



**ACADEMIC COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
March 25, 2026**

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

COUNCILORS:

Aidan Bobkowicz
Graham Broad
Arashdeep Chahal *
Adrienne Co-Dyre
John Dool *
Russell Duvernoy
Jordan Fairbairn
Josephine Gemson
Eunice Gorman
John Grant
Tom Gray
Chaya Halberstam
Erin Hannah 🌐
Joe Henry
Peter Ibbott

Liam Kennedy
Allyson Larkin
Miriam Love
Braedan Lovie
Krista Lysack
Donna Maynard
Alison Meek
Laura Melnyk Gribble
Brian Patton
Marcie Penner
Jeff Preston
Felipe Rodrigues
Patrick Ryan
Jane Sanders

Jennifer Silcox
Derek Silva
Natalie Spruce
Karen Thomson
Renfang Tian *
Thomas Tieku
Paul Tufts
Joseph Turnbull
Robert Ventresca
Corinne Walsh *
Ruth Wilson
Paul Wilton
Mark Yenson

* Regrets
🌐 Zoom

OBSERVERS:

MINUTE TAKER: Ann Hoffer

R. Ventresca, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:34 p.m.

1.0 Land Acknowledgment

C Lessard provided a personalized land acknowledgement for our first meeting of 2026 Spring Equinox.

2.0 Opening Prayer

A. Bobkowicz acknowledged the current demands of the academic period and invited members, on a voluntary basis, to participate in the Our Father.

Chair R. Ventresca welcomed Mr. Tyler Waddilove to his first meeting as the Indigenous Community member of Academic Council. Tyler briefly addressed Council, sharing reflections on his background and his respect for Catholic faith and tradition.

The Chair reported that Western has announced its honorary degree recipients and noted that Elder Liz Akiwenzie will be awarded an honorary degree at Convocation on June 11 at 10:00 a.m. King’s will co-host Elder Liz with the Office of Indigenous Initiatives, with a special luncheon to follow at the Wampum Learning Lodge.

Members were reminded of the Spring Open House taking place this Saturday, and the Chair thanked those supporting recruitment efforts.

The Chair noted two agenda revisions: item 6.1, Strategic Enrolment Management Committee was removed from the Consent Agenda and added as item 7.1; and, as there is no written report from the King's University College Students' Council, item 6.3 was removed from the Consent Agenda and added as item 5.3, with Mr. Braedan Lovie providing a verbal report.

3.0 Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Motion: That the minutes of the February 11, 2026 meeting be approved.

Moved by: B. Lovie, L. Melnyk Gribble

CARRIED

4.0 Committee Reports

4.1 Educational Policy Committee

EPC Committee Chair M Yenson brought forward two reports of meetings since last the Academic Council meeting.

4.1.1 February Meeting Report

EPC reviewed the proposal to revise proctor ratios as presented by Registrar T. Gray, bringing it forward to Council for review/approval.

MOTION: That, on the advice of EPC, Academic Council approve the proctor ratios for December, April, and Summer examination periods as presented, effective April 1, 2026.

Moved by: Educational Policy Committee

CARRIED

Highlights from a 14-minute discussion:

- Council discussed proposed proctoring ratios in the context of academic integrity and recent increases in academic offences. The EPC Chair advised that the standard ratio was determined to maintain assessment integrity and noted that departments may request additional proctors where warranted. It was emphasized that instructors exercise discretion in consultation with department Chairs to ensure consistency across multiple course sections and to address assessment security and safety considerations.
- Members raised concerns regarding examinations overseen by a single proctor or instructor and sought clarification on processes for requesting additional support. The EPC Chair clarified that while Western's scholastic discipline policy does not stipulate a specific number of proctors, examination support resources are available, including hall monitors, the Exam Office, and established reporting mechanisms for suspected academic misconduct.
- A suggestion was made to develop a protocol for responding to incidents of academic dishonesty during examinations, including real-time support from the Dean's Office. The EPC Chair indicated this suggestion would be brought forward for EPC consideration.

- Council also discussed a reported \$50,000 budget reduction for the upcoming term. The Registrar clarified that the reduction applies only to summer in-person examinations associated with section 570 course codes and confirmed that plans are in place for Summer 2026. The EPC Chair noted that proctoring services will continue to be provided for courses.

