



**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