ACADEMIC COUNCIL
GOVERNANCE & NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE (GNC)

Minutes of the Public Session of the June 17, 2026 Meeting
via Videoconference
9:01 a.m. - 9:41 a.m.

Governance & Nominations Committee Agenda & Materials 2025-2026

Present:

Steven Murphy, Chair	Jessica Hogue	Mehdi Hossein-Nejad
Rupinder Brar	Lori Livingston	Shannon Vettor
Nicola Crow	Carolyn McGregor	

Regrets:
Wendy Barber, Toba Bryant, Venuga Kariharan, Scott Nokleby

Staff:
Kirstie Ayotte, (Recording Secretary), Krista Hester

1. **Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement**
The Chair called the Public Session of the Governance & Nominations Committee (GNC) Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and C. McGregor presented a personal Land Acknowledgement.

2. **Agenda**
Upon a motion duly made by M. Hossein-Nejad and seconded by C. McGregor, the GNC Agenda was approved as presented, including approving and receiving the Consent Agenda and its contents.

3. **Chair's Remarks**
The Chair welcomed Members to the final GNC meeting of the academic year, thanking them for their leadership, engagement, and service, together with recognizing faculty and student representatives completing their terms on the Committee.

The Chair congratulated the university community on a successful Convocation and acknowledged Pride Month, National Indigenous History Month, and National Indigenous Peoples Day. The Chair also reported that Ontario Tech had achieved a record number of confirmed first-year student enrollments, with more than 2,300 Ontario secondary school students accepting offers of admission, representing a 50% increase since 2021 and marking the University's fourth consecutive year exceeding 2,000 confirmed first-year students. He concluded by thanking the University community for its continued commitment to student recruitment and success and wished Members a productive and restorative summer.

4. **Governance**
4.1 2026-2027 Academic Council Meeting Schedule* (M)
The Chair introduced proposed changes to the Academic Council meeting schedule starting in 2026-2027, which were supported by the Steering Committee. He noted that the changes intend to better

align Academic Council meetings with the volume of substantive academic governance items requiring consideration.

The Chair advised that the proposal includes changing the number of regular Academic Council meetings to six, introducing four Academic Council discussion sessions focused on topics of broad academic interest aligned with the University's strategic priorities, revising the associated meeting schedules for Academic Council standing committees, and reviewing the revised governance schedule following the 2026-2027 academic year to assess its effectiveness and identify any refinements that may be required. He advised that the proposal would support more effective use of Members' time, while creating dedicated opportunities for broader strategic discussion on emerging academic issues.

Members discussed the proposed changes in detail, weighing the merits and implications of the proposal, including the impact of reducing the number of regular Academic Council meetings on collegial discussion, governance timelines, and the scheduling of standing committee business. The discussion also addressed the role and purpose of the proposed discussion sessions, the coordination of committee meeting schedules, and the importance of ensuring that Academic Council continues to have sufficient opportunity to consider matters requiring approval. Members also noted the opportunity to better align meetings with substantive business, the importance of maintaining meaningful opportunities for collegial discussion, the timely consideration of academic matters and the value of the proposed discussion sessions in supporting strategic engagement.

Upon a motion duly made by J. Hogue and seconded by L. Livingston, and pursuant to the recommendation of the Steering Committee, the Governance & Nominations Committee hereby recommends to Academic Council the approval of revisions to the Academic Council governance meeting schedule effective for the 2026-2027 academic year, including:

a) the scheduling of six (6) regular meetings of Academic Council annually;
b) the introduction of four (4) Academic Council information sessions annually, including an orientation session and sessions on matters of broad academic interest within Academic Council's mandate;
c) associated revisions to the meeting schedules of Academic Council's standing committees; and
d) a review of the revised academic governance schedule following the 2026-2027 academic year.

Two (2) Opposed.

5. Consent Agenda* (M)

The Chair confirmed that contents of the Consent Agenda were approved and received under Agenda Item # 2.

5.1 Public Minutes of the April 21, 2026 Meeting* (M)

6. Adjournment (M)

There being no other business, and upon a motion duly made by C. McGregor, the Public Session of the GNC Meeting adjourned at 9:41 a.m.

Kirstie Ayotte, Recording Secretary