

**SPECIAL MEETING OF SENATE
OPEN SESSION
MINUTES**

May 1, 2025
12:00 – 12:30 PM
Zoom Only

Present: J. Bankole, C. Barreira, C. Brown, R. Camp II, D. Casperson, J. Crandall, B. Deo, K. Fredj, R. Fonda, T. Fyfe, M. Hawes, A. Jamwal, M. Gehloff (Vice Chair), M. Groulx, C. Hofsink, N. Hanlon, C. Ho Younghusband, T. Klassen-Ross, N. Koper, D. Litz, M. Mandy, S. MacKay, N. Neufeld, D. Nyce, B. Owen, M. Parkes, G. Payne (Chair), K. Read (Secretary of Senate), K. Rennie, D. Roberts, R. Somani (non-voting), K. Stathers, M. Tavares, F. Tong, J. Unnuth (Recording Secretary), G. Wilson, S. Wilson, T. Whitcombe, P. Wood-Adams,

Regrets: D. Brown, S. Dey, J. Hirt, M. Lolariya, A. Kranz, H. Kazemian, L. Lakhani, D. McIntosh, R. Noonan, P. Prince, R. Ramzan, R. Singh, P. Siakaluk, T. Watters

The Senate Meeting began at 12:02pm.

The Chair acknowledged that he is joining the meeting from the traditional territory of the Lheidli T'enneh and welcomed other Senators to acknowledge the ancestral and traditional territories of their locations.

Acknowledgement of Territory

For thousands of years, Indigenous Peoples have walked gently on the diverse traditional territories where the University of Northern British Columbia community is grateful to live, work, learn, and play. We are committed to building and nurturing relationships with Indigenous peoples, we acknowledge their traditional lands.

**1.0 S-202505.01
Approval of the Agenda**

Hanlon

That the agenda for May 1, 2025 Special Open Session of Senate be approved as presented.

CARRIED

2.0 Senate Committee on Academic Affairs

"For Approval" Items:

S-202505.02

Academic Dates – Academic Dates, 2025-2026

Younghusband

That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Affairs, the UNBC Academic Dates for the 2025-2026 academic year be approved as proposed.

Effective Date: Upon Approval of Senate

CARRIED

General Discussion:

To adjust our upcoming academic calendar to address the following issues that were found with the previously passed academic calendar:

- Too many additional instructional days were added to the September semester to accommodate for one added day of commemoration (Truth & Reconciliation Day, September 30).
- The number of semester instructional days should be balanced to a standard 13 weeks, or 60-62 instructional days. In the previous motion, the Fall semester had an additional week of instruction, while the Winter had too few days.
- The withdrawal deadline was arbitrarily shortened by a week, which disadvantages students. The withdrawal deadline should be 50% + a week, which allows students time to receive feedback on assignments and midterms.
- Exam periods are about the last day of classes. Because we attempt not to schedule exams within the last two days of a student's last class, this means the exam schedule is condensed, thereby disadvantaging students. We attempt to put 1 or 2 non-instructional days between the last day of classes and first day of exams where we can.
- January orientation should be scheduled for a business day to encourage participation from the campus community.
- A Fall reading break, of varying length (as the calendar allows), is scheduled into the Fall semester at a time that has the least negative impact on instructional days.

3.0 S-202505.03
Adjournment
 General Consent
 That the Senate meeting be adjourned.
 CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.