



**ACADEMIC COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
MAY 27, 2026**

The meeting was held in South Annex Building, Room 150, and via Zoom.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

OBSERVERS: Ramanpreet Grewal, Rodney Parker, Emma Swiatek, Nic Virtue.

MINUTE TAKER: Ann Hoffer

The meeting was called to order at 2:38 p.m. by Chair R. Ventresca.

1.0 Land Acknowledgment

L. Melnyk Gribble shared a poem by Lee Maracle from Stó:lō Nation of the Fraser Valley in the spirit of this season of hope and renewal.

2.0 Opening Prayer

President Ventresca reflected on the academic year, acknowledging ongoing challenges and change within the post-secondary sector. He reaffirmed the importance of the institution's mission, commitment to inquiry, and tradition of collegial governance, thanked members and committee volunteers for their contributions throughout the year, and expressed optimism about the future of King's.

President Ventresca shared that:

- The Tree Planting Ceremony will be rescheduled to the fall as a rededication ceremony.

- Members were advised of a proposed item of urgent business from the Planning and Priorities Committee relating to the School of Social Work that was unavailable when the agenda was approved.
 - On motion duly moved and seconded (P. Ibbott, B. Lovie), Council approved the addition of an agenda item 4.2 Planning and Priorities Committee as urgent business pursuant to the Academic Council Meetings Policy.
 - The Chair advised that consideration of the item would require a two-thirds majority of voting members present (clause 8.2, AC Meetings Policy).

3.0 Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the meeting minutes of April 15, 2026

Moved by: B. Lovie, T. Gray

CARRIED

4.0 Committee Reports

4.1 Educational Policy Committee

M. Yenson, Interim Vice-President and Academic Dean, sought the consent of Council to consider together three motions from the Education Policy Committee concerning the introduction of examination-related fees.

Motion #1: That on the recommendation of EPC the Friday Make-Up Assessment Fee be levied per assessment booked with the Exam Office, effective September 1, 2026.

Motion #2: That on the recommendation of EPC King's Special Examination Fee be introduced in accordance with the "Definition of Types of Examinations" policy as approved by Western Senate, May 2026.

Motion # 3: That on the recommendation of EPC King's Accommodated Exam No-Show Fee be introduced in accordance with Western policy on Accommodated Examinations, effective September 1, 2026.

CARRIED (2 opposed, 2 abstentions)

Highlights from a 2-minute discussion:

- In response to a question regarding the collection process, it was noted that the fee would be added to the student's statement of account through Student Finance after the assessment has been written.249pm

No questions were raised regarding the remainder of the Education Policy Committee report.

4.2 Planning and Priorities Committee

MOTION: That Academic Council recommend to the Board of Directors a tuition increase of 2% for the Master in Social Work (MSW):

- From \$3625.67 to \$3698.18 (domestic per term)

- From \$13,358.33 to \$13,625.50 (international per term),

effective September 1, 2026, subject to any relevant constraints outlined by the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies at Western.

Moved by: J. Sanders, M. Love

CARRIED

M. Yenson, Interim Vice-President and Academic Dean, reported that provincial funding changes announced in February 2026 permit a 2% increase in domestic tuition. While tuition increases for most undergraduate and graduate programs have been approved through Western and apply to King's under the affiliation agreement, the MSW program requires separate approval by King's Board of Directors as it is unique to King's. The proposal will proceed to the Board's Finance and Property Committee and Board of Directors for consideration. It was also noted that provincial regulations require 10% of the incremental tuition increase to be directed to student financial aid.

Highlights from a 12-minute discussion:

- Members discussed the impact of the prolonged tuition freeze and inflationary pressures, noting that the proposed increase is modest and remains within provincial guidelines.
- Members explored opportunities to diversify revenue through ancillary and other fees, while recognizing regulatory requirements, approval processes, and recent efforts to implement approved fee increases in consultation with student leadership.
- Members discussed the balance between generating additional revenue and maintaining affordability and accessibility for students, including the potential strategic value of a lower-fee approach.
- A member inquired about potential recalculations to government funding, and it was noted that additional information may emerge through upcoming Ministry discussions.
- Members noted the need to identify sustainable funding sources to support priorities such as co-op and experiential learning opportunities and emphasized that any future fee changes would require careful consideration of impacts on students and broader enrolment objectives.

