ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Minutes of the Public Session of the June 23, 2026 Meeting
In Person
Bordessa Hall
55 Bond St. E, Oshawa ON – DTB 524
2:30 p.m. - 4:25 p.m.

Academic Council Committee Agendas, Materials and Minutes 2025-2026

Present:

Steven Murphy (Chair)
JoAnne Arcand
Ahmad Barari
Mihai Beligan
Mary Bluechardt
Toba Bryant
Amanda Cooper
Catherine Davidson
Mikael Eklund
Shanti Fernando
Shahram Heydari
Jessica Hogue
Mehdi Hossein-Nejad
Sayyed Ali Hosseini
Les Jacobs
Hossam Kishawy
Lori Livingston
Janet McCabe
Carolyn McGregor
Thomas McMorrow
Pejman Mirza-Babaei
Scott Nokleby
Gabby Resch
Carol Rodgers
Denina Simmons
Gillian Slade
Joe Stokes
Jemma Tam
Dwight Thompson
Shannon Vettor
Ken Wilson

Regrets:

Asifa Aamir
Scott Aquanno
Rachel Ariss
Laura Banks
Rupinder Brar
Krystina Clarke
Ana Duff
Mitch Frazer
Brenda Jacobs
Venuga Kariharan
Fedor Naumkin
Aliza Rizwan
Robyn Ruttenberg-Rozen
Wendy Barber

Staff and Guests:

Kirstie Ayotte
Jamie Bruno
Nicola Crow
Sandra Grouette (Secretary)
Krista Hester
Jennifer MacInnis
Brad MacIsaac
Sarah Thrush

1. **Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement**
The Chair called the Public Session of the Academic Council (AC) Meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. and J. Tam provided their personal Land Acknowledgement.

2. **Agenda (M)**
Upon a request from a Member, Agenda item 11.5 was removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

Upon a motion duly made by S. Nokleby and seconded by H. Kishawy, the Agenda was approved as amended, including approving and receiving the Consent Agenda and its contents as amended.

3. Chair's Remarks

The President thanked Members for their continued leadership and service and congratulated the University's graduates while acknowledging the contributions of faculty, staff, and volunteers at the recent successful Convocation. The President also recognized Pride Month and National Indigenous History Month.

The University's continued enrollment momentum was highlighted by the President, reflecting growing public confidence in Ontario Tech. The President also emphasized the importance of sustaining strategic growth while maintaining academic excellence and a high-quality student experience.

Responding to questions, the President provided an update on the Provost search process and confirmed that the recently announced $91.9 M funding was Ontario Tech's four-year allocation of the $1.7-billion investment the province was making in the post secondary sector to increase enrolment in programs STEM, health care, education and other rapidly growing sectors..

4. Inquiries and Communications

None received.

5. Provost's Remarks

5.1. Senior Academic Administrator Search Update (I)

The Provost thanked faculty, staff, students, and volunteers for their contributions to a successful Convocation. She also provided an update on the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities decanal search, advising that on the posting period conclusion the Search Advisory Committee has begun reviewing candidates in accordance with the established recruitment timeline. She also confirmed that the position was posted internally and externally and explained the process for internal postings of this nature.

6. Annual Integrated Academic-Research Plan, Institutional and SMA Metrics Report* (D)

L. Livingston introduced the Annual Integrated Academic-Research Plan (IARP), Institutional and SMA Metrics Report, noting that this is an annual assessment of the University's performance, which also supports evidence-informed decision making, continuous improvement initiatives, and ongoing monitoring of institutional performance.

S. Thrush highlighted progress, including across academic innovation, experiential learning, student supports, and administrative initiatives. She also outlined key external and internal challenges facing the University and noted that all performance metrics under the current SMA were exceeded.

S. Thrush explained, in response to questions, that the student-to-faculty ratios, student satisfaction, and online learning metrics and targets are reviewed regularly, informed by sector benchmarks where appropriate, and considered alongside broader measures of educational quality and institutional priorities. She also noted that the data support ongoing planning and continuous improvement efforts at both the institutional and faculty levels.

