

**SENATE MEETING
OPEN SESSION**

Minutes

August 27, 2025

3:30 – 5:00 PM

Present: C. Barreira, C. Brown, R. Camp II, D. Casperson, J. Crandall, B. Deo, T. Fyfe, M. Gehloff (Vice-Chair), M. Groulx, J. Hirt, C. Ho Younghusband, N. Hanlon, A. Jamwal, H. Kazemian, T. Klassen-Ross, N. Koper, A. Kranz, L. Lakhani, N. Lachowsky, D. Litz, S. MacKay, N. Neufeld, R. Noonan, D. Nyce, B. Owen, A. Parent (Recording Secretary), G. Payne (Chair), K. Read (Secretary of Senate), P. Siakaluk (non-voting), K. Stathers, R. Somani (non-voting), M. Tavares, T. Whitcombe, G. Wilson, S. Wilson, P. Wood-Adams

Regrets: J. Bankole, S. Dey, R. Fonda, K. Fredj, C. Hofsink, D. Brown, M. Lolariya, M. Mandy D. McIntosh, P. Prince, R. Ramzan, K. Rennie, R. Singh, D. Roberts, F. Tong, T. Watters

The Senate meeting began at 3:33pm.

The Chair welcome everyone to Senate:

The Chair reported one Faculty Senator vacancy for a Faculty member from the Faculty of Indigenous Studies, Social Science and Humanities.

The Chair acknowledged that this is the last Senate meeting for our 2024-25 Student Senators, Malay Lolariya, Lizna Lakhani, Jared Hirt, Rehana Ramzan, Ranjodh Singh, Rachel Fonda and Tina Watters.

The Chair acknowledged that this is the last Senate meeting for Dean Rennie.

The Chair acknowledged the passing of longtime UNBC employee Dale Laluk.

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-202508.01 Approval of the Agenda

Hirt

That the agenda for August 27, 2025, Open Session of Senate be approved as presented.

CARRIED

2.0 Presentation: Degree Quality Assurance Board - Program Changes and the Determination of New Degrees - Dr. John McNeill, Director - Academic Operations and Quality Assurance

Links to the Quality Assessment Process and Criteria handbook were included on the agenda.

Dr. McNeil presented an overview of the Degree Quality Assessment Board (DQAB) and its role in evaluating new degree proposals and significant program changes. The presentation emphasized the importance of aligning with provincial standards, understanding thresholds for curriculum revisions, and engaging early with governance bodies. Timelines for approval vary widely depending on the nature of the changes, with external consultation often required. Key takeaways included strategic planning, clarity in learning outcomes, and proactive communication with DQAB.

3.0 Approval of the Minutes

S-202508.02

Approval of the Minutes

Hirt

That the Minutes for June 26, 2025, Open Session of Senate be approved as presented.

CARRIED as amended

Minor typo corrections noted in the minutes

4.0 Business Arising

The Chair reported that a couple of items from the June Senate will be brought forward to a future agenda.

- **Action:** Senator Casperson requested a written explanation of role reassignments for Senate related to the reorganized portfolio of the Senior Director, Students.
- **Action:** Update on the timeline and review of the restorative relations model.

5.0 President's Report

Payne

The President welcomed everyone to the start of the Fall 2025 term, noting increased campus activity. He reported on:

- The ongoing challenges in post-secondary education
- Upcoming board travel to the Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Institute in the Nass Valley of Northern BC.

6.0 Report of the Interim Provost

Owen

A written report was included in the meeting package. The Provost reported on:

- The 20th UNBC CTLT Teaching and Learning Conference. It is celebrating with a keynote by Dr. Jessica Riddell.
- Students returning to campus and housing, and parent orientation events.
- Katerina Standish was announced as interim dean on the Faculty of Indigenous Studies, Social Sciences and Humanities.
- A student forum to be held in September to inform the hiring process for the Dean of Science and Engineering.

7.0 Report of the Registrar

Read

7.1 Enrolment Report included in the meeting package.

- Numerous initiatives have supported early registration, including expanded entrance personalized welcome campaigns, and tuition draw incentives.
- Targeted outreach and support for graduate and international students continue, especially in light of evolving IRCC regulations.
- Orientation resources have been enhanced, and advising efforts now include academic resilience planning and early intervention strategies for at-risk students.

