

Martha McGinnis is an Associate Professor in the School of Languages, Linguistics and Cultures. Her main research areas are syntactic and morphological theory, and languages of the Caucasus region. She has served twice as an FGS representative on Senate (2019–2022 and 2023–2026), and has served on the Senate Committee on Agenda and Governance, the Senate Committee on Academic Standards, and the Senate Committee on Libraries. She was Secretary of the UVic Faculty Association from 2017–2020, and previously chaired the Association’s Constitution and Bylaws Committee to develop revisions following certification. She served as Chair of the Linguistics Department from 2021–2024 and, with three other Chairs, co-managed the merger that produced the SLLC. She is a long-serving Undergraduate Advisor and Curriculum Chair/representative for Linguistics, and in 2023, served for 6 months as acting Chair of the Humanities Committee on Academic Standards and Curriculum while the Associate Dean Academic was on leave.

It is often said that academic freedom is an essential principle of a democratic society, but less widely recognized that this core value is primarily enabled by collegial governance. All members of the UVic community are responsible for doing their part to support the scholarly integrity of the university. Senate plays a critical role in shaping the university’s academic mission, and an active and engaged faculty presence on Senate is important to ensure that its decisions are informed by the insights of those directly engaged in research and teaching.