



ACADEMIC COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
APRIL 23, 2025

The meeting was held in Labatt Hall, Room 103.

COUNCILORS:

Laura Béres
Nonie Brennan
Graham Broad
Claudia Clausius
Adrienne Co-Dyre
John Dool
Russell Duvernoy
Jeannette Eberhard
Jordan Fairbairn
Josephine Gemson
Eunice Gorman
Chaya Halberstam
Erin Hannah 🌐

Joe Henry
Peter Ibbott
Jen Jeffrey
Liam Kennedy
Allyson Larkin
Miriam Love
Kristin Lozanski
Donna Maynard
Alison Meek
Laura Melnyk Gribble
Jacquie Newman
Loretta Norton (for M. Penner)
Brian Patton
Jeff Preston

Pat Ryan
Jane Sanders
Steve Shajimon
Jennifer Silcox
Ridley Smith
Ricardo Soto
Natalie Spruce
Thomas Tieku
Joseph Turnbull
Robert Ventresca
Corinne Walsh
Paul Wilton
Mark Yenson

🌐 Virtual

MINUTE TAKER: Ann Hoffer

R. Ventresca, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:38 pm.

1.0 Land Acknowledgment

R. Soto offered the land acknowledgement.

2.0 Opening Prayer

M. Yenson led the opening prayer addressing the loss of Pope Francis and Earth Day and acknowledging Pope Francis' encouraging urgent action to protect the environment.

R. Ventresca welcome all and acknowledged that today is Shakespeare Day and acknowledged Paul Werstine's retirement and his interview on CBC Morning today. Further, R. Ventresca acknowledged administrative professionals' day and those who do work behind the scenes to support academic governance at King's including long-time King's employee Samantha Pearson who is retiring at the end of the month.

3.0 Committee Reports

3.1 Educational Policy Committee

M. Yenson, Chair, presented the following motions for decision:

MOTION: That Academic Council approve the following new program proposal.

**• Sociology - Theory-to-Action: Applied Social Research Certificate
M/S Educational Policy Committee**

CARRIED

MOTION: That Academic Council approve the following course/program proposals.

**• History 2133 – Cults, Terror And Extremism In 20th Century America
• Jewish Studies – Major/Minor
• Social Work 4458 A/B – Introduction to Trauma and Violence
• Sociology 4446 F/G – Committing Sociology at King’s University**

College

M/S Educational Policy Committee

CARRIED

MOTION: That Academic Council approve the following course/program proposals.

a. That effective September 1, 2025, St. Peter’s Field Education 5380 be introduced at King’s University College.

b. That effective September 1, 2025, St. Peter’s Field Education 5381 be revised at King’s University College.

c. That effective September 1, 2025, Interdisciplinary Studies 2277F/G be withdrawn and Pol/SJPS 2260F/G be introduced at King’s University College.

d. That effective September 1, 2025, IS 2277F/G be withdrawn from the Minor in Migration and Border Studies module and that PIR/SJPS 2260F/G be introduced in its place at King’s University College.

e. That effective September 1, 2025, the MOS Honours Specialization and Specialization in Organization and Human Resources be revised from 10.0 courses to 9.5 courses at King’s University College.

f. That effective September 1, 2025 the progression requirements for the Honours Specialization in Social Work be revised at King’s University College.

M/S Educational Policy Committee

CARRIED

3.2 Scholarship and Bursary Committee

M. Yenson on behalf of J. Gemson presented the motion for decision:

MOTION: That Academic Council approve the recommendation that the Gerald Killan Regis Entrance Scholarship and the President's Regis Entrance Scholarships be awarded to the five highest admission averages in the May round of offers which is based on a combination six grade 12 U final grades and midterm grades (including prerequisites). To maintain the scholarship, a student must maintain a final average of 85%.

M/S Scholarship and Bursary Committee

CARRIED

A council member asked about a humanitarian fund previously held in Campus Ministry that was used to support refugees. The Committee had asked the Foundation that this fund be redirected to support international students in need effective September 2025. The Council member expressed a desire to continue to see King's support refugees especially because London is one of the fastest growing Canadian cities for refugees. J. Henry noted that the fund had not been used in several years and that the committee wanted to ensure the funds would be used to help students in need and by directing to international students they could also ensure the funds were available to refugees. A. Larkin will forward the committee information on refugee needs that could help inform future use of funds.