7. Undergraduate Studies Committee

M. Bluechardt shared that the May 19, 2026 Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) meeting focused on future-focused program development and policy enhancements framed to support a more responsive and efficient process and framework that benefit students, faculty and staff. She reported that key actions included recommending amendments to the Registration and Course Selection Policy, approving three IQAP procedures following significant discussions at both USC's April and May meetings, recommending approval of a new FEAS program proposal which was presented at AC's May meeting, and approving a Minor Program Adjustment.

7.1. Major Program Modification: Frazer Faculty of Education: Bachelor of Education (Primary/Junior and Intermediate/Senior)* (M)

M. Bluechardt advised that the revised B.Ed. program structure will meet the newly announced provincial requirement that all B.Ed. programs transition to a 12-month format by May 2027. She shared that the proposal, developed through extensive consultation, maintains the programs' distinctive strengths. She extended kudos to everyone involved in fast-tracking these changes and all the hard work that was undertaken to achieve this.

Upon a motion duly made by M. Bluechardt and seconded by A. Cooper, that pursuant to the recommendation of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the Major Program Modification to the Bachelor of Education programs to revise the program structure from four (4) accelerated semesters to three (3) accelerated semesters in order to align with provincial legislation mandating all Bachelor of Education programs in the province to move from a two-year model to a 12-month format.

8. Graduate Studies Committee

P. Mirza-Babaei reported on the May 26, 2026 Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) Meeting which focused on expanding graduate student opportunities through enhanced program flexibility, new specializations, and extended graduate student financial and professional supports. He advised that key actions included recommending and approving policy instruments – some of which were also reported by USC, recommending Major Program Modifications, and approving Minor Program Adjustments and a Cyclical Program Review Follow-up Report. P. Mirza-Babaei also highlighted and outlined new graduate scholarships, awards, and fellowships approved by GSC. He further noted that GSC was also informed about the appointment of Dr. Adam Dubrowski as Associate Dean, SGPS Academic Affairs.

8.1. Major Program Modification: Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science: Master of Engineering Management* (M)

P. Mirza-Babaei advised that this change introduces multi-modal delivery options for the program. He reported that this is intended to improve accessibility, flexibility, and enrollment opportunities while leveraging the Faculty's existing experience in delivering hybrid courses.

Upon a motion duly made by S. Nokleby and seconded by H. Kishawy, that pursuant to the recommendation of the Graduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the Major Program Modification to the Master of Engineering Management program to expand mode of delivery for the program to include a hybrid and online options in addition to the existing in-person option.

8.2. Major Program Modification: Faculty of Health Sciences: Master of Health Sciences* (M)

P. Mirza-Babaei reported that the proposal establishes a new Medical Laboratory Sciences field within the Master of Health Sciences program, building on the University's leadership in this area while expanding graduate specialization opportunities and responding to growing national workforce demand.

Upon a motion duly made by P. Mirza-Babaei and seconded by K. Wilson, that pursuant to the recommendation of the Graduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the Major Program Modification to the Master of Health Sciences program to establish a new Field in Medical Laboratory Science and to add new elective offerings to the program.

8.3. Major Program Modification: Faculty of Health Sciences: Master of Science in Nursing* (M)

P. Mirza-Babaei shared that this change will better align the program with the Master of Health Sciences framework following the conclusion of the Trent University partnership, while enhancing program admission flexibility, the curriculum, expanded elective options, and increased enrollment capacity to meet evolving student and faculty needs.

Upon a motion duly made by P. Mirza-Babaei and seconded by G. Resch, that pursuant to the recommendation of the Graduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the Major Program Modification to the Master of Science in Nursing program to update program curriculum and requirements prompted by the dissolution of the partnership with Trent University through which the program was previously offered.

9. Governance & Nominations Committee

L. Livingston reported on the June 17, 2026 Governance & Nominations Committee (GNC) Meeting and highlighted the upcoming 2026-2027 Academic Council Experience Survey, encouraging departing Members to complete this survey to help improve the AC membership experience. N. Crow also explained that this survey was a precursor to exploring a broader annual assessment survey similar to the one undertaken by the Board of Governors.

