

**ACADEMIC COUNCIL
UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE (USC)**

**Minutes of the Public Session of the January 20, 2026 Meeting
via Videoconference
9:00 a.m. - 9:58 a.m.**

Undergraduate Studies Committee Agenda & Materials 2025-2026

Present:

Mary Bluechardt, Chair
Martin Agelin-Chaab
Wendy Barber
Nicola Crow

Ana Duff
Randy Fortier
Andrew Hogue
Janet McCabe

Kimberley McCartney
Thomas McMorrow
Adam Wingate

Regrets:

Jessica Boswell
Christian Elia

Holly MacPherson
Jemma Tam

Staff and Guests:

Kirstie Ayotte, Sandra Grouette (Secretary)

1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

The Chair called the Public Session of the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and J. McCabe provided their personal Land Acknowledgement.

The Chair welcomed new and returning Members to the 2026 Winter Semester and thanked Members for bringing their experience, commitment and diverse perspectives to the Committee.

Noting a concern previously raised by a Member, the Chair reiterated expectations for Committee discussions, emphasizing the importance of inclusive, open, respectful and constructive dialogue to support effective participation by all Members, and the Committee's ability to complete its work.

The Chair reaffirmed their role in guiding discussion to ensure meetings remain focused, respectful, are aligned with the agenda and value everyone's time and contributions.

2. Approval of Agenda

Upon a motion duly made by A. Hogue and seconded by T. McMorrow, the USC Agenda was approved as presented, including approving and receiving the Consent Agenda and its contents.

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed S. Grouette as the new Assistant University Secretary; A. Hogue as Associate Dean, Faculty of Business and IT; and M. Agelin-Chaab as Interim Associate Dean in the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science.

4. Major Program Modifications (Recommendation)

4.1 Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science: Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) in Mechanical Engineering – Aerospace Specialization* (M)

M. Agelin-Chaab explained that the proposed Aerospace Specialization is a result of student requests and will enable more student options within the Program. The proposal replaces four existing electives with four specialization courses where students are going to learn specific skills related to aerospace. He noted that this will also enable the Faculty to determine if a standalone program could be developed in the future.

The Committee discussed potential transitional resource needs, as well as evaluation metrics and timeline for the Specialization, with M. Agelin-Chaab outlining the plans the Faculty has with respect to these matters.

Upon a motion duly made by A. Hogue and seconded by R. Fortier, the USC hereby recommends to Academic Council the approval of the Major Program Modification to introduce an Aerospace Specialization within the Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) in Mechanical Engineering program.

4.2 Faculty of Health Sciences: Bachelor of Health Science (Hons) in Kinesiology – Fitness and Health Promotion Pathway* (M)

J. McCabe advised that the rationale for shifting the program from an Advance Entry model to a Bridge structure was to encourage more applications. The Bridge structure is designed to reduce completion time from three to two years which will open the pool of candidates.

A discussion ensued which included clarification regarding the length of the program. J. McCabe advised that the Spring/Summer Bridge structure is perhaps a summer plus two years program with the Bridge giving access to the Program itself. In response to a question regarding whether there would be a minimum grade requirement, J. McCabe noted that she will look into this further in readiness for Academic Council.

Upon a motion duly made by A. Duff and seconded by R. Fortier, the USC hereby recommends to Academic Council the approval of the Major Program Modification to the Bachelor of Health Science (Hons) in Kinesiology – Fitness and Health Promotion Pathway, shifting the program from an Advanced Entry model to a Bridge structure.

4.3 Faculty of Social Science and Humanities: Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Legal Studies – Teesside LLB Pathway* (M)

T. McMorrow advised of an error in the materials that will be corrected to note that the first Teesside cohort begins in Fall 2026, not 2027. He provided an overview of the Pathway that was

approved last year and reported that this proposal adds the University of Aberdeen as a partner and the renaming of the pathway to the UK LLB Pathway. T. McMorrow also shared that by adding the University of Aberdeen, students with the highest GPA can now choose between Aberdeen or Teesside.

Through the ensuing discussion student success was highlighted as an integral part of the Pathway's development. T. McMorrow also provided clarity regarding tuition fees and student eligibility for some level of OSAP when paying international fees to the UK partner institutions. In response to a Member's question, details were provided on the draw to the Program being students getting a law degree and within a faster period of time. Students can then go through Canada's National Committee of Accreditation.

Upon a motion duly made by A. Duff and seconded by J. McCabe, the USC hereby recommends to Academic Council the approval of the Major Program Modification to add the University of Aberdeen as a new institutional partner to the Honours Legal Studies – Teesside LLB pathway and amend the pathway title to the UK LLB pathway.

