconsistencies across departments.
- Emphasis was placed on academic integrity education, including a mandatory module under development.
- Members discussed broader factors contributing to academic misconduct, including student resilience and systemic pressures.

6.0 Items Removed from Consent

None.

7.0 New Business

A request was made to improve slide readability (larger font).

An update was shared regarding an Indigenous repatriation initiative involving Dr. Cody Groat and Noah MacDonald.

8.0 Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at approximately 4:11 p.m.

Moved by: P. Ibbott, L. Melnyk Gribble

CARRIED



Robert Ventresca,
Chair



Paul Wilton,
University Secretary