9.1. Academic Council Meeting Schedule* (M)

L. Livingston advised that GNC is recommending changes to the AC meeting schedule as of 2026-2027, along with associated changes to its standing committees' meeting schedules. She outlined that the intent is to strengthen collegial governance by creating more opportunities for meaningful dialogue, participation and member engagement while enabling AC to enhance its focus on strategic and substantive academic matters within its purview. She further noted that the proposed changes also value members' time, expertise and contributions by fostering a more collaborative and inclusive environment that supports informed discussion, effective decision-making, relationship building and thoughtful contributions to the University's academic mission.

J. McCabe left the meeting.

Members discussed the proposed changes in detail, considering their potential impacts on academic governance practices, decision-making processes, governance pathways, meeting frequency, and overall workload. Members broadly supported the opportunity for increased strategic dialogue through dedicated sessions, while acknowledging questions related to

implementation and scheduling. Members also noted that the new approach will be monitored and reviewed after its first year.

Upon a motion duly made by S. Nokleby and seconded by H. Kishawy, that, pursuant to the recommendation of the Governance & Nominations Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the 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*

Seven (7) Opposed.

9.2. 2026-2027 Academic Council – Expressions of Interest and Appointments* (M)

The Chair introduced an omnibus motion rather than individual motions for the various AC-related appointments. It was also noted that those included in the recommended appointments will abstain from voting.

Upon a motion duly made by S. Nokleby and seconded by A. Cooper, that, pursuant to the recommendation of the Governance & Nominations Committee, Academic Council, hereby approves the following appointments to Academic Council, its Committees and specified positions for the specified terms:

Student positions on Academic Council for the term of September 1, 2026 to August 31, 2027, renewable for an additional year:

- *Noah Bagshaw (undergraduate);*
- *Greatness Okhani (undergraduate);*
- *Alexis Ramcharan (undergraduate);*
- *Joshua Zino (undergraduate);*
- *Fatemeh Hajikhani Roudsari (graduate); and*
- *Kailey Haskell (graduate)*

AND

Student positions on the Academic Appeals Committee for the term of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027, renewable for an additional year:

- *Areeba Azhar (undergraduate);*
- *Greatness Okhani (undergraduate); and*
- *Joshua Zino (undergraduate)*

AND

Student positions on the Undergraduate Studies Committee for the term of September 1, 2026 to August 31, 2027, renewable for an additional year:

- *Samantha Ng (undergraduate); and*
- *Ryelle Quiazon (undergraduate)*

AND

Academic Council Student member position on the Governance & Nominations Committee for the term of September 1, 2026 to August 31, 2027, renewable for an additional year:

- *Kailey Haskell*

AND

Academic Council Teaching Staff member position on the Governance & Nominations Committee for the term of September 1, 2026 to August 31, 2029:

- *Shannon Vettor, from the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities*

AND

Elected faculty members of Academic Council positions on the Undergraduate Studies Committee:

- *Laura Banks for the term September 1, 2026 to August 31, 2028; and*
- *Ana Duff for the term September 1, 2026 to August 31, 2027*

AND

Academic Appeals Committee Chair for the term of September 1, 2026 to August 31, 2028:

- *Brent MacRae*

AND

- *Council of Ontario Universities Academic Colleague for the term July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2029 – Pariss Garramone; and*
- *Council of Ontario Universities Alternate Academic Colleague for the term July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2029 – Joelle Rodway*

AND

Elected representatives on Academic Council positions on the Steering Committee:

- *Andrew Hogue, Academic Council Teaching Staff appointment for the term September 1, 2026 to August 31, 2029*
- *Denina Simmons, Academic Council Teaching Staff appointment for the term September 1, 2026 to August 31, 2029; and*
- *Noah Bagshaw, Academic Council Student appointment for the term September 1, 2026 to August 31, 2027, renewable*

AND

The following ending of appointment term as outlined below:

- *Josh Lowe, Academic Appeals Committee Teaching Staff Member with a three year term ending August 31, 2026*

Three (3) Abstentions.

J. McCabe returned to the meeting during this motion process.

N. Crow confirmed the process for GNC receiving expressions of interest at its recent meeting and noted that, with the conclusion of the 2026 Academic Council Election process, there are no plans to fill the remaining vacancies, as they do not affect quorum.