4.0 Reports

4.1 President (Interim)

R. Ventresca commented on his March 26, 2025 report to Council which was tabled from the April 2 meeting. R. Ventresca highlighted that the Finance and Risk Management Committee of the Board had unanimously recommended to the Board the budget recommended by Academic Council and received administration's plan to achieve surplus budgets by 2030.

It was also highlighted that King's is nearing agreement with Western on a renewal of the affiliation agreement with some small affiliation fee relief expected over three years.

The draft operational review is still being reviewed by administration who is verifying StrategyCorp's numbers and it is expected the report will be released in early May. R. Ventresca emphasized the operational review is one of several inputs into King's financial sustainability planning and not a blueprint for action. King's will have its own approach to achieving financial sustainability which is informed through a collegial approach through the appropriate decision-making bodies.

R. Ventresca acknowledged Claudia Clausius winning the full-time teaching excellence award, Rachel Birnbaum receiving the King's Charles medal, and Graham Broad, Patrick Ryan, and Derek Silva earning the rank of full professor.

A discussion ensued on the letter from the Board Chair providing an update to Academic Council on the Executive Search Policy consultation and recent passage of the policies by the Board. Members of Council expressed concern that they did not feel the Board had adequately incorporated Council's feedback in the approved policies. Councilors expressed their desire for Academic Council to express its concerns and objection to the Board and ensure these are documented in Academic Council's minutes.

MOTION: That Academic Council formally express its grave disagreement with the policy proposal as crafted by the Board, noting that it does not sufficiently reflect the recommendations provided by the Council. We encourage a renewed commitment to the spirit and letter of bicameralism and alignment with the Council's recommendations in a revision of this policy that better integrates the recommendations, particularly in the appointment of the VPAD.

Moved: C. Halberstam

Seconded: C. Clausius

CARRIED

4.2 University Council Students' Council Report

R. Soto spoke to his report provided to Academic Council in advance of the meeting. R. Soto highlighted the new executive members elected to King's University College Students' Council (KUCSC), a new partnership to provide 30 phone chargers to students, an update on the dissolution of the London Transit Commission's Board and the resulting impact on advocacy efforts to secure a bus stop near King's. R. Soto highlighted KUCSC's agreement to raise student fees by 2%, and the Faculty Association's donation to support providing food to students in need. R. Soto also highlighted KUCSC's support of the classroom modernization project.

R. Ventresca thanked R. Soto for his leadership of KUCSC and all members of KUCSC for their leadership and engagement this year.

4.3 Vice-President and Academic Dean (Interim) Report

M. Yenson provided an update on the Indigenous Lead Initiative on Senate's next agenda and the expectation that affiliates integrate under this policy. A motion will be brought back to Academic Council when drafted. An update on enrolment was provided showing King's slightly lagging in international first-year admissions, and pacing ahead of targets in terms of domestic first-year enrolment. M. Yenson asked faculty to consider supporting recruitment by engaging in the

faculty phone campaign. A. Hoffer was going to present on convocation but instead an email will be sent out shortly with this information.

A council member asked if meetings could be extended to two hours. The request will be referred to Governance and Nominations Committee.

5.0 The Unanimous Consent Agenda

5.1 Appointments Promotions and Tenure Information

5.2 Cardinal Carter Library Committee Information

5.3 Mission Integration and Inclusion Committee Information

5.4 Research Committee Information

5.5 Strategic Enrolment Management Committee Information

5.6 Governance and Nominations Committee Information

5.7 Minutes of the Meeting of February 12, 2025 Decision

5.8 Teaching Excellence Award Committee Information

5.9 Minutes of the Meeting of April 2, 2025 Decision

Motion: To approve the consent agenda

Moved: J. Jeffrey Seconded: D. Maynard

CARRIED

6.0 Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

None.

7.0 New Business

Concerns were expressed about accommodated exams, M. Yenson indicated he would share these concerns with Enrolment Services and the accommodated exams office at Western.

Council members expressed the need for more policies on artificial intelligence, this matter will be brought to Educational Policy Committee.

A Council member asked about the status of the potential Navitas partnership at Western. R. Ventresca indicated administration is watching discussions closely, and will report back to Academic Council as the issue progresses.

8.0 Adjournment

MOTION:

To adjourn the meeting [at 4:28pm].

Moved: A. Larkin Seconded: L. Melnyk Gribble

CARRIED



Robert Ventresca,
Chair



Paul Wilton,
University Secretary