

SENATE COMMITTEE ON CONTINUING STUDIES

To: Senate
From: Senate Committee on Continuing Studies
Date: August 15, 2026
Subject: 2025/2026 Annual Report

The Terms of Reference for the Senate Committee on Continuing Studies define its scope and relationship with Senate and other Senate committees. Annually in October, the committee presents a report to Senate on its business and proceedings over the previous academic year.

The Senate Committee on Continuing Studies met three times during the academic year: **October 15, 2025, November 18, 2025 and March 3, 2026**. All meetings were held in person with the option to attend virtually. The committee reviewed three existing academic programs, and two new academic programs:

- Review new Certificate in Gerontology and Certificate in Trade and Construction Management
- Review existing programming: Restoration of Natural Systems Certificate and Diploma and Certificate and Diploma in Business Administration
- Discontinued the Certificate in General Studies Programming

Bullets of Major Issues:

- **New non-credit Certificate in Gerontology (October 15, 2025)**

The committee approved a new non-credit Certificate in Gerontology and moved it forward to the Senate Committee on Planning for approval.

The Certificate in Gerontology is an entry-level credential providing s a foundational understanding of aging and the aging process. Graduates will be equipped with the knowledge, practical skills, and person-centred approaches needed to support the physical, mental, emotional, and social well-being of older adults in a variety of settings. The program emphasizes effective communication, professionalism, ethical practice, and adaptability, preparing learners to meet the diverse needs of an aging population.

- **Review of the Restoration of Natural Systems Certificate and Diploma (November 18, 2025)**

Following a review of materials provided and discussion, the committee agreed to approve the continuation of this program for another five (5) years.

The Restoration of Natural Systems program is an interdisciplinary, non-credit program that provides foundational knowledge and practical skills in ecological restoration. Combining



biophysical science with community-engaged restoration practices, the program prepares learners to assess sites, develop restoration plans, and implement effective solutions to environmental challenges.

- **New non-Credit Certificate in Trade and Construction Management (November 18, 2025)**

The committee approved the new non-credit Certificate in Trade and Construction Management and moved to forward it to the Senate Committee on Planning for approval.

This new non-credit certificate was designed to equip mid-career tradespeople, and managers transitioning from other sectors with applied competencies needed for supervisory and management roles in the construction and trade industries. The program offers flexible learning opportunities for individuals balancing employment and education while developing industry-relevant competencies in leadership, project planning, budgeting, procurement, safety compliance, quality assurance, and construction technologies. Graduates will be prepared to effectively manage projects, lead teams, mitigate risks, and support safe, efficient, and sustainable operations.

- **Review of the non-credit Certificate and Diploma in Business Administration (March 11, 2026)**

Following a review of program materials and discussion it was agreed to approve the continuation of the certificate and diploma programs for another five (5) years.

The non-credit Certificate and Diploma in Business Administration provide a comprehensive foundation in business, management and leadership, while offering opportunities for specialization in key areas. Through applied learning focused on contemporary business practices, emerging technologies, and practical skills, the programs prepare learners to address workplace challenges and meet evolving employer needs.

- **Review of the Certificate in General Studies (March 11, 2026)**

After reviewing the materials, the committee recommended cancelling this certificate and forwarding to Senate Committee on Planning for discontinuance.

The non-credit Certificate in General Studies was originally designed to give learners flexibility to design their own certificate by selecting from a wide range of courses. Due to limited learner demand since its launch in 2016 and the emergence of more targeted micro-credentials, this certificate no longer meets its original purpose and is no longer considered relevant.

Respectfully submitted,

2026-2027 Senate Committee on Continuing Studies

Jo-Anne Clarke (Chair), Division of Continuing Studies

Elizabeth Adjin-Tettey, AVP Academic Programs and Chair, Senate Committee on Planning

Jonas Bambi Yona, Faculty of Health

Kate Donovan, Convocation Senator

Valerie Irvine, Faculty of Education



Helen Kurki, Faculty of Social Sciences
Bernardo Leite, Graduate Studies Representative
Colin Macleod, Faculty of Humanities
Brock Smith, Gustavson School of Business
Natasha Thambirajah, Alumni Association Representative
Lily Yeo, Student Senator
Kirsten Kopp (Secretary), Division of Continuing Studies

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