9.3. 2026-2027 Academic Council – Research Committee Appointments* (M)

L. Livingston presented the Research Committee appointment recommendations.

Motion 1:

Upon a motion duly made by H. Kishawy and seconded by L. Livingston, that, pursuant to the recommendation of the Governance & Nominations Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the appointment of the following faculty members to the Research Committee for the term September 1, 2026 until August 31, 2029:

- *Dr. Atef Mohany, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science; and*
- *Dr. Peter Lewis, Faculty of Business and Information Technology*

Motion 2:

Upon a motion duly made by K. Wilson and seconded by C. McGregor, that, pursuant to the recommendation of the Governance & Nominations Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the appointment of the following elected Academic Council Faculty Members to the Research Committee for the following terms:

- *Denina Simmons for the term September 1, 2026 to August 31, 2029; and*
- *Ginny Brunton for the term September 1, 2026 to August 31, 2029*

One (1) Abstention.

10. Policy Instruments

10.1. Registration and Course Selection Policy Amendments* (M)

P. Mirza-Babaei advised that the minor amendments will align the existing policy with current graduate student registration processes.

Upon a motion duly made by P. Mirza-Babaei and seconded by L. Livingston, that Academic Council hereby approves the amended Registration and Course Selection Policy.

10.2. Cotutelle Policy and Procedure Amendments* (M)

P. Mirza-Babaei shared the updates to the Cotutelle Policy and Procedures to expand research collaboration opportunities, enhance flexibility for graduate students, and improve alignment with the University's academic policies and processes, noting the Procedure revisions were approved by GSC.

Upon a motion duly made by S. Nokleby and seconded by A. Cooper, that pursuant to the recommendation of the Graduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the updated Cotutelle Policy.

10.3. Graduate Experiential Learning Policy* (M)

P. Mirza-Babaei outlined the new Graduate Experiential Learning Policy, which establishes a consistent institutional framework for experiential learning opportunities while recognizing that program-specific requirements remain governed at the program level.

Upon a motion duly made by M. Hossein-Nejad and seconded by H. Kishawy, that pursuant to the recommendation of the Graduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the Graduate Experiential Learning Policy.

10.4. Academic Integrity Policy Review Process* (D)

J. MacInnis and N. Crow introduced and outlined the planned review of four (4) key academic integrity and related policy instruments and sought feedback from Members on the review's range, consultation process, timelines, key stakeholders, and proposed stakeholder engagement strategies. It was acknowledged that aside from the four (4) policy instruments under review, there were other intersecting policies and procedures that would also subsequently require consideration. Members supported the review, including highlighting the need to prioritize policies and procedures relating to graduate appeals.

11. Consent Agenda:

The Chair confirmed that contents of the Consent Agenda were approved and received under Agenda Item # 2 save for item #11.5.

11.1. Public Minutes of the May 26, 2026 Meeting* (M)
11.2. Minor Program Adjustments from USC* (I)
- **(i) Faculty of Business and Information Technology: Bachelor of Commerce* (I)**
- **(ii) Faculty of Health Sciences: Bachelor of Health Sciences - Kinesiology – Advanced entry for Fitness and Health Promotion Graduates* (I)**

11.3. Minor Program Adjustments from GSC* (I)
- **(i) Faculty of Health Sciences: PhD in Health Sciences* (I)**

11.4. Cyclical Program Review from GSC*(I)
- **(i) 18-Month Follow-up Report: Master of Information Technology Security* (I)**

11.6. Update on Scholarships & Major Award Recipients* (I)
11.7. New Graduate Scholarships, Awards and Fellowships* (I)

Item pulled from Consent Agenda:

11.5 Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP) Policy and Procedures* (I)

In response to questions, S. Thrush advised that the revisions clarify and streamline procedures without changing existing approval pathways or academic quality assurance requirements. N. Crow advised that any further clarification can be sought directly from CIQE as outlined in the supporting material.

12. Termination

There being no other business, and upon a motion to terminate by S. Nokleby, the AC Meeting terminated at 4:25 p.m.

Sandra Grouette, Assistant University Secretary