

Minutes of the Academic Senate of the University of Prince Edward Island
Friday, May 8, 2026, 3:00 – 5:00pm
Alumni Hall and via Teams

- Present:** W. Rodgers (Chair), K. Mears (Vice-Chair), Y. Almonte, M. Arfken, P. Bernard, A. Braithwaite, S. Brown, C. Campeanu, R. Carragher, A. Carrothers, M. Clapson, R. Deziel, P. Drake, N. Etkin, P. Foley, D. Hardy Cox, R. Hoersting, T. Jackson, G. Jia, S. Kochkina, S. Kresta, B. Linkletter, S. Lloyd, J.T. McClure, J. McIntyre, M. McMahon, W. Montelpare, J. Ngobia, M. Pascal, Y. Rashchupkina, E. Reid, J. Sentance, M. Sweeney-Nixon, A. Trowbridge, M. Turnbull, M. von Eccher, T. Walker, A. Weenie, W. Whelan
- Regrets:** A. Amjad, M. Arfken, I. Bhalesha, S. Cassidy, N. Clark, P. Ehimiyen, M. Fast, D. Griffon, A. Hsiao, S. Mackinnon, H. Mady, S. Myers, T. Saksida, C. Sallavo, P. Smith
- Recorder:** K. Porter, S. McCool
- Secretariat:** P. Robichaud

OPEN SESSION

1. Call to Order, Welcome, Land Acknowledgement and Opening Remarks from Chair and Vice Chair.

The Chair of the Senate calls the meeting to order at 3:01 pm, welcomes Senators, and acknowledges the land.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: MOVED by B. Montelpare and SECONDED by M. McMahon that the agenda for April 24, 2026, be approved. CARRIED.

3. Approval of Minutes of April 24, 2026

MOTION: MOVED by J. Sentance and SECONDED by A. Braithwaite that the minutes of the open session of March 27, 2026, be approved. CARRIED.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes of March 27, 2026

5. Senior Administration Reports

- a. President's Report

President Rodgers thanks all those who contributed to another successful academic year and thanks all for their patience as the University continues to work to develop its processes.

She noted that some Senators are attending their last meeting, as their term of office ends on June 30. They are:

- Bill Montelpare
- Rob Deziel

- Marie Pascal
- James Sentence
- Erin Reid
- Susan Brown

She welcomes new student Senators, who are attending their first meeting after their election. They are:

- Amy Christina Montesdeoca Castro (President of the UPEISU)
- Yoely Almonte (VP Academic of the UPEISU)
- Prince Ehimiye, Graduate student
- Aameena Amjad, student
- Caitlyn Sallavo, student
- Hasna Mady – returning to Senate for a second term

As the University is celebrating colleagues that have dutifully served the University, she notes the service of:

- Amy Hsiao – 10yrs
- Tarek Mady – 10 yrs
- George (ye) Jia – 15yrs
- Sharon Myers – 20 yrs
- James Sentence - 40yrs

President Rodgers indicates that, as convocation is upon us, this is a time to celebrate our accomplishments. To that end, a few trinkets have been added to Senators' placemats to help celebrate this time of year. She invites Senators to attend Convocation as the University sends its students into the world and notes that the University's greatest contribution to the world is its graduates. That contribution is all the more important in difficult times such as those we are all experiencing these days.

She offers thanks to all that have graciously served the University at Senate and special thanks to Vice Chair Mears for her steadfast support and work. A note of thanks also goes to members of the *Senate Steering and Nominating Committee*, who have worked hard on many changes to process this year. The tireless work of the Registrar's Office in their support of the work of the *Academic Planning and Curriculum Committee* is noted. Thanks are also offered to the Secretariat, who have worked hard to keep us on schedule and for cleaning up our processes.

b. Vice-President Academic & Research Report

Vice President Hardy Cox reports with a focus on graduates and speaks of a very pleasant task that our Senate committee has approved for your consideration - 1040 UPEI students have completed their course requirements. It is a wonderful celebration as well as the purpose behind our collective work. Later in the meeting, these names will come forward for your approval.

Likewise, we look forward to this year's Professor Emeritus/Emerita joining the Class of 2026 on the convocation stage.

She offers congratulations to the *Teaching and Learning Center* on a very successful conference. It was very well attended, and the Keynote speaker offered thoughtful reflections on the emotional labour of teaching. This session provided insight into the care that faculty bring to their teaching practice every day. The TLC centre is now preparing for the *Faculty Development Institute* where we look forward to welcoming participants from across North America.