5.0 Executive Reports

5.1 President

President Ventresca shared several announcements, including the retirement of Brian Patton and recognition of his years of service to the institution and its governance; congratulations to Janet Loo on receiving an alumni award from the Toronto Catholic District School Board; and appreciation for the [Denomy Family's gift](#) supporting student financial assistance and future endowed awards.

President Ventresca provided updates on Phase 2 of the website renewal project, preparations for Convocation, and the establishment of an Advisory Task Force on Artificial Intelligence chaired by John Heng.

President Ventresca concluded by thanking members for their contributions and commitment to the institution and its students.

Highlights from a 12-minute discussion:

- Members discussed the proposed Presidential Advisory Task Force on Artificial Intelligence Ethics and Innovation, including its purpose, mandate, membership, and relationship to existing governance bodies. It was clarified that a previous committee examining AI-related issues was an Academic Integrity Task Force, and members noted that the Subcommittee on Teaching and Learning has developed guidelines for the use of AI, informed by subject-matter experts, which are currently under consideration by the Education Policy Committee. Members also suggested refinements to the task force mandate and emphasized the importance of academic, library, and disciplinary expertise in informing its work.

Action: President Ventresca welcomed feedback from members on the proposed Presidential Advisory Task Force on Artificial Intelligence Ethics and Innovation and agreed to consider suggestions provided by K. Lysack, L. Jackson, and P. Ryan in refining the task force mandate and related materials.

5.2 Vice-President Academic Dean (Interim)

M. Yenson, Interim Vice-President and Academic Dean, congratulated J. Preston and the Disability Studies Department on the successful outcome of its IQAP cyclical review.

Mark provided updates on summer academic operations, including the completion of the adjudication period, enhancements to summer academic orientation through increased academic advising involvement, and the development of new student support modules. He also noted the ongoing work of the Exam Office in supporting a range of summer offerings, including remote examinations.

T. Gray provided an update on full-time enrolment, including first-year and upper-year application, offer, and acceptance data as of May 18, 2026. He noted that figures exclude the collaborative Finance and Wealth Management program and reported that additional referrals from Western University may result in increased application activity. Members were advised that enrolment projections remain fluid due to delays in the transmission of applicant grade information and the continued review of applications. An update was also provided on provincial attestation letter allocations, with King's positioned favourably among its Ontario peers. T. Gray concluded by outlining upcoming enrolment initiatives, including the launch of a new student enrolment portal (to guide students on their enrolment journey throughout the summer).

Highlights from a 10-minute discussion:

- It was noted that accepted offers do not necessarily translate into enrolment and that future reports will place greater emphasis on enrolled student numbers as a more meaningful measure for planning purposes.
- In response to a question regarding the proportion of applicants identifying King's as their first-choice institution, it was noted that this proportion has increased, although specific figures were not available at the time of the meeting.

- Members expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Registrar's Office and acknowledged the contributions of the Marketing and Recruitment team. It was noted that enrolment activity continues to track positively, and while it is too early to draw conclusions, there is cautious optimism regarding the institution's enrolment objectives.
- In response to a question regarding enrolment trends and long-term financial sustainability, members were advised that enrolment projections are continuously assessed against budget assumptions. It was noted that current reporting reflects accepted offers and will transition to registered students; however, full-time and part-time status will not be known until later in the enrolment cycle. The coming months will provide a clearer indication of final enrolment outcomes and the accuracy of current projections.

5.3 King's University College Student's Council

B. Lovie, outgoing KUCSC President, deferred the report to B. Dunn, incoming President. B. Dunn provided an update on leadership transition activities, including executive recruitment, student council appointments, club development, and relationship-building with student leaders across affiliated institutions. Members expressed appreciation for B. Lovie's service and contributions to Academic Council, the Board, and its committees, concluding with a round of applause.

6.0 Consent Agenda

6.1 Mission Integration and Inclusion Committee

6.2 Strategic Enrolment Management Committee

Motion: To approved the Consent Agenda.

Moved by: P Ibbott, P Ryan

CARRIED

7.0 Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

None.

8.0 New Business

None.

9.0 Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at approximately 3:54 p.m.

Moved by: B Patton, P Ibbott

CARRIED



Robert Ventresca,
Chair



Paul Wilton,
University Secretary