



**ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Governance & Nominations Committee (GNC)**

**AGENDA**

Date: June 17, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

[Zoom Videoconference Link \(registration required\)](#)

**GNC Meeting Schedule and Materials 2025-2026**

| No.                                                            |     | Topic                                                                      | Lead    | Suggested Start Time |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|----------------------|
| <b>PUBLIC SESSION</b>                                          |     |                                                                            |         |                      |
| 1.                                                             |     | <b>Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement</b>                              | Chair   | 9:00 a.m.            |
| 2.                                                             |     | <b>Agenda (M)</b>                                                          |         |                      |
| 3.                                                             |     | <b>Chair's Remarks</b>                                                     |         |                      |
| 4.                                                             |     | <b>Governance</b>                                                          |         |                      |
|                                                                | 4.1 | 2026-2027 Academic Council Meeting Schedule* (M)                           | N. Crow | 9:10 a.m.            |
| 5.                                                             |     | <b>Consent Agenda* (M)</b>                                                 | Chair   |                      |
|                                                                | 5.1 | Public Minutes of the April 21, 2026 Meeting* (M)                          |         |                      |
|                                                                | 5.2 | Academic Council Experience Survey* (I)                                    |         |                      |
| 6.                                                             |     | <b>Adjournment (M)</b>                                                     | Chair   | 9:30 a.m.            |
| <b>NON-PUBLIC SESSION</b><br>(material not publicly available) |     |                                                                            |         |                      |
| 7.                                                             |     | <b>Call to Order</b>                                                       | Chair   | 9:35 a.m.            |
| 8.                                                             |     | <b>Nominations</b>                                                         |         |                      |
|                                                                | 8.1 | 2026-2027 Academic Council – Expressions of Interest and Appointments* (M) | N. Crow | 9:40 a.m.            |
|                                                                | 8.2 | 2026-2027 Academic Council – Research Committee Appointments* (M)          | N. Crow |                      |
| 9.                                                             |     | <b>Consent Agenda: (M)</b>                                                 | Chair   | 9:55 a.m.            |
|                                                                | 9.1 | Non-Public Minutes of the April 21, 2026 Meeting* (M)                      |         |                      |
| 10.                                                            |     | <b>Termination</b>                                                         | Chair   | 10:00 a.m.           |

Nicola Crow, University Secretary

## ACADEMIC COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT

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**SESSION:**

Public  
Non-Public

☒  
☐**ACTION REQUESTED:**

Decision  
Discussion/Direction  
Information

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☐  
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**TO:** Governance & Nominations Committee (GNC)

**DATE:** June 17, 2026

**FROM:** Nicola Crow, University Secretary

**SUBJECT:** 2026-2027 Academic Council Meeting Schedule

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

- At its June 9, 2026 meeting, the Steering Committee endorsed GNC's consideration of proposed revisions to the Academic Council (AC) and standing committee meeting schedules given GNC's responsibility for advising AC on its structure and processes.
- The proposal is grounded in ensuring the maintenance and enhancement of meaningful and effective collegial governance by broadening opportunities for members to contribute their expertise, engage in meaningful dialogue, and collectively advance the University's academic mission.
- The proposed revisions would maintain AC's decision-making, consultative and oversight responsibilities while strengthening collegial governance through focused formal meetings and introducing dedicated opportunities for governance education, academic discussion, and engagement on matters of broad academic interest.
- Subject to GNC's recommendation, the proposal would be presented to AC for consideration and approval at its June 23, 2026 meeting.

**PROPOSED CHANGES:**

- Beginning in 2026-2027, AC would meet six times annually, together with the introduction of four AC information sessions, including an expanded governance orientation session and topic-focused sessions on matters within AC's mandate.
- Associated revisions would be made to the meeting schedules of AC's standing committees.
- A structured annual program of AC information sessions will be developed.

## **RATIONALE/BACKGROUND**

- The proposed revisions affect only the scheduling and format of the academic governance schedule. The mandates, responsibilities, and decision-making powers of AC and its standing committees remain unchanged.
- Observations and feedback from 2025-2026 have identified opportunities to better align governance schedules with governance workload and decision-making requirements, whilst also strengthening academic governance.
- While several committee meetings were cancelled due to a lack of business or meetings concluded well before the allotted time during 2025-2026, the proposed changes are intended to enhance – not reduce – collegial governance by focusing academic governance time where it adds the greatest value.
- Regular meetings will remain dedicated to strategic and substantive academic matters requiring deliberation, consultation and decision decision-making, while information sessions will provide dedicated opportunities for academic dialogue, academic governance education, and engagement on matters of broad academic interest.
- Governance calendars, including the Board of Governors, will be reviewed to ensure collective alignment with curriculum and academic approval pathways.
- After one year, there will be a review of the revised scheduling to assess effectiveness, member engagement, and governance outcomes.

