

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGENDA AND GOVERNANCE

To: Senate
From: Senate Committee on Agenda and Governance
Date: December 12, 2025
Subject: 2024/2025 Annual Report

The [Terms of Reference for the Senate Committee on Agenda and Governance](#) define its scope and its relationship with Senate and other Senate committees. Each winter term, the committee presents an annual report on its business and proceedings over the previous academic year.

The Senate Committee on Agenda and Governance met 11 times in 2024/2025:

August 15, 2024	December 13, 2024	March 21, 2025
September 20, 2024	January 24, 2025	April 17, 2025
October 18, 2024	February 18, 2025	May 23, 2025
November 22, 2024	February 21, 2025	

The nominations sub-committee met five times in 2024/2025:

September 20, 2024	November 22, 2024	April 17, 2025
October 18, 2024	January 24, 2025	

At the October 18, 2024 meeting, the committee passed a motion that all meetings for 2024/2025, including meetings of the nominations sub-committee, be deemed closed and confidential.

During the year, the committee reviewed the draft Senate agenda and materials, made recommendations to Senate, initiated projects in areas of the committee's concern, and received proposals for input from other Senate committees and campus constituencies. A summary of activities follows.

Review of Draft Senate Agendas

At its meetings September to April, the Senate Committee on Agenda and Governance assisted the Chair in preparing the Senate agenda and reviewed each of the items proposed for submission to Senate.

Senate Committee Evaluations

Each year, members of Senate committees evaluate their experience serving on their respective Senate committees. Results are used to identify opportunities to enhance the member experience and overall committee effectiveness.

At the September meeting, the committee reviewed the 2023/2024 evaluation results and discussed strategies to increase committee engagement.

Senate Meeting Schedule and Accommodation Considerations

At its August, September and October meetings, the committee considered the scheduling of Senate meetings which fall on religion observances (as reported by the Office of Equity and Human Rights) and the university's legal obligation to accommodate.

Revisions to the Senate Rules and Procedures

At its November meeting, the committee reviewed and approved revisions to section 13.00 of the Senate Rules and Procedures, effective for the 2025/2026 Senate meeting schedule. Senate approved the revisions at its December 6, 2024 meeting.

At its February 21, 2025 meeting, the committee reviewed a petition from several Senators proposing an amendment section 36.00 to allow for secret ballots at the request of fourteen members of Senate. The committee forwarded the proposal to Senate for its consideration at the March 2025 Senate meeting.

Revisions to Terms of Reference for Senate Standing Committees

At its October meeting, the committee reviewed and approved revisions to the terms of reference for the Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees and Other Forms of Recognition. Senate approved the revisions at its November 1, 2024 meeting.

At its March meeting, the committee reviewed and approved revisions to terms of references for the Senate Committees on Academic Standards, Appeals, Curriculum, Learning and Teaching, Libraries, and Planning. Revisions included updates to reflect the establishment of the new Faculty of Health, position changes within various units, and increased student representation on the Senate Committee on Appeals to reduce the burden on students serving on multiple Hearing Panels. Senate approved all the revisions at its April 6, 2025 meeting.

Proposal for the Amendment of the Academic Accommodation Policy (AC1205) on Universal Extended Time (UET) at the University of Victoria

At its March meeting, the committee reviewed a proposal submitted by a member of Senate. The committee determined that the matter fell within the jurisdiction of the Senate Committee on Learning and Teaching and agreed that the proposal would be referred to the Chair of that committee for discussion in the following academic year.

Consideration for a June Special Senate meeting

An additional meeting of the committee was scheduled for May 2025. This is meeting, the committee considered whether a special Senate meeting in June was required. Given the urgency of proposed agenda items, the committee agreed that a special meeting should be scheduled.

Senate Evaluation

At its April meeting, the committee was asked to provide feedback on instituting an evaluation process for Senate. Although not required, the committee noted that annual evaluations for Senate committees had proven valuable and that a Senate-wide evaluation could support improvement and open dialogue.

Student Election Complaints

During the 2024/2025 student election to the Senate and Board of Governors, the committee reviewed formally submitted student election complaints. These matters were addressed across a combination of special meetings, regular meetings and email correspondence.

- February 18, 2025 (special meeting)
- February 21, 2025 (special meeting)
- March 7, 2025 (via email)
- March 16, 2025 (via email)
- March 21, 2025 (regular meeting)
- March 26, 2025 (via email)
- April 17, 2025 (regular meeting)

2024/2025 and 2025/2026 Appointments to Senate Committees

The nominations sub-committee discussed and approved nominations for vacancies on the Senate committees for 2024/2025 and 2025/2026. Senate approved these nominations at its meetings in October 2024, November 2024, January 2025, February 2025, and May 2025 Senate meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

2025/2026 Senate Committee on Agenda and Governance

Robina Thomas (Chair), Acting President and Vice-Chancellor
Annalee Lepp (Vice-Chair), Faculty of Humanities
Carrie Andersen, University Secretary
Jason Colby, Faculty of Humanities
Elizabeth Croft, Vice-President Academic and Provost
Rob Hancock, Faculty of Social Sciences
Inba Kehoe, McPherson Library
Mark Laidlaw, Faculty of Science
Martha McGinnis, Faculty of Graduate Studies
Eva Thompson, Student Senator
Alivia Wang, Convocation Senator
Ada Saab (Secretary), Associate University Secretary
Kathy MacDonald (Recording Secretary), Senator Coordinator

2024/2025 Senate Committee on Agenda and Governance

Kevin Hall, Chair, President and Vice-Chancellor
Annalee Lepp, Vice-Chair, Faculty of Humanities
Carrie Andersen, University Secretary
Jason Colby, Faculty of Humanities

Elizabeth Croft, Vice-President Academic and Provost
Moronke Harris, Student Senator
Inba Kehoe, Libraries
Mark Laidlaw, Faculty of Science
Martha McGinnis, Faculty of Graduate Studies
Phalguni Mukhopadhyaya, Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science
Alivia Wang, Convocation Senator
Ada Saab (Secretary), Associate University Secretary
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