The University continues to closely monitor enrolment trends for Fall 2026 and is actively implementing a strategic mix of proven approaches alongside new pilot initiatives, with encouraging early results. There are still efforts required to convert those admitted to committed students for the Fall Semester. Recognizing that the summer period is critical for student retention and yield, our enrollment teams will be taking a proactive approach to maximizing enrollment outcomes.

Two significant projects are also taking place this summer to enhance services for all members of our community. The library will begin its first phase of renovations, and Accessibility Services will be relocated adjacent to the library into an accessible space.

Looking ahead, APCC intends to bring forth in the fall semester a proposal on *Curriculum Planning Procedures*. To develop these procedures, Senator Bill Whelan, acts as process chair.

She takes a moment to celebrate the accomplishments of our learners, researchers, faculty, staff, sessional, and Board Members this academic year - the collective efforts continue to strengthen our academic mission and reputation.

Finally, she thanks the staff of the Senate office for their continued support throughout the year. Their efforts make a significant contribution to the functioning of our academic governance processes.

As we end this academic year there is much to Celebrate ... and celebrate we shall you and your colleagues are invited to join the graduates for a Pancake breakfast on Monday

from 8:30 -10:30 om at the Chaplaincy Centre specially – AND - in September the teams of students services professionals and student leaders look forward to having you join us to welcome the new and returning Panthers to our community.

She expresses thanks for the opportunity to serve in this interim role, and wishes everyone a very happy and restorative break

c. Vice-President People & Culture Report

Vice President Ngobia states that the meeting is about recognizing the achievements of students and offers congratulations to them all.

It has been a year since she came to UPEI to take on the role of VPPC. In the coming weeks, she will share more stories about her learnings along the way. She offers thanks to all who have contributed to her learning this year.

She notes that the coming months will be very busy as negotiations of several collective agreements start soon.

As It's been almost 3 years since the Robin Tomlinson report was tabled, the University will be busy with the audit of the Year 2 items. In future meetings, we will speak more about the ambitions of the Action Plan.

6. Question Period

a. Questions and Answers Received from the Placemats

The Chair notes that no placement questions were received.

b. Questions Received in Advance

The Chair notes that there were no questions received in advance.

c. Questions from the Floor

There we no questions from the floor.

7. Reports from Standing Committees

a. Senate Steering and Nominating Committee

i) Committee Report

The Chair of Senate notes that the Committee's report is included in the meeting materials and is considered received.

ii) Elections Report

The Chair of Senate notes that the Elections report is included in the meeting materials and is considered received. The University Secretary reports that elections were conducted in keeping with the rules set by the Senate under its Processes and Procedures. Three calls for nominations were made, with several candidates coming forward and being acclaimed. No elections were required. One seat for a member of faculty from IKERAS and one seat for a student senator remain to be filled. The third and final call for nominations for the vacant faculty position is ongoing with the first eligible candidates to step forward being automatically elected. Confidence is high that the positions will be filled. The Student's Union is working on filling the student seat. Now that the election of Senators is mostly resolved, the Secretariat will proceed to a call for nominations to fill current and upcoming vacancies on committees of the Senate.

8. Shout Outs

- To Christine Greening, academic records clerk at the Registrar's Office who reviews all the degrees in support of the end-of-year degree audit process in a very tight schedule.
- To the *Convocation Committee* as a well-oiled machine. Much goes into making sure that all is ready for next week's ceremonies.
- To Svetlana Kochkina for moving to our corner of the world to take on the role of Head Librarian and for the way she threw herself into the role.
- To Food and Nutrition, at the Faculty of Science, for being successful at the renewal of their accreditation.
- To John McIntyre who stepped in at the last minute to help us with our valedictorian speech.

9. Closed Session

Having received a report from the *Senate Committee on Admissions and Degrees*, the Senate will move to a closed session to confer degrees on students who have met the requirements for their degrees.

MOTION: MOVED by S. Kresta and SECONDED by W. Montelpare that Senate proceed to a closed session.

MOTION: MOVED by N. Etkin and SECONDED by M. Turnbull that the credentials for the 924 candidates listed as having completed the requirements for the faculties listed at the Charlottetown campus, be approved. CARRIED.

MOTION: MOVED by J. Sentance and SECONDED by W. Montelpare that the credentials for the 115 candidates listed for the faculties listed at the Cairo campus be approved. CARRIED.

MOTION: MOVED by S. Kresta and Seconded by W. Whelan that the President, relevant Dean and Registrar acting together in full agreement be empowered to approve any degrees, diplomas or certificates that may surface as unexpected cases.

MOTION: MOVED by N. Etkin and SECONDED by M. Sweeney Nixon that Senate proceed to an open session.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business; the Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:40pm.