8.0 Report on Regional Activities

Owen

8.1 Regional Council Summary Report was included in the meeting package.

A Regional Council Summary Report was added to the package

9.0 Question Period

9.1 Questions in advance

9.1.1 Are there plans to do a review of the five Faculty system, as we are nearing the five-year mark? I think it is important to gather feedback, evaluate and assess what has worked well and what hasn't, distribution of workloads, structure, etc. and share a summary report with Senate. (Senator C. Brown)

The Interim Provost reported that there are currently no formal plans in place to review the five-faculty system as it approaches the five-year mark. However, the idea is considered valuable, particularly in evaluating workload distribution and overall effectiveness. With the arrival of a new provost, this review may be proposed as a future initiative. It remains on the agenda as a potential area for assessment and feedback gathering.

9.2 Questions from the floor

9.2.1 Senator Casperson raised concerns about Microsoft and U.S. data laws. The response noted Microsoft Canada operates separately but may still be subject to the U.S. Cloud Act. A suggestion was made to invite the Chief Information Security and Privacy Officer to the discussion.

9.2.1 Senator Groulx requested that the board chair return to Senate to share his message more broadly on the upcoming President's Search. The Chair will pass along the request to the Board Chair.

10.0 Committee Reports

10.1 Senate Committee on Student Appeals

Klassen-Ross

No report.

10.2 Senate Committee on Academic Affairs

Owen

"For Approval" Items:

S-202508.03

General Motion – Exchange Agreement Université of Bourgogne (University of Burgundy)

Deo

That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Affairs, the following exchange agreement with Université of Bourgogne (University of Burgundy) be renewed and approved under the previously agreed terms and conditions for a period of five (5) years as proposed.

Effective Date: Upon signing of both parties

CARRIED

"For Information" Items:

Northern Studies Program

Owen

A 36-month follow-up report on the Northern Studies program was presented for information concluding the external review cycle. The report reflects on the university's response to recommendations over the three-year review period, emphasizing ongoing program development and accountability.

10.3 Steering Committee of Senate

Payne

The President reported to Senate that a call for the Vice Chair of Senate will be going out following this meeting for approval at the September meeting.

10.4 Senate Committee on Nominations

Gehloff

The president informs Senate that a call for the President and Vice-Chancellors Search Committee have gone out.

“For Approval” Items:

S-202508.04

Recommendations of Senate Committee Members

Tavares That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Nominations the following candidates, who have met all eligibility requirements to serve on Senate committees as indicated, be appointed as proposed.

Effective date: Upon approval of Senate or as indicated.

CARRIED

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ADMISSIONS AND DEGREES (SCAD)

Graduate Student
Term end August 31, 2026

Alana LaMalice

S-202508.04b

Recommendations of Senate Committee Members

Tavares That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Nominations the following candidates, who have met all eligibility requirements to serve on Senate committees as indicated, be appointed as proposed.

Effective date: Upon approval of Senate or as indicated.

CARRIED

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS (SCAAF)

Faculty Member
Term end March 31, 2027

Chengbo Fu

Graduate Student
Term end August 31, 2026

Ehsan Taghizadeh

S-202508.04c

Recommendations of Senate Committee Members

Tavares That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Nominations the following candidates, who have met all eligibility requirements to serve on Senate committees as indicated, be appointed as proposed.

Effective date: Upon approval of Senate or as indicated.

CARRIED

SENATE COMMITTEE ON SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES (SCSB)

Undergraduate Student
Term end August 31, 2026

Ahad Baig

Graduate Student
Term end August 31, 2026

Cornelius Edjah

10.4.1 A list of Senate Committee vacancies was included in the meeting package.

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|-------------|--|--------------|
| 10.5 | Senate Committee on Curriculum and Calendar
No report. | Read |
| 10.6 | Senate Committee on Admission and Degrees
No report. | Read |
| 10.7 | Senate Committee on Indigenous Initiatives
The Chair reported to Senate that for the upcoming academic year - SCII will meet during the third week of each month on a Tuesday. | Payne |
| 10.8 | Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees and Special Forms of Recognition
The Chair reported that the call Honorary Degrees will be going out in the coming weeks. | Payne |

For Information: One NEW Award Approved

“For Information” Items:

SCSB20250623.03 (Approved)

Sue Grainger JPRF Bursary

That the new Terms and Conditions for the Sue Grainger John Prince Research Forest Bursary be approved.

Effective: 2025/2026 Academic Year

10.10 Senate Committee on University Budget

Gehloff

No report.

11.0 Approval of Motions on the Consent Agenda – no motions

No Consent Items.

12.0 Information

12.1 Annual Report on UNBC Harassment and Discrimination Policy

Payne

A report was added to the package. It was noted that while the report is public and typically sent to faculty, distribution has been inconsistent in past years.

13.0 Other Business

14.0 S-202508.05

Move to the Closed Session

S. Wison

That the meeting move to Closed Session

CARRIED

15.0 S-202508.10

Adjournment

Whitcombe

That the Senate meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 4:34 pm.