5. Minor Program Adjustments (Approval)

5.1 Faculty of Business and IT: Bachelor of Commerce Co-Operative Education* (M)

A. Hogue advised that this proposed change updates program structure, policies and language to enable alignment with other changes. In addition, he noted that in response to student and employer feedback, the proposal introduces an optional 16-month extended co-op work term. This will allow students to continue working for a longer period if the employer has the capacity, thus offering more learning opportunities. He further reported that students will remain as full-time registered students. A. Hogue shared that the proposal provides clarity regarding misconduct implications for co-op eligibility.

The Committee also discussed the differentials between internship and co-op opportunities dependent on the Program.

Upon a motion duly made by A. Hogue and seconded by A. Duff, the USC hereby approves the Minor Program Adjustment to the Bachelor of Commerce Co-operative Education program to update both the structure of the program and the policies and procedures.

Motion to Extend Meeting

Due to the Meeting likely going beyond the time prescribed in the Agenda, N. Crow recommended that the Committee approve a meeting extension.

Upon a motion duly made by A. Duff and seconded by A. Hogue, the USC approved a meeting extension past the scheduled end time of 9:40 a.m., to allow the completion of the Agenda's business in a timely manner.

5.2 Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science: Energy Engineering* (M)

M. Agelin-Chaab shared that this Minor Program Adjustment is again student focused. It will

replace the current program specific capstone with two common multi-disciplinary capstone courses to align with industry practice of multi-disciplinary engineering teams. This will allow students to work together on a project for a year in a multi-disciplinary environment. This proposal also includes adjustments to Year 3 scheduling by moving some courses from the Fall to Winter Semester.

M. Agelin-Chaab also noted that the common capstone course approach provides for a common course across all the Faculty's programs to enable multi-disciplinary teams to work on a specific project, reflecting industry practice and so making students work-ready.

Upon a motion duly made by A. Duff and seconded by R. Fortier, the USC hereby approves the Minor Program Adjustment to the Energy Engineering program to replace the current program-specific capstone courses with two common capstone system design courses and to replace and reschedule select Year 3 courses.

5.3 Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science: Nuclear Engineering* (M)

M. Agelin-Chaab advised that this is very similar to the prior Agenda item in that it provides for a common capstone as well as updating the Faculty's programming by replacing existing courses with more tutorials and electives to support individualized pathways.

Upon a motion duly made by R. Fortier and seconded by T. McMorrow, the USC hereby approves the Minor Program Adjustment to the Nuclear Engineering program to support the integration of the common first year, common capstone, and address minimum AU requirements.

5.4 Faculty of Health Sciences: Bachelor of Health Administration (Hons)* (M)

J. McCabe shared that this proposal responds to the identified need to replace the existing accounting course with an online healthcare finance course that is more appropriate for students in this Program.

Upon a motion duly made by A. Duff and seconded by M. Agelin-Chaab, the USC hereby approves the Minor Program Adjustment to the Bachelor of Health Administration (Hons) program to revise the program's required courses.

5.5 Faculty of Health Sciences: Bachelor of Health Sciences (Hons) in Kinesiology* (M)

J. McCabe summarized that the Minor Program Adjustment will remove, due to increasing costs, two anatomy courses currently taken at the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College (CMCC) in the fourth year. Students will instead take these courses after entering CMCC and select two electives at Ontario Tech. She advised that the Faculty has worked with CMCC to make this change.

Upon a motion duly made by J. McCabe and seconded by R. Fortier, the USC hereby approves the Minor Program Adjustment to the Bachelor of Health Sciences (Hons) in Kinesiology program to update the required courses for students in the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College (CMCC) pathway option.

5.6 Faculty of Health Sciences: Bachelor of Science in Nursing (Hons) and RPN to BScN – Advanced Entry* (M)

J. McCabe shared that this adjustment is due to a calendar clean-up following last year's curriculum changes in the nursing program.

Upon a motion duly made by J. McCabe and seconded by R. Fortier, the USC hereby approves the Minor Program Adjustment to the program progression requirements for the honours Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN) and RPN to BScN Advanced Entry programs.

6. Consent Agenda* (M)

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

6.1 Public Minutes of the Meeting of December 16, 2025* (M)

6.2 2026-2027 Undergraduate Academic Schedule* (I)

6.3 Course change(s):

[BUSI 3601U](#), [BUSI 4455U](#), [HLSC 4820U](#), [HLSC 4991U](#), [NURS 2703U](#), [NURS 3700U](#), [NURS 4600U](#), [NUCL 2240U](#), [NUCL 4120U](#), [RADI 3570U](#)

6.4 New Course(s):

[HLSC 4406U](#), [KINE 4406U](#), [SIMU 2000U](#)

7. Termination

Ahead of the Meeting's termination, a Member suggested an increased time allocation for agenda items. The Chair acknowledged the feedback, noted the balancing required in the agenda time allocation process, and indicated that this will be considered when the next Meeting's agenda is set.

There being no other business, and upon a motion to terminate by A. Wingate, the USC Meeting terminated at 9:58 a.m.

Sandra Grouette, Assistant University Secretary