Amendment

A friendly amendment to Appendix A of the motion was accepted, replacing the phrase “identified as ‘high risk’” with “at the discretion of instructors.”

MOTION: That, on the advice of EPC, Academic Council approve the revised examination instructions as presented.

Moved by: Educational Policy Committee

CARRIED

EPC Chair M. Yenson reported that the policy was last reviewed in 2006 and is therefore being brought forward for review and update. A 3-minute discussion ensued.

- A member noted emerging methods of academic misconduct involving specialized devices. Chair Yenson advised that specifying devices in policy is impractical given evolving technology and that existing language allows instructors to clearly identify permitted aids.

4.1.2 March Meeting Report

SUBJECT: Sociology/Criminology Integration with Thanatology

MOTION: That Academic Council approve the integration of the Thanatology program with the Department of Sociology, and approve changes to the constitution of the Department of Sociology as shown.

Moved by: Educational Policy Committee

CARRIED

Highlights from 3-minute discussion:

- A member questioned whether the proposed integration involving the Thanatology Department would have proceeded if additional faculty hiring had been possible. The EPC Chair noted that the proposal originated with the two departments and deferred to them. Department Chair E. Gorman advised that discussions with Sociology had been ongoing for over a year and that, given current financial constraints, the integration was considered an appropriate academic fit. Concern was expressed regarding the timing of the proposal in relation to the Thanatology Program’s 50th anniversary.

SUBJECT: Revisions to Constitution of the School of Social Work

MOTION: That Academic Council approve the revisions to the School of Social Work Constitution as recommended by the Social Work School Council, as shown.

Moved by: Educational Policy Committee

CARRIED

4.2 Scholarship and Bursary Committee

Motion: That, effective May 1, 2026, entrance and continuing scholarships be subject to proration. This policy shall apply to both automatic and application-based entrance and continuing scholarships and awards, whether funded by King's or by donors. Proration shall be determined in accordance with the framework outlined above.

Moved by: Scholarship and Bursary Committee

CARRIED

Chair J. Gemson reported on scholarship procedures for students who withdraw or reduce a full-time course load, noting the absence of clear pro-ration guidelines and an increase in such cases. It was clarified that these procedures do not apply to students registered with Accessible Education, and the proposed formula was highlighted.

Discussion:

- A member noted that while a full-time course load is defined as 3.5 courses or above, tuition rates are the same for course loads of 4.0 and above, and asked whether the current formula required adjustment. It was noted that no adjustment was required.

Chair J. Gemson proposed considering the following motions together, adding that the latter motion still requires confirmation of agreement with the Diocese of London.

Motion: To modify the criterion "Demonstrate large financial need as determined by Student Finance" to "Demonstrate financial need as determined by Student Finance."

Moved by: Scholarship and Bursary Committee

CARRIED

Chair J. Gemson noted the removal of the word "large" was to broaden eligibility and provide greater access.

Motion: To approve the revised criteria for the Bishop John Michael Sherlock Catholic Leadership Award, effective May 1, 2026 (pending confirmation of agreement from the Dioceses).

Moved by: Scholarship and Bursary Committee

CARRIED

4.3 Governance and Nominating Committee

Motion: That Academic Council recommend to the Board that the Educational Policy Committee's Terms of Reference be amended to include Associate Directors with voice and vote.

Moved by: Governance and Nominating Committee

Committee Chair M. Yenson reported that EPC's proposed revisions to committee composition were discussed at GNC, including considerations related to balanced

membership. He noted that references to specific Schools were omitted pending further deliberation on broader academic unit structures.

Summary of 21-Minute Discussion:

- Council discussed the proposed amendments, including the rationale for adding: Associate Directors, considerations of equity and representation across academic units, and the potential role of program coordinators. Members raised questions regarding proportional representation, expertise versus enrolment-based considerations, workload, and alignment with collective bargaining structures. It was noted that EPC had discussed the matter extensively and supported the revisions, while recognizing the need for continued discussion regarding committee composition more broadly.

Motion: To refer the amendments to EPC membership back to committee for further discussion and study.