## **MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION:**

*That, 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.*

## **NEXT STEPS:**

- June 23, 2026: Proposed revisions presented to Academic Council.
- The University Secretariat will finalize the 2026-2027 Academic Council governance meeting schedule for distribution.
- Any necessary revisions to Committee Terms of Reference will be identified.

## **SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:**

- None

**ACADEMIC COUNCIL**  
**GOVERNANCE & NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE (GNC)**

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**Minutes of the Public Session of the April 21, 2026 Meeting  
via Videoconference  
2:30 p.m. - 2:44 p.m.**

**Governance & Nominations Committee Agenda & Materials 2025-2026**

**Present:**

Steven Murphy, Chair  
Wendy Barber  
Rupinder Brar  
Toba Bryant

Nicola Crow  
Jessica Hogue  
Lori Livingston  
Carolyn McGregor

Mehdi Hossein-Nejad  
Scott Nokleby  
Shannon Vettor

**Regrets:**

Venuga Kariharan

**Staff:**

Kirstie Ayotte, Sandra Grouette (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 2:30 p.m. and M. Hossein-Nejad provided the Land Acknowledgement.

**2. Agenda**

*Upon a motion duly made by S. Nokleby 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 reported that the winter term was concluding, with final examinations underway and ending over the weekend. The Chair highlighted a recent announcement of a \$1 million transformational gift from the Sienna for Seniors Foundation, establishing the Sienna Senior Living Research Centre for Healthy Aging and Happiness. Led by Faculty of Health Sciences experts, the Chair shared the Centre will advance research to enhance seniors' quality of life, well-being, and happiness across diverse care settings.

Looking ahead, the Chair noted Ontario Tech's significant participation in the upcoming Canadian Nuclear Association (CNA) Conference, which brings together leaders from across Canada's nuclear sector, including provincial and potentially federal representatives, to align on shared priorities for the future of nuclear energy.

The Chair also drew attention to the Moose Hide Campaign Day on May 13, hosted by Indigenous Education and Cultural Services in collaboration with the Student Equity Team and the Campus Library, and encouraged University community members to participate.

## 4. Governance

### 4.1 Academic Council Meeting Format\* (M)

N. Crow reported on a recommendation from the Steering Committee (SC) to change the Academic Council meeting format to predominantly in-person meetings to promote good governance and strengthen engagement. She advised that beginning in September, SC is proposing most meetings be in-person, with virtual meetings in January and February, subject to weather conditions. She advised that SC also recommends the option of hosting meetings at the North and Downtown campuses, depending on space availability and logistical considerations.

Members expressed strong support for this recommendation, emphasizing the benefits of increased engagement, collegiality, and networking. There was broad agreement that meetings in January and February should be designated as virtual to address winter travel concerns and provide scheduling certainty, with some discussion of flexibility in March depending on conditions. To accommodate exceptional circumstances, the Committee favoured a limited phone-in option rather than a hybrid model, noting that fully hybrid meetings could undermine in-person participation and effective meeting facilitation.

A friendly amendment was proposed to the motion to designate virtual meetings in January and February, with a potential for March also being virtual if it was inclement weather.

*Upon a motion duly made by M. Hossein-Nejad and seconded by S. Nokleby, that the Governance & Nominations Committee hereby recommends for approval by Academic Council a change in Academic Council's meeting format to in-person meetings from September to June, beginning in the 2026-2027 Academic Year, except for virtual meetings in January and February, and the option of a virtual meeting in March if there are inclement weather conditions.*

## 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 January 20, 2026 Meeting\* (M)

## 6. Adjournment (M)

There being no other business, and upon a motion duly made by S. Nokleby, the Public Session of the GNC Meeting adjourned at 2:44 p.m.

Sandra Grouette, Assistant University Secretary

## ACADEMIC COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT

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**TO:** Governance & Nominations Committee (GNC)

**DATE:** June 17, 2026

**FROM:** Nicola Crow, University Secretary

**SUBJECT:** 2025-2026 Academic Council Experience Survey

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

- One of GNC's responsibilities is to develop, implement and monitor procedures for assessing and/or improving the effectiveness of Academic Council (AC) and its committees.
- The AC Experience Survey was first introduced in August 2025 to gain feedback from departing AC members on their experience on Academic Council and its standing committees as their terms ended.
- The plan is to send out the Survey in June/July with results reported to GNC in the fall.

**KEY CONSIDERATIONS:**

- This item is being presented as information to GNC ahead of the Survey's distribution

**BACKGROUND:**

- Departing Members will be invited to participate in a voluntary, anonymous and brief survey.
- The survey offers an opportunity to voice opinions, provide feedback, and share experiences to help improve the Academic Council membership experience.
- The intent is for the Secretariat to collate any responses and the results to be presented to the GNC without attribution for information and discussion.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- June/July 2026: Survey distribution.
- June 23 Academic Council Meeting: Promote Survey completion.

**SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:**

- None