Moved by: A. Meek, D. Silva

DEFEATED (10 in favour, 14 opposed, 4 abstentions)

Following the defeat of the referral motion, the original motion was put to a vote and **CARRIED** (4 opposed, 6 abstentions).

Motion: That Academic Council recommend to the Board that the Appointments, Promotion, and Tenure Committee Terms of Reference be approved.

Moved by: Governance and Nominating Committee

CARRIED

Committee Chair M. Yenson noted that the proposed revisions constitute housekeeping changes.

5.0 Executive Reports

5.1 President

President R. Ventresca thanked members for their collaborative work on the operating and capital budgets, noting the significant effort involved both within and beyond formal governance processes. He highlighted the implementation of Slate CRM and Data Management as a positive example of cross-departmental collaboration that supports a more seamless and effective organizational approach and contributes to long-term institutional success. No questions were raised.

5.2 Vice-President Academic Dean (Interim)

Interim VPAD M. Yenson reported on recent changes to provincial funding and their potential implications for King's, noting that updates will be shared as further information becomes available. He also advised that on March 13, Western's Senate approved a policy on [Mandatory Training for Undergraduate Students](#), including Gender-Based and Sexual Violence and academic integrity tutorials, and that student records will be sealed if requirements are not completed by the specified deadline.

M. Yenson reported that 389 students and 742 guests are registered to attend Open House, representing record attendance, and thanked faculty, staff, and students for their efforts in welcoming prospective students to campus.

Referring to the Appointments, Promotion, and Tenure Report included in the Consent Agenda, M. Yenson congratulated faculty on contract renewals and promotions, with particular recognition given to those promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure and to Full Professor.

Highlights from a 7-minute discussion:

- A general discussion took place regarding enrolment trends and the approved enrolment corridor. It was reported that the enrolment ceiling has been reached for both the previous and current academic years, and that corridor mid-points will be adjusted to 2024–25 levels in alignment with Ministry projections.
- Members discussed targeted provincial funding opportunities and advocacy. It was noted that advocacy primarily occurs through Western and the provincial government, and that further discussions will take place regarding program alignment with provincial priority areas and potential funding envelopes.

5.3 King's University College Student's Council

KUCSC President B. Lovie provided a verbal report, offering congratulations on several recent achievements. He acknowledged:

- Dr. Erin Hannah and her team for a successful Research Week;
- Dr. Eunice Gorman and the Department of Thanatology on the program's 50th anniversary at King's;
- The KUCSC Executive Team elected on March 19 for the 2026–2027 academic year, comprising of:
 - o President-elect Breandén Dunn
 - o Vice-President Student Affairs Himm Lai, and
 - o Vice-President Student Events Matt Booth;
- Patricia Kellie (BMOS Program), who was recognized as Valedictorian for the 2025–2026 graduating class and addressed attendees at the Grad Ball.

6.0 Consent Agenda

6.1 Removed (now 7.1)

6.2 Appointment, Promotion, and Tenure Committee

Motion: That items under the Consent Agenda be approved.

Moved by: L. Melnyk Gribble, B. Lovie

CARRIED

7.0 Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

7.1 Strategic Enrolment Management Committee (formerly 6.1)

Committee Chair M. Yenson noted a required correction to a hyperlink in the community presentation and opened the floor for discussion of the SEM Report.

Highlights from a 5-minute discussion:

- It was noted that the report indicates the SEM Plan would be presented to Academic Council for information only. M. Yenson clarified that this language reflects the current drafting status of the plan and that a more complete version had been intended for presentation, but further review by committees was required prior to sharing the plan with Academic Council and the Board. Mark indicated he would consult with the SEM Committee regarding the possibility of bringing a more formal report forward. He added that Academic Council will have an opportunity to discuss the plan.
- A member asked why the SEM Plan was shared with the broader community prior to Academic Council. M. Yenson explained that while the plan was initially intended for Community Assembly and subsequently Academic Council, revisions necessitated delays. K. Thomson added that the community presentation was a high-level overview, whereas Academic Council will receive a comprehensive written report.

8.0 New Business

None.

9.0 Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn at 411 pm

Moved by: P Ibbott, P Ryan

CARRIED



Robert Ventresca,
Chair



Paul Wilton